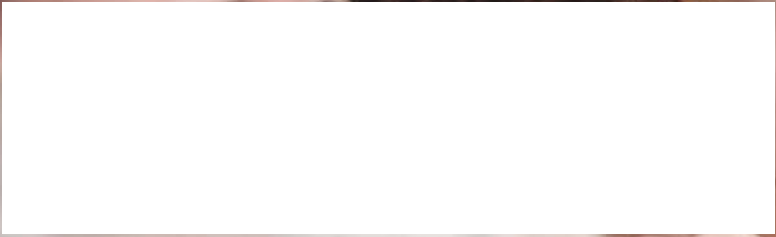




ANNUAL REPORT 2018





**ANNUAL REPORT 2018**

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Nalbandyan Women's Club in Armenia. Together, the women in the village Nalbandyan have created a safe space where they discuss women's rights, develop strategies to influence the local government and provide access to free gynaecological care. The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation supports Nalbandyan Women's Club through our partner organisation Democracy Today.

*Photo: Pi Frisk*



## The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation is a non-partisan, religiously unaffiliated peace and women’s rights organisation.

Kvinna till Kvinna works to promote women’s rights in 20 conflict-affected countries, supporting more than 130 women’s rights organisations around the world. Together, we work to create safe zones along escape routes and to ensure women subjected to violence receive help. We give women the tools they need to take control of their own lives.

Kvinna till Kvinna serves to amplify women’s voices. In war- and conflict-affected regions, women are subjected to violence and abuse, and the world is still far from gender equal. We empower women both in their own lives and in society.

### Vision

- A world of sustainable peace based on democracy and gender equality, where conflicts are dealt with through non-violent means.
- A world in which human rights are respected and all people can feel safe and secure.
- A world in which women have power and influence over decision-making, and participate actively in the development of society.

### Purpose

Kvinna till Kvinna supports and cooperates with organisations working for women’s rights and peace. We advocate for women’s rights and the inclusion of women in discussions and decision-making processes on peace and security. We also promote studies and research to raise awareness of how war and conflict impact the roles and conditions of women in society.

### History

Kvinna till Kvinna was founded in 1993, when reports of mass rapes in the Balkan wars reached Sweden. The peace and women’s movements issued a joint appeal under the name of Kvinna till Kvinna (Woman to Woman), followed by a series of fundraising initiatives to support women’s rights organisations operating in the Balkans. Since then, Kvinna till Kvinna has grown considerably. Today, we support 131 women’s rights organisations and women’s rights activists worldwide.

### Our work in Sweden

- We encourage people to support and engage in peace and women’s rights in regions affected by war and conflict.
- We raise funds in support of the work carried out by our partner organisations.

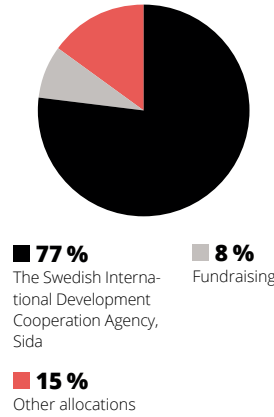


### New international website!

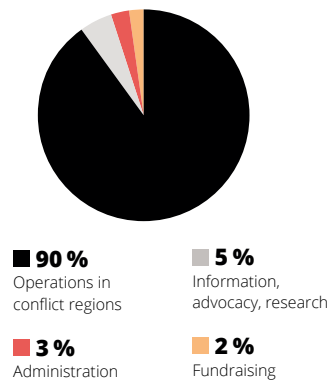
In the autumn of 2018, Kvinna till Kvinna launched an international website, providing information in English about us and our partner organisations. On our new international website, you will find the latest news, in-depth research reports and an overview of our advocacy efforts.

Visit [kvinnatillkvinna.org](http://kvinnatillkvinna.org) and have a look around!

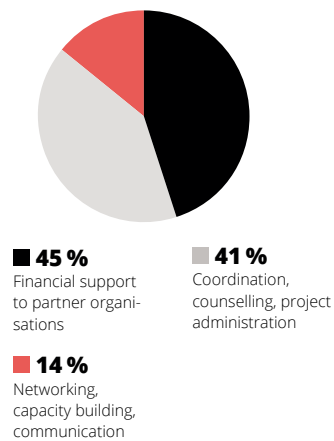
HOW WE GET FUNDING | 16,6 MEUR



HOW WE USE THE MONEY | 16,2 MEUR



OPERATIONS IN CONFLICT REGIONS | 14,6 MEUR



# 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, our work and our results.

### What does Kvinna till Kvinna want to achieve?

Information about our vision, purpose and history 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 15–32, where we give an account of our work around the world.

### 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 fundraising activities vis-à-vis both private and corporate donors are described on pages 36–39.

### Why was Kvinna till Kvinna founded?

The history of the organisation can be found on pages 4 and 10–11, where we describe the growth of the organisation since its founding 25 years ago.

### How do you inform the general public about your work?

We spread information about women’s rights and the work we do through various communication channels, especially print and social media. Our volunteers are also invaluable to Kvinna till Kvinna’s communication and fundraising work (see pages 36–39). In addition to this, we engage in advocacy work, which you can read about on pages 12–13 and 36–38.

### 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.

### 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 in more detail on pages 42–44.

### What does Kvinna till Kvinna do?

Our methodology and collaborations with women’s rights organisations are described on pages 8–9. Our partner organisations are presented by region on pages 15–32.

### 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 detailed in the regional sections: Europe (including Ukraine) on pages 15–19; Africa on pages 20–23; the South Caucasus on pages 24–27; and the MENA region on pages 28–32. The results of our advocacy and communication efforts are described on pages 12–13 and 34–39.

### What capacity and knowledge do you have to achieve your goals?

An overview of our organisation is provided on page 8, where you will also find information about our offices and employees. You can read more about our capacity throughout the report, including our Board (page 40) and our development work (page 14).

### Can I volunteer for Kvinna till Kvinna?

Yes, you can! Read about our fantastic volunteering activities on page 36.

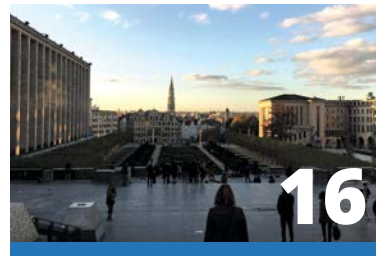
### What strategies do you employ to achieve your goals?

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.

The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation is a member of the Swedish Fundraising Council (FRIL), which seeks to build trust in Sweden’s fundraising sector through quality-assurance testing. As a member, we are required to submit an annual report on our operations to demonstrate their usefulness. On this page, we present questions FRIL requires us to answer and indicate where in the report answers can be found.

# OUR WORK AROUND THE WORLD

Kvinna till Kvinna operates in Central and West Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, the South Caucasus, Ukraine and the Western Balkans.



- The Western Balkans**
- Albania
  - Bosnia & Herzegovina
  - Kosovo
  - North Macedonia
  - Montenegro
  - Serbia



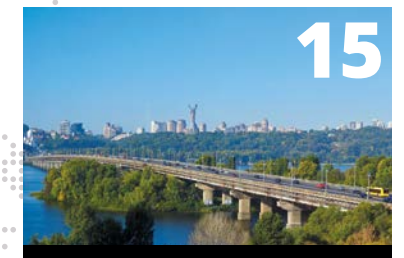
- Central and West Africa**
- Liberia
  - The Democratic Republic of the Congo
  - Rwanda



- Middle East and North Africa**
- Iraq
  - Israel
  - Jordan
  - Lebanon
  - Palestine
  - Tunisia
  - The Syria crisis



- The South Caucasus**
- Armenia
  - Azerbaijan
  - Georgia and breakaway region of Abkhazia



Ukraine



For security reasons, we are not able to mention all the countries in which we operate. Equally, we cannot list all the organisations that we support.

## IN SUPPORT OF UNIVERSAL WOMEN'S RIGHTS

**For the past 25 years, Kvinna till Kvinna has helped to strengthen women's rights. While we made some significant advances in 2018, we also found ourselves operating in an ever more hostile environment. It is still proving increasingly dangerous to be a women's rights activist.**

Kvinna till Kvinna was launched in 1993 from an appeal against the systematic rape of thousands of women during the Balkan wars. A women's network was formed to end the violence, and Kvinna till Kvinna was born. To this day, we have a presence in the Balkans, where we support the efforts of local

women's rights organisations to promote equality, women's rights and sustainable peace. Over the years, Kvinna till Kvinna has grown into a global organisation with 120 employees and operations in 20 countries.

But the stronger we become, the more resistance we face. On International Women's Day, we released a report on the global women's movement, showing that no society is immune to attacks on equality and that activists' space to promote women's rights has shrunk. In more and more countries around the world, women who defend their rights put their lives at risk.

Despite such mounting resistance, we reached critical milestones this year. In Liberia, women can now independently own land. In Jordan, the UN was pressured into adopting for the first time a marked equality perspective in its analysis of human rights in the country. In Armenia, a "velvet revolution" heralded a new era for women's rights and equality. And after a decade

of advocacy, an EU resolution on women's rights in the Western Balkans has at last been adopted by the European Parliament.

Over these 25 years, Kvinna till Kvinna has developed a unique methodology and amassed the experience and knowledge needed to make a real difference. We have listened to and learnt from women's rights activists from around the world and are proud of the trust we have earned in supporting and taking part in their struggle for women's rights in war zones and conflicts.

Kvinna till Kvinna will continue to defend the rights of women – everywhere and every day. My sincere thanks to all of you who make this possible with your donations and voluntary engagement. Together we are change!

**Petra Tötterman Andorff** | secretary-general



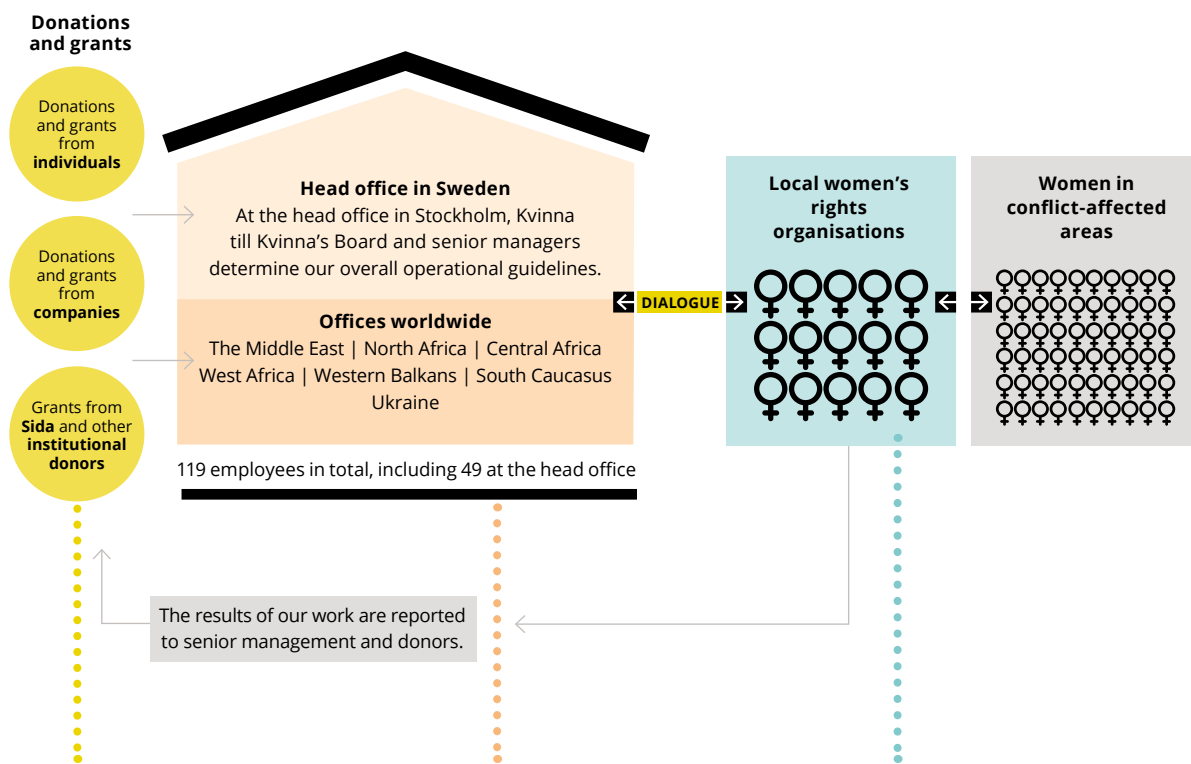
Photo: Viktor Galaktionov



# WOMEN GET POWER OVER THEIR OWN LIVES

The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation works for women's rights in 20 countries, supporting more than 130 women's rights organisations all over the world. We are present in many of the countries where it is hardest to be a woman. Together, we create safe zones along escape routes and ensure women subjected to violence receive help. We give women the tools they need to take control of their own lives.

Kvinna till Kvinna provides financial support, offers training and promotes networking – all based on the principles of sustainability and dialogue. Our strength lies in the fact that we get to know our partner organisations, listen to them and support their priorities.



## How our work is financed

Kvinna till Kvinna is able to support women in conflict-affected regions 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.
- Donations and grants from private individuals and companies are crucial sources of funding for our operations. Our main private donor is the Swedish Postcode Lottery.

## Communication, advocacy, education and research

- Kvinna till Kvinna's communication activities raise awareness of the conditions of women's rights activists in war and conflict zones, and of how their work changes women's lives. We also work to influence decision-makers and laws to improve women's rights.
- We aim to raise the Swedish public's awareness of and engagement in women's rights issues through our digital communication, the events we arrange, our media appearances and the activities of our volunteers.
- We produce studies and collaborate with individual researchers and research institutes.
- We offer capacity-building trainings on women, peace and security.

## Partner organisations

In 2018, Kvinna till Kvinna partnered with 131 women's rights organisations in five conflict-affected regions:

- Central Africa
- Middle East/North Africa
- The South Caucasus
- West Africa
- The Western Balkans and Ukraine

## 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.

# KVINNA TILL KVINNA MAKES A DIFFERENCE



## Example | The struggle for civil rights

- 1 We provide support to many women's rights organisations, including the Collective for Research and Training on Development – Action (CRTD.A) in Lebanon. The CRTD.A strengthens women's rights groups through research and education, and runs campaigns to stop the violation of women's civil rights.

## How we measure results

We analyse how much of our budget goes to supporting partner organisations, whether financially or through training and networking opportunities.

- 2 CRTD.A receives our financial support to run campaigns, influence those in power and improve the situation of women through leadership and civil-rights training.

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

- 3 We also support CRTD.A by offering training on issues important to them and by putting them into contact with others in their field. This makes the organisation more sustainable and enables it to continuously improve its activities in the women's rights movement, both in Lebanon and elsewhere in the Middle East.

We follow up on how well our partner organisations:

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

- 4 As a strong women's rights actor, the organisation gains more power and influence to improve the situation for women throughout the Middle East.

We work with our partner organisations to analyse their results and the impact they have on society, to learn and develop together.

Photo: Christopher Herwig



**Hanadi Nasser**  
Beirut | Lebanon

- 5 Hanadi's three children do not have citizenship – even though they live in Lebanon and have a Lebanese mother. This is because the law prevents children of foreign fathers from getting Lebanese citizenship. When Hanadi attended a CRTD.A course on leadership, women's rights and democracy, she became aware of the rights denied to her and her three children. Through the CRTD.A's "Nationality is a right to me and my family" campaign, she is now leading the push to have the discriminating law amended. Hanadi's experiences with CRTD.A and the support and encouragement she has received from the campaign have galvanised and motivated her – so much so that after 20 years, she has now started studying at university.





1993: Rallies were held on Stockholm's Norrmalmstorg every Friday in support of women in the Balkans. Members of all Riksdag parties showed up for Mother's Day to listen to Margareta Winberg, the chair of Social Democratic Women in Sweden.

**We work for the right of women to be free from violence, their right to self-determination and ability to organise.**

**The first gender analysis**

Much of our work involves influencing decision-makers and powerholders. In 2000, we presented our report "Engendering the Peace Process", which exposed the consequences of not applying a gender perspective to the peace accord signed in Bosnia & Herzegovina. This was the first time ever a gender analysis was made of a peace agreement. In 2002, we proudly received the prestigious Right Livelihood Award (which is promoted as an Alternative Nobel Prize) in recognition of our work. It was a wonderful and welcome confirmation that women's active participation in peacebuilding is a prerequisite of peace.

**A global movement**

Our first intention was to support survivors of rape and other forms of gender-based violence in the Balkans. We are still present in the region, but our work these days focuses more on getting women involved in politics and fighting economic inequality and systemic violence against women. We have also expanded and become established in three more regions: the South Caucasus, the MENA region and Africa.

Today, 25 years after our founding, we are a global organisation with a staff of 120 and operations in 20 countries. We work for the right of women to be free from violence, their right to self-determination and ability to organise. We will continue to fight for these issues, because we know women are a potent agent of change when they work together. Our first 25 years have proved a great start.



1996: Our mobile women's clinic in Bosnia & Herzegovina offered contraceptives and healthcare as well as a sanctuary for women to meet in peace.

# 25 YEARS OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS

**Kvinna till Kvinna was formed to protest the sexual violence to which women were subjected during the Balkan wars. 25 years on, we are a global women's rights organisation operating in 20 countries.**

It all began with an appeal in February 1993, when representatives of different organisations met to discuss what could be done about the systematic mass rapes being committed during the Balkan wars. On 18 April that same year, a group of women in Sweden signed a joint protest against the rapes. The response was overwhelming: soon, thousands of people joined to stand up against violence and discrimination. This was the formal beginning of the "Kvinna till Kvinna" network, which, amongst other things, was supported by all political parties' women's associations and arranged anti-violence fundraising rallies on Norrmalmstorg in Stockholm.

**"Send a support package"**

One of the first campaigns run by Kvinna till Kvinna, in 1994, was to urge everyone who cared about women's rights to become involved. Under the slogan of "send a support package to a woman", people sent 20,000 packages of short-supply items like menstrual

pads, tampons, underwear and toiletries to internally displaced women in Bosnia & Herzegovina. Two years later, our mobile women's clinic hit the road, offering contraceptives and healthcare as well as a sanctuary where women could meet in peace.

From the outset, we made sure to include local women's organisations in decisions about what should be done and how projects should be implemented. And we still do.



1994: Through our "Send a support package" campaign, Swedes rallied round and sent 20,000 packages of short-supply items to internally displaced women in Bosnia & Herzegovina.



## WELCOMING A NEW SECRETARY-GENERAL

In May 2018, Petra Tötterman Andorff took over as secretary-general. Petra has long experience of women's rights and shouldered the responsibility of deputy secretary-general in 2014. She was formerly the secretary-general of the Swedish section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and coordinator of its international office in New York.

Upon taking up her new post, Petra stressed the importance of integrating an equality perspective into issues of peace and security. "In an increasingly militarised, nationalistic and radicalised world, women's rights are the first to suffer. Our mission is to unceasingly promote women's perspectives. We're standing on the shoulders of over a century of women's rights activism. Because of this, we will never give up!"



Photo: Julia Östregren



Panellists included Lilliana Religa, Alexandra Pascalidou, Judith Wirth and Irena Cvetkovic.



## MAJOR IMPACT FOR OUR REPORT ON CONDITIONS FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVISTS

We released an international report on 8 March during the Stockholm Forum for Gender Equality, which was attended by women's rights activists from around the world. We later followed up on the report, including with a high-level panel debate in Brussels during the European Development Days conference.

The report generated considerable interest during the year. In June, we arranged a panel discussion in Brussels at the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the EU,

with participants from North Macedonia and Bosnia & Herzegovina. Our secretary-general, Petra Tötterman Andorff, presented the report.

"This report sheds light on a situation that is all too familiar to us," said Mikael Lindvall, Sweden's ambassador to the EU committee for foreign and security policy, as he opened the meeting.

He also talked about the vital role of women's rights activism in the Swedish government's feminist foreign policy.

We also arranged events in several Balkan countries during the year, including seminars and round-table discussions. Our report was also used in meetings with delegations and ambassadors in other countries we work in.

## SUFFOCATING THE MOVEMENT



*Suffocating the Movement – Shrinking space for women's rights documents our knowledge and experience of the shrinking space for civil society. It also shows how the problem is a global one.*

The report is based on responses from 123 women's rights activists in 32 countries in Central Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Europe. Over 60 per cent stated that their action space as activists had shrunk, with over 50 per cent testifying that they had been subjected to threats of violence or actual violence. 58 per cent believed rising nationalism was responsible for these developments; 50 per cent pointed the finger at increasing fundamentalism and religious influence. A general anti-democratic trend was named as another cause.

One consequence of rising nationalism is that governments limit civil society's access to foreign funding. Repressive regimes also cut organisations' grants if they voice any critical opinions or work to strengthen women's rights.

Organisations' work is hindered by various prohibitions and more rigorous administrative demands, making it trickier and more complex to run projects. Hate campaigns, threats of sexual violence and the risk of arrest are all used to deter activists.

Research shows that a powerful women's movement is the single most important factor in strengthening women's rights and equality in a country. In fact, it is even more important than having many women in parliament and in government. This means that this negative trend can be turned around. Our report describes some of these possibilities, including supporting local and international networks that back vulnerable women's rights activists, and encouraging politicians who represent Sweden to put pressure on regimes that fail to protect activists.



Kvinna till Kvinna held a seminar on the theme of "Does equality have a sell-by date?" for a packed auditorium at the Stockholm Public Library. On the panel were secretary-general Petra Tötterman Andorff, Bahar Pars, Rossana Dinamarca and Henrik Fröjmark. Our goodwill ambassador, Alexandra Pascalidou, moderated the debate.

## FEMDEFENDERS DAY

A few years ago, Kvinna till Kvinna coined the term "femdefender" for a women's human rights defender. On 29 November – "Femdefenders Day" – we organised a panel debate on the progress and setbacks for equality this year. The room was packed, and hundreds more watched live on Instagram.

One issue we raised was how little attention equality got in the run-up to the Swedish election, despite all the commotion and energy generated by #metoo during the autumn of 2017, and despite the fact that voters felt the issue was one of the election's most important. We also discussed the rise of nationalism in Europe and shrinking space for the women's movement.

The message we and moderator Alexandra Pascalidou wanted to get across was that fantastic women's rights activists across the world should be defended – by all of us.

## ECOSOC STATUS AT LAST

**In 2018, we became an advisory civil society organisation to the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) – a status we worked to achieve for almost a decade. This new status will make it easier for us to participate in UN processes and gain access to UN premises during important meetings and conferences. And that means greater opportunities to put women's rights on the UN agenda.**

The path to ECOSOC status was not an easy one. Our application was criticised for containing the name "Kosovo", for example, since not all member states have recognised Kosovo. Russia also plied us with questions about our work in Azerbaijan.

"All these questions and objections were different ways of de-

laying our application," says Charlotte dos Santos Pruth, senior advocacy advisor at Kvinna till Kvinna and member of the ECOSOC application team.

"But then, by chance, Russia's representative on the council was replaced. It was probably this that made it possible for our application to finally be approved. But this arbitrariness and lack of transparency is very worrying, so we will be working to change this."

March 2019 was the first time Kvinna till Kvinna attended the UN's Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) with ECOSOC status. Now, we no longer need to depend on other organisations to pursue our agenda in this forum.







### BETTER EQUIPPED TO WORK IN CONFLICT ZONES

In 2018, we strengthened our resources for working in conflict-affected areas. This included finally finishing our new programme handbook, which provides support in all our fields of operation. For the first time, we also applied a conflict-sensitivity perspective to the entire handbook. Initiatives in qwwwthe societies in which they take place. The handbook's conflict perspective will help us understand the conflicts in the places where we operate and ensure that our work helps to resolve these conflicts rather than exacerbate them.

Kvinna till Kvinna is a frontrunner in the field of conflict sensitivity with a gender perspective. During the year, we collaborated with the US organisation CDA, the founders of the "Do No Harm" (DNH) method, to produce a policy and guidelines to ensure a gender perspective is included when the DNH method is applied. In 2019, this will be tested by our partners. We also clarified our attitude towards violent extremism.

**FACTS** | "Do No Harm"

"Do No Harm" is about how development aid can be provided in a way that does not add to or aggravate conflict, but rather supports the societies and individuals involved, helping them take a step back and use positive methods to handle the underlying causes of the conflict.

### A SECURE AND RELEVANT PARTNER

In 2018, we continued to develop our digital systems, to provide all our 13 offices with the same digital possibilities and to ensure we remain a secure and relevant partner for women's rights activists.

Kvinna till Kvinna now works in the cloud and uses its own intranet, Konnect. We also have a new English-language website. Through this increased digitalisation, we are gearing up our work on digital security and data security – not least because of the surveillance and security risks that women's rights activists face.



Photo: Vera Lundén

### WORKING WITH THE POLICE

After just one year, our five-year cooperation with the Swedish police to raise awareness about gender-based violence has already produced results. A new training on gender-based violence is currently being held for doctors in Moldova, for example.

The new International Training Programme on gender-based violence started in 2018 as a joint undertaking between Kvinna till Kvinna and the Swedish police. The programme is financed by Sida and aimed at Albania, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro and Ukraine.

Its 25 participants come from the public sector, the legal sector and civil society. The course runs for a total of five weeks, spread out over the programme's five years.

"Our partnership with the police has produced positive results," says Anna Sundén, programme officer at Kvinna till Kvinna. "Together, we are a reflection of our target group. We benefit from our respective strengths and expertise."

Amongst the other results are a new lecture model on gender-based violence for prosecutors in Ukraine, six newly appointed gender-based-violence coordinators at the public prosecutor's office in Kosovo, and a child-friendly environment for when battered women are accompanied by their children during interviews at a police station in Albania. The participants have also formed working groups on gender-based violence in Ukraine, Albania and Montenegro.

Many of our security incidents over the past year were internet-based, with numerous hacking attacks on our partner organisations' networks. We received, for instance, an email demanding payment, which turned out to be fake – a fact we discovered in time thanks to our digital-security training.

The situation for our partners is changing rapidly, so we need to be careful and flexible. If sensitive information falls into the wrong hands, it can be used to silence and intimidate women, or shut down their work. We are therefore reviewing how information is handled internally, our own security systems, and how we publish content and conduct ourselves on social media.



Photo: Behnam Moayez/Unsplash

Eugenia Benigni, head of the Kiev office  
**While the conflict in Ukraine has hit women hard, it has also created opportunities to strengthen their rights and leadership.**

## OFFICE IN KIEV

Kvinna till Kvinna's activities in Ukraine officially kicked off in 2018, starting with a four-year agreement with Sida and an office in Kiev. We focus on three key areas in Ukraine:

- 1 Promoting women's rights and supporting women's activism as well as the sustainable and democratic development of women's rights organisations, through capacity-building, exchange and networking both within Ukraine and with other countries.
- 2 Increasing Ukrainian women's participation in decision-making and peacebuilding processes, with a focus on women from civil society and grassroots movements.
- 3 Preventing gender-based violence and strengthening protection for women subjected to violence through improved support activities, policies and laws.

To achieve these goals, we spent 2018 forging links with potential partner organisations. We also arranged a meeting with international experts and participants from 20 women's rights organisations from around the country. Together, we discussed militarisation and gender-based violence, the impact of socio-economic reforms on women, and mobilisation for women's rights and peace.

#### OUR FIRST UKRAINIAN PARTNERS

**Slavic Heart** from eastern Ukraine (close to the conflict) provides shelter from violence, supports victims of gender-based violence, raises awareness of women's rights and works with reconciliation and dialogue. Many of its members are themselves internally displaced persons.

**Smile of a Child** from eastern Ukraine offers psychological and legal support to women from vulnerable groups – especially those affected by the conflict, such as internally displaced persons, adolescents and children, including victims of violence. They also work with women's economic empowerment and participation. Many of the organisation's members are themselves internally displaced persons.

**Women's Perspectives** from western Ukraine offers legal and psychosocial support to female victims of gender-based violence in the Lviv region. They work with strategic litigation, national advocacy on gender-based violence legislation (including the ratification of the Istanbul Convention) and training for the police, social services and other civil society organisations.

**Feminist Critique** from Kiev unites academic research, women's rights and activism. They work together with researchers and activists from Ukraine and other conflict-affected countries, and aim for change by publishing research in an online newsletter and holding lectures on women's rights, gender issues and intersectionality, with a focus on the most marginalised groups.



# A DECADE OF EU ADVOCACY

## 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 when the Balkan states apply for EU membership.

### 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.

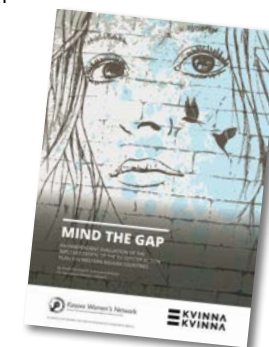
Ten years ago, Kvinna till Kvinna travelled to Brussels with the first delegation of women's rights activists from the Balkans. Our goal was to give civil servants and politicians access to first-hand information about women's rights in the region.

Since then, we have learnt that it takes patience, empiricism, credibility and allies to exert any influence on the EU. And it takes time. Especially, perhaps, when it comes to issues lower on the political agenda – such as women's rights in EU enlargement.

During this time, there have been many trips to Brussels and many meetings in the region. We have demanded that EU representatives meet with civil society and specific women's rights activists. The more we demonstrated how women's rights organisations not only are competent but also possess a different perspective to the country's official information, the more successful we were. We have also produced a great deal of underlying data for different purposes, including for the EU Commission's annual reports on the situation in the Balkan states. Our comments have often been included in these reports.

In 2018, we and our partners presented "Mind the GAP", an evaluation of the EU's roadmap for gender equality. It was received well and has since been used as a reference document with respect to the EU's gender equality work.

We also achieved an important result in our EU advocacy when the European Parliament adopted a resolution on women's rights in the Western Balkans. This resolution – which national governments are now required to address – included our submissions on our partner organisations' issues and on how women's rights organisations must be seen as vital dialogue partners.

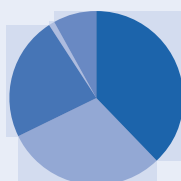


<sup>1</sup>European Parliament resolution on Women's rights in the Western Balkans (2018/2710(RSP)). The resolution was formally voted through in January 2019.

OUR WORK IN BRIEF

Our partners' focus issues:

- Gender-based violence 38 %
- Participation in society 30 %
- Peacebuilding 23 %
- Economic empowerment 1 %
- Security 8 %



**BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA**

We have been cooperating with organisations since 1994 from our office in Sarajevo.

**Partner organisations:** Association of Citizens "Budućnost", Bolja Budućnost, Centre for Women's Rights, CURE Foundation, Forum Žena, Helsinki Citizens' Assembly, Horizonti, Lara Foundation, Rights for All (Prava za sve), TRIAL International, United Women, Zenski Centar Trebinje.

**MONTENEGRO**

We have been cooperating with organisations since 1999 from our office in Belgrade.

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

**KOSOVO**

We have been cooperating with organisations since 1994 from our office in Pristina.

**Partner organisations:** Artpolis – Art and Community Center, Kosovar Gender Studies Centre, Kosova Women's Network, Medica Kosova, Mitrovica Women Association for Human Rights, Network of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Women's Organisations of Kosovo, Open Door (Dera e Hapur), Ruka Ruci.

**ALBANIA**

We have been cooperating with organisations since 1999, now from our office in Belgrade.

**Partner organisation:** Albanian Women Empowerment Network.

**SERBIA**

We have been cooperating with organisations since 1994 from our office in Belgrade.

**Partner organisations:** Alternative Girls' Center, ASTRA – Anti-trafficking Action, Autonomous Women's Center, Center for Education and Counselling – Catalysta, Center for Women's Studies, Roma Center for Women and Children – Daje, Reconstruction Women's Fund, Sandglass Association of Women, Women in Black.

**NORTH MACEDONIA**

We have been cooperating with organisations since 1999 from our office in Skopje.

**Partner organisations:** Active Citizens – Aktivno Veles, Association for Advancement of Gender Equality – Akcija Združenska, Association of Ilirija Kumanovo, Association of persons with cerebral palsy Veles, Association of Women – Iskrenost Lipkovo, Association of Women – Spectrum Kratovo, Coalition Sexual and Health Rights of Marginalised Communities Margins (Coalition Margins), Center for rural development – Bujrum, Citizens Initiative of Women Sveti Nikole, Educational Humanitarian Organization – Echo, Health Education and

Research Association – HERA, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of Republic of Macedonia (MHC), KHAM Delcevo, National Network to End Against Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, One Can!, Organisation of women Kumanovka, Organization of Women from Sveti Nikole, Peach Preach Initiative, Research in Action – REACTOR.





Photo: Irmirana Kapanonovic

## CONTINUING OUR ACTIVE OPPOSITION TO VIOLENCE

**Gender-based violence is still endemic in the Western Balkans. Legislation in the region has not been fully harmonised with the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and violence in intimate relationships.**

In Bosnia & Herzegovina and Serbia, we support work to change this. Women's rights organisations in these countries have been working for years on legislative reform, protection measures and support for women who have been subjected to violence. They have also raised awareness and organised courses for the police, judges and public prosecutors. This way, they address both the causes and consequences of the violence. Our long-term support and solidarity-focused methodology make us a valued partner organisation.

Progress was made in 2018 in Serbia, both nationally and locally. The gender perspective had a greater impact on the national youth strategy, for example. In response to pressure from women's rights organisations, 18 May became an official memorial day for murdered women, and laws were amended for the better. In Bosnia & Herzegovina, our support helped develop the capacity of local actors and improve the independent democratic monitoring of public measures against gender-based violence. All this strengthens rule of law in the area, which is one of Bosnia & Herzegovina's priorities in its efforts to fulfill the EU accession criteria.



## Women must play a more active role, and men should allow women to do so.

### WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVE FOR PEACE

Women's rights activists from Bosnia & Herzegovina have created the unique initiative "Peace with a Woman's Face", in response to the divided society Bosnia & Herzegovina has become since the end of war over 20 years ago. "Peace with a Woman's Face" hopes to start conversations on peacebuilding and reconciliation, and set an example for dialogue between people who were on opposing sides in the war. Thirteen different organisations, all of which work with peacebuilding, are involved in the initiative.

One of the initiative's activities is to commemorate Memorial Day on 8 December. The day was established to remind the public of the experiences and suffering of women during the war.



Photo: Irmirana Kapanonovic

**Kvinna till Kvinna's** goodwill ambassador Alexandra Pascalidou visited our partner organisation CURE Foundation (Fondacija CURE) in October. Topics discussed during the meeting included ongoing efforts to defend women's rights in Bosnia & Herzegovina and the way these are hampered by security difficulties, civil society's shrinking space and widespread nationalism in Bosnian society. Twenty human rights activists from civil society and Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisations took part.



Photo: Maja Janeska Ilieva

### INCREASED SUPPORT FOR WOMEN'S ACTIVISM IN NORTH MACEDONIA

Kvinna till Kvinna increased funding for women's rights organisations in North Macedonia in 2018. This was an important step after a long period of shrinking space for civil society and women's rights activists. A new government also brought hope, as it has been more receptive to working with civil society and prioritising women's rights – including abortion, which has been under serious threat for many years. We increased our support to rural and more remote communities and enabled over 300 women to engage in active participation through our partner organisations. Many became involved in local decision-making processes for the first time, which made politics more relevant to their own daily lives.



Photo: EU delegation in Sarajevo

## MORE WOMEN IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

**Women are underrepresented in politics in Bosnia & Herzegovina. On average, the country's different political parliaments comprise only 20 per cent women, despite existing laws on anti-discrimination and gender equality. This means women are underrepresented in vital decisions on important matters like the country's EU aspirations.**

To change this, Kvinna till Kvinna, Sida, the Office of the European Union Special Representative (EUSR) and the EU delegation to Bosnia & Herzegovina launched the "Include Women in Change Processes" project. This was a dialogue series – consisting of workshops and a closing conference – designed to ensure that women engaged in political, economic and social issues have their voices heard in matters that concern the country's future.

A hundred women with different backgrounds and experiences took part in the project, including entrepreneurs, civil society representatives, women from rural and urban communities, women with disabilities, Roma women, legal experts, media representatives and politicians.

All events were attended by the EU delegation and Swedish Embassy, and covered both the application of the EU's roadmap for gender equality, as well as areas in which reform is needed for the country to meet the EU accession criteria. The project's final report stressed that women's participation is essential to all these processes: "Women must play a more active role, and men should allow women to do so."

**Did you know 500 SEK can offer a victim of gender-based violence in North Macedonia who does not have health insurance a full gynaecological examination? Your donation makes a difference!**



## PEACEBUILDING IN KOSOVO AND SERBIA

Women's rights activists from Kosovo and Serbia have succeeded in getting female politicians and activists from both countries to work together. They also contributed with recommendations to the official dialogue between the capitals of Belgrade and Pristina. The hope now is that more women will be able to participate in the dialogue, which aims to improve relations between the countries.

Two organisations, one from each country, also organised a "feminist spring school" together. The "school" is run by young women and has strengthened the peacebuilding efforts of younger generations in Kosovo and Serbia by establishing contact between young feminists who would otherwise never have met.

"I've learnt that women are the most potent peacemakers. I've learnt that love and solidarity are greater than borders, territories or states," said one of the participants.

### SUPPORT FOR SINGLE MOTHERS AND ANTI-BULLYING ACTIVITIES

Last year, North Macedonia's national parliament debated issues relating to single mothers for the first time. Representatives of all political parties backed one of Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisations and adopted their recommendations for policy amendments to improve the situation for single-mother households, which are still not acknowledged as a form of family.

Thanks to the efforts of one of Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisations, three schools in Skopje have established informal models to combat gender-based violence and bullying. Because of this, the organisation has been able to join two working groups, one producing a government strategy in the field, and one drafting a law on counteracting gender-based violence in the education system.

**In the Western Balkans**, Kvinna till Kvinna and our partner organisations contribute to analyses and investigations of gender equality in ongoing EU integration processes. Several reports were produced in 2018:

- **Mind the GAP – An independent evaluation of the implementation of the EU gender action plan II in Western Balkan countries**, in which Kvinna till Kvinna, Kosovo Women's Network and other partners evaluated the EU roadmap for gender-equality integration.
- **What's gender got to do with it**, a gender analysis of the EU Commission's 2018 country reports for the Western Balkans.
- **A new European perspective or more of the same?** Analysis and recommendations concerning the EU's engagement in the Balkan states as part of the EU enlargement process. The EU must do more for gender equality and civil society.
- **Women's rights in the Western Balkans** produces underlying data for the countries' efforts to meet EU accession criteria, with indicators for women's political involvement, gender-based violence and security for women's rights activists in the six Balkan states in which Kvinna till Kvinna is active.





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The biggest hurdle facing our operations in all three countries is negative cultural and social gender norms that pervade society.

Photo: Jacques Makuranga

## KEY CHANGES FOR AFRICA

2018 saw many important events in the three countries in Central and West Africa in which Kvinna till Kvinna is active. It was also a very significant year for Kvinna till Kvinna itself.

**Image:** Rwanda is the country with the highest proportion of female parliamentarians in the world (61 per cent). Image taken in Musanze.

Elections were held in both the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda. Although the percentage of women in parliament decreased slightly in Rwanda, at 61 per cent it is still the highest in the world. In the neighbouring DRC, the situation is very different. After being postponed for two years, an election was finally held on 30 December, but only a few women were elected to parliament. In Liberia, the economy deteriorated and the UN peacekeeping force (UNMIL) pulled out, after having been stationed in the country since the end of war in 2003.

### Progress and problems

In January, we officially launched our work in Rwanda, focusing on gender-based violence, women’s participation in economic and political decision-making, and conflict resolution. We are also proud to have been able to contribute to exchanges and collaborations between women’s rights organisations.

Due to financial constraints, 2018 was a difficult year for our work in the DRC. But thanks to support from the Swedish Postcode Lottery and other donors, we were not only able to maintain our presence in the country, but also managed to secure financing for the next five years.

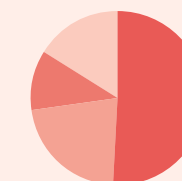
In Liberia, we continued our activities to advance women’s rights, including support for women’s participation in decision-making processes. Even though only a few women were elected to parliament in the 2017 election, more and more are demanding to be heard in decision forums at all levels. More women now also occupy leading positions in the country, both in grassroots movements and at the local level (including mayoral positions).

The biggest hurdle facing our operations in all three countries is negative cultural and social gender norms that pervade society. These will take a long time to change. Following an exploratory study in 2018, which was financed by Sida through the Swedish Embassy in Nairobi, we continue to develop our work in the region and are now looking into expanding to Somalia.

### OUR WORK IN BRIEF

#### Our partners’ focus issues:

- Gender-based violence 51 %
- Participation in society 22 %
- Peacebuilding 11 %
- Economic empowerment 16 %



### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

We have been cooperating with organisations since 2009, now from our office in Bukavu.

**Partner organisations:** *Association des Femmes des Médias (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 cooperating with organisations since 2007, now from our office in Monrovia.

**Partner organisations:** *Liberia Female Law Enforcement Association (LIFLEA), Liberian Women Empowerment Network (LIWEN), Rural Women Rights Structure (RWRS), South-Eastern Women Development Association (SEWODA), West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), West Point Women for Health and Development Organisation (WPWHDO), Women Empowerment for Self-Employment (WE4SELF), Women NGOs Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL), Women Rights Watch (WORIIWA).*

### RWANDA

We have been cooperating with organisations since 2017 from our office in Kigali.

**Partner organisations:** *Association of Rwanda Women in Sports (AKWOS), Haguruka, Réseau des Femmes Oeuvrant pour le Développement Rural (Réseau des Femmes), Rwanda Women’s Network (RWN), SEVOTA, Save Generation Organisation, Umuryango Nyarwanda w’Abagore Bafite Ubumuga (Unabu).*

### GOALS

#### Long-term goal

Contribute to a future where women in targeted conflict-affected countries in Africa are empowered and able to participate actively and equally in all aspects of society without being subjected to gender-based violence, and where women’s human rights are respected and conflicts are solved non-violently.

#### Short-term goals

- Prevent and respond to gender-based violence.
- Support the development and networking efforts of women’s rights organisation.
- Increase women’s participation at all levels of decision-making in society.



Photo: Réseau des Femmes Ouvrant pour le Développement Rural



## WE EMPOWER YOUNG MOTHERS IN RWANDA

When Yvonne became pregnant at the age of 17, her world fell apart. But then she came into contact with Réseau des Femmes Ouvrant pour le Développement Rural, an organisation working with mothers under the age of 18.

Yvonne has now attended courses on children's rights, gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive rights, and has received a great deal of support from other young mothers in the network. Together, they are saving up to

start an initiative that will enable them to provide for their children. Yvonne is even planning on going back to school.

Kvinna till Kvinna supports a range of projects supporting young mothers in Rwanda. All of these projects are aimed at changing attitudes and providing information on sexual and reproductive rights and health, as well as at enabling young women to take control of their own lives, for example by going back to school.

## LIBERIAN WOMEN'S RIGHT TO OWN LAND

In September 2018, after an intense debate and years of civil society advocacy, the Liberian government adopted the Land Rights Act. Two of our partners – the Women NGO Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL, an umbrella organisation of 106 members) and the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) – helped to get the new legislation adopted by spreading information on how women would be affected by the proposed law and arguing in the media for its adoption.

The new law entitles women to acquire and own land without the intervention of male relatives. Despite the importance of women's agricultural labour for their families' situation and livelihood, they were previously only allowed access to land through male relatives, usually fathers and husbands. Now women can purchase land themselves and decide how to use it. The law also gives extended rights to the entire rural population, which makes up 70 per cent of Liberians. Citizens living in rural areas now have full proprietary rights over their land and can decide on how it is used.

Photo: Jacques Mwinzingabo



AKWOS, a partner organisation in Rwanda, works to break the norm that football is a sport reserved for boys. The organisation also challenges oppressive structures and gives Rwandan women a forum through which to organise.



Our partner organisation **LIVEN** works to ensure more women get elected to political positions in upcoming elections.

## More women candidates stood in Liberia's 2017 election, but few were elected.



### REGIONAL ADVOCACY WORK IN AFRICA

In 2018, Kvinna till Kvinna joined forces with several partner organisations from Liberia and Rwanda to engage in regional advocacy at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

In October, ahead of the commission's meeting in Banjul, Gambia, we took part in a forum for civil society organisations. By providing concrete recommendations to the commission, participants make sure their concerns are addressed. There is great potential for us to contribute to improvement here, as women's rights and a general gender perspective are usually given little space in the debate.

The forum was also a valuable occasion for our partner organisations to network and exchange experiences. Over the coming years, we plan to continue developing our regional advocacy work, together with our African partner organisations. Concrete steps may include applying for observer status at the commission's meetings or arranging a side event.

**Did you know that for 500 SEK, a women's rights organisation can mediate in a community conflict in rural DRC? Your donation makes a difference!**



## FEMDIALOGUES: FEMINIST DIALOGUES FOR WOMEN'S INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM IN RWANDA

During the year, Kvinna till Kvinna supported our partner organisation Rwanda Women's Network in its "Femdialogues" initiative, which has become a forum for breaking the silence on controversial and sometimes sensitive issues, with a focus on women's power and influence.

One of Femdialogues' debates focused on the dowry system, which is very common in Rwanda. Women's rights activists argue that the tradition undermines equality and risks turning women into commodities.

"I get the idea of a dowry as a gift and gesture of appreciation between families, but these days it's all about money," says women's rights activist Annette Mukiga. "Women are human beings, not goods to trade or negotiate over."

Sylvie Nsanga, another women's rights activist, believes the dowry tradition harms both women and men. Women feel as if they are men's property, which is disempowering, while men who are unable to pay the dowry are looked down upon and denied the possibility to start a family.



Photo: Jacques Mwinzingabo

## RIGHTS FOR WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

**Marcianna Nikuzem, who was born with a disability, took her first step towards a new life after coming into contact with Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisation UNABU. She became a volunteer for a capacity-building initiative for other women with disabilities.**

Marcianna set up advocacy groups, in which over 100 women and girls with disabilities learned more about gender-based violence and human rights. She soon realised economic empowerment needed to be covered too.

Some of the groups are now involved in the UNABU project "My Choice and Voice Out", which empowers women and girls through financial education. Women and girls with disabilities are often particularly disadvantaged, and poverty and economic dependency are key factors to why women are subjected to violence.

Our partnership with UNABU has also increased awareness of the rights of women with disabilities among many of our other partner organisations in Rwanda.

### Survivors report gender-based violence

The Liberian town of Palala has seen a surge in the number of gender-based violence cases reported to the police by women. This is the result of an economic empowerment project run by Rural Women Rights Structure with support from Kvinna till Kvinna. The project has empowered women to start earning their own money, become more independent and less reliant on their husbands. Because of this, survivors of violence now have the courage to speak out.

## A BOOST FOR THE DRC

**Kvinna till Kvinna has been active in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) for almost a decade, supporting civil society networks and women's rights organisations, gaining government agencies' trust and developing relations with key women's rights actors.**

Unfortunately, the situation in the DRC has deteriorated in many ways, including security-wise. Many international actors have left the country; small women's rights organisations are often the first to have their budgets cut.

Because of our limited budget, we could only support a few projects in 2018. We were also unsure about more long-term funding options. This made the support we received from the Swedish Postcode Lottery absolutely crucial: it enabled us to secure funding for the DRC programme for the coming five years, through Sida. We can now expand our activities and provide sustainable support for women's rights in the DRC.

During the year, we remained in close contact with our partner organisations AFEM, CEDEJ and SOFAD. We also supported Rien Sans Les Femmes (RSLF) – a network of civil society organisations and women's rights activists working for gender equality in decision-making bodies. During the election, we provided RSLF with financial assistance to support the participation of women as candidates and voters.



# ACTIVISTS FACING MANY OBSTACLES IN THE REGION

There are many obstacles to human rights and democracy in the South Caucasus. Coupled with a lack of support from international donors, this leaves civil society with little room to act. That is why we help organisations build relations with more donors.

## GOALS

### Long-term goal

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

### Short-term goals

- Improve protection for survivors of gender-based violence.
- Increase women's participation in peacebuilding.
- Combat and prevent discrimination.
- Support the development of women's rights organisations.

**The situation is** particularly serious in Azerbaijan, where human rights activists are regularly imprisoned, press freedom is violated, and civil society organisations have limited opportunity to operate independently.

In the breakaway region of Abkhazia, women's participation in society and politics remains low, which excludes women from important development processes in the region. None of the political parties address women's rights, which further perpetuates inequality.

In mid-December, Georgia elected its first female president. However, many observers criticised the election process, and the president has not yet specifically addressed women's rights. Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisations and other actors in the region are disappointed and have requested an audience with her.

### Women's participation

In Armenia, significant challenges remain for women's political participation, despite positive developments in the country. An election in December 2018 slightly increased the share of women in parliament, from 21 to 24 per cent. Many of our partner organisations hope this will enable progress on several issues, including the ratification of the Istanbul Convention, which addresses violence against women, and the strengthening of the country's law on domestic violence, which was enacted in 2017.

As for the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, that has gone on since 1988, Kvinna till Kvinna is currently the only donor supporting women from Armenia and Azerbaijan through dialogue and peacebuilding activities with a gender perspective. One positive example is the way our partner organisations have been working on a feminist project to collect stories from women affected by the conflict. Women from different sides of the conflict managed to discuss the feminist documentation of oral narratives, all while sharing resources and expertise.

**Image:** Women's rights activists in Georgia continue to fight for equality, liberty and the right to decide over their own lives. Pictured here is Mari Kurtanidze.

**Did you know that for 500 SEK, 16 violently abused women in Armenia can receive legal and psychological support for two weeks? Your donation makes a difference!**





**In Azerbaijan, women are denied the right to decide over personal matters like education, marriage and work. As the regime continues to suppress civil society at large, the situation for women's rights activists has quickly deteriorated.**

"I've been working with human rights for 20 years. It hasn't gotten any easier," says Shahla Ismayil, chair of the Women's Association for Rational Development (WARD), an Azerbaijani women's rights organisation.

In 2014, the government introduced new legislation that first restricted and then all but banned foreign funding for civil society. Since then, government critics, human rights activists and journalists have been arrested and convicted in sweeping raids.

Operating from the capital of Baku, WARD uses Azerbaijan's international commitments as a lever to increase women's participation in politics, oppose violence against women and promote gender equality.

Despite the threats and the obstacles she faces every step of the way, Shahla Ismayil continues to work for women's equal rights in society. The dangers she tries not to think about:

"If you do, you start to live in fear. The scared die a little every day, the brave only once. I want to die just once."

**A POSITION OF POLITICAL POWER**

After attending a course arranged by Cultural-Humanitarian Fund "Sukhumi" (one of Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisations in Georgia) Latavra Bendelaiani was inspired to stand as a candidate in the local elections. She was voted in, and used her position to open a preschool. This now makes it possible for more women to earn a living - which few women in rural communities are able to do.



In Armenia, our partner organisation Women's Rights Center provides legal support to survivors of gender-based violence. One of their cases in 2018 concerned a woman who had been denied access to her children for three years, because she had left her husband after 16 years of domestic abuse. With the help of a Women's Rights Center lawyer, she is now legally entitled to meet her children once a week, pending the custody decision.

In another case, a woman sought legal assistance to visit her children, who lived with her ex-husband. Thanks to the support from our partner organisation's lawyers, she won the right to visit her children whenever she wants.

**GEORGIA: SUCCESSES AND LESSONS LEARNED**

Kvinna till Kvinna has been present in Georgia since 2002. Now, we are drafting a roadmap for our continued push for women's rights.

Together with our seven partner organisations, we have been working towards four goals in Georgia. A recent evaluation showed our achievements, and lessons we can learn from them:

- To contribute to efforts to prevent and combat violence against women. We have been successful in this and managed to reach out to particularly vulnerable groups. One hurdle going forward is how to secure sustainable funding.
- To improve women's contributions to and participation in peacebuilding. Although the work of our partner organisations varies, they generally focus on improving inter-ethnic relations. While women's rights organisations have not participated in formal peacebuilding contexts, they are often used as sources of information.
- To build our partner organisations' capacity and improve their ability to employ sustainable methods. Some organisations have managed this better than others, despite receiving similar support.
- To help raise awareness of gender equality and women's rights. While we have been successful, the positive trend is now threatened by rising reactionary forces in politics, the media and far-right movements.



Photo: Lara Aharonian

**THE VELVET REVOLUTION**

In the spring of 2018, a so-called "velvet revolution" took place in Armenia. Many of our partner organisations engaged in the peaceful movement that ousted the conservative government. Activists from two of our partner organisations - Lara Aharonian of the Women's Resource Center of Armenia and Anna Nikoghosyan of the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Women - were detained for taking part in the protests.

Representatives of two other partner organisations, Spitak Helsinki Group Human Rights NGO and the Women's Resource Center of Shushi, met Clement Nyaletsossi Voule, the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, to report on women's participation in political processes during and after the revolution. The report stated that only a small number of women were elected to leading posts and that there were infringements on the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association. The rapporteur urged Armenia's new authorities to ensure more women become involved in political decision-making.

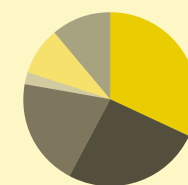


After Armenia's "velvet revolution", two of our partner organisations in the country met Clement Nyaletsossi Voule, a specially dispatched UN rapporteur, to discuss opportunities for women to take part in political decision-making processes.

**OUR WORK IN BRIEF**

**Our partners' focus issues:**

- Gender-based violence 32 %
- Participation in society 26 %
- Peacebuilding 20 %
- Economic empowerment 2 %
- Security 9 %
- Other\* 11 %



\*Other, including sexual and reproductive health and rights

**ARMENIA**

We have been cooperating with organisations since 2004 from our regional office in Tbilisi.

**Partner organisations:**

Coalition to Stop Violence Against Women, Democracy Today, Nalbandyan Women's Club (Democracy Today), Society Without Violence, Spitak Helsinki Group human rights NGO, Women's Resource Center of Armenia, Women's Resource Center of Shushi, Women's Rights Center.

**AZERBAIJAN**

We have been cooperating with organisations since 2004 from our regional office in Tbilisi.

**GEORGIA AND BREAKAWAY REGIONS**

We have been cooperating with organisations since 2002 from our regional 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", Democratic Women's Organization of Samtskhe-Javakheti, StudioMobile - Accent on Action, Development Center of Gagra, Union of Wives of Invalids and Lost Warriors, Women's Fund for Development, Women's Initiatives Supporting Group.





**GOALS**

**Long-term goal**  
A strong and sustainable women's movement in the MENA region that strengthens women's rights and their opportunities to participate in decision-making, from the local to the international level.

**Short-term goals**

- Reduce violence against women.
- Prevent and combat discrimination.
- Increase women's participation in peacebuilding and at all levels in society.
- Support the development of women's rights organisations and the access of women's rights activists to protection and organisation.

# SUCCESS IN THE FACE OF RESISTANCE

In the MENA region, 2018 was a year of ever harsher constrictions for women's rights activists. There were severe violations of freedom of expression and of civil society's ability to organise.

Many of Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisations are all too aware of this mounting resistance, as they are harassed by representatives of the state security apparatus, subjected to online slander, banned from travelling, entangled in red tape, placed under surveillance and denied access to foreign funding. The shrinking action space for women's rights activists requires new methods of organisational support that also work for informal groups and individuals: under the current circumstances, these groups are unable to establish themselves as formal and visible organisations.

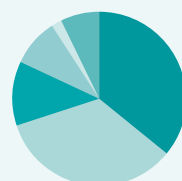
Despite all difficulties, a great deal of significant achievements were made by the women's rights movement. In Tunisia, after years of hard work, the government published its first official report on personal freedoms and rights. A law on equal inheritance rights was also approved by the government and presented to parliament during the year. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of women's rights organisations, including those in remote areas of Syria and Iraq, vital help reached many women who had been subjected to violence, forced to flee their homes or forcibly displaced.

Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisations were involved in important political processes in Jordan, Iraq and Syria, where they managed to make an impact despite the difficult environment. Our partner organisation 7amleh, managed to put Palestinian women's online rights on the international agenda.

OUR WORK IN BRIEF

Our partners' focus issues:

- Gender-based violence 36 %
- Participation in society 34 %
- Peacebuilding 12 %
- Economic empowerment 9 %
- Security 2 %
- Other\* 7 %



\*Youth and legal reform.

**IRAQ**

We have been cooperating with organisations since 2005 from our office in Erbil and from Baghdad.

**Partner organisations:** Baghdad Women's Association, Hawa Organization for Relief and Development, Iraqi Organization for Woman and Future, Iraqi Women's League, Pana Centre for Combatting Violence Against Women, Rasan Organization for Women's Rights.

**ISRAEL**

We have been cooperating with organisations since 2001 from our office in Jerusalem.

**Partner organisations:** Al-Tufula Center, Al Zahra, 1325 Alternative Coalition, House of Achoti, Isha La Isha.

**SYRIA**

We have been cooperating with organisations since 2009.

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

**TUNISIA**

We have been cooperating with organisations since 2016 from our office in Tunis.

**Partner organisations:** Aswat Nissa. We are currently evaluating five other potential partners.

**JORDAN**

We have been cooperating with organisations since 2005 from our office in Amman.

**Partner organisations:** Arab Women Organization, Families Development Association, Jordanian Women's Union, Sisterhood Is Global Institute.

We also work with the WHRD-MENA Coalition throughout the region.

**LEBANON**

We have been cooperating with organisations since 2005 from our office in Beirut.

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

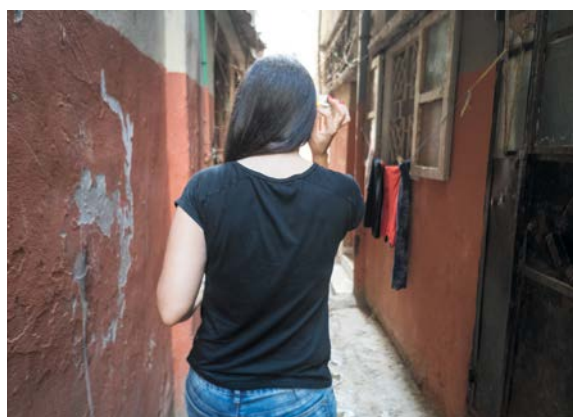
**PALESTINE**

We have been cooperating with organisations since 2001 from our office in Jerusalem.

**Partner organisations:** AISHA Association for Woman and Child Protection, Al-Muntada Coalition to Encounter Gender-Based Violence, EMHRM Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR), Palestinian Centre for Peace and Democracy (PCPD), Palestinian Working Women's Society for Development (PWWSD), SAWA All Women Together Today and Tomorrow, Women's Affairs Centre, Women's Studies Centre.



Photo: Christopher Herwig



## SHADOWS OF THE DISAPPEARED

**Kvinna till Kvinna supports numerous women's rights organisations working for women's rights, opportunities, capacity and participation in peace processes and decision-making at different levels in Syria.**

In 2018, two of Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisations, Dawlaty and Women Now for Development, together launched the report *"Shadows of the Disappeared: Testimonies of Syrian women relatives who are left behind with loss and ambiguity"* in Syria and Lebanon. The report, which is part of a larger project to ensure redress for massive human rights violations, documents the stories of female relatives of people who were imprisoned, abducted or disappeared during Syria's years of conflict.

Two events were arranged in Syria to launch the report, one in Idlib and one in Aleppo. Local activists and female relatives of people who were imprisoned or disappeared during the fighting discussed the situation and needs of survivors and relatives. The participants also formulated demands to the international community to prioritise the issue of prisoners in Syria. In Beirut in Lebanon, the launch of the report was marked through an art installation, organised with the Issam Fares Institution at the American University of Beirut, followed by a reading of testimonies by actors.

### NEW NETWORK FOR THE UN'S SDGS

A new network has been created for civil society in Iraq to work with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). "The Sustainable Development Network" is the product of two workshops organised by Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisation the Hawa Organization for Relief and Development (Diyala Governorate) for Iraqi women's rights organisations, government employees and press representatives.

"The goal for members of this network is to support efforts made to achieve the SDGs and to help build a peaceful, sustaina-

### Report on online violence against women

Zamleh, the Arab Center for the Advancement of Social Media, conducted a study with our support. The resulting report, *"A Violent Network: Gender-Based Violence Against Palestinian Women in Virtual Space"*, is based on interviews and survey responses of 1,200 young women. Its impact has been enormous.

The report shows online gender-based violence differs little from violence in public spaces. In both cases, women are denied full freedom and are watched over by family members. This affects their freedom of expression and the way they act online.

Women are often forced to handle online sexual harassment the way they would in real life: usually, family members – not the police – deal with the problem. A lack of faith in the authorities means women are even more dependent on patriarchal family structures, to the detriment of their freedom of expression.



Photo: Aswat Nissa

Meeting with politicians on enshrining gender equality in Tunisian law. Pictured here are Zahra Ben Nasr, Lilia Younes Ksibi and Sara Ben Said.

**For the first time** ever, the law that regulates Tunisia's government budget contains a clause proclaiming the equality of men and women. Aswat Nissa, Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisation in the country, was part of a coalition of civil society organisations advocating for this amendment. Aswat Nissa was involved in the wording of the proposal that has now been enshrined in law.

Furthermore, 15 women, all of whom had been trained by Aswat Nissa, were voted into different local offices in Tunisia's elections in May. Seven of them had attended a special training course for politicians. Kvinna till Kvinna supported the programme in 2016 and 2017.

ble society," explains Hawa's chair Buthainah Mahmoud Abbas. The Sustainable Development Network has already met with UNDP (the UN's development programme) and with the department responsible, to discuss future cooperation. The network has 29 members, who represent all Iraqi regions and have activities in a wide range of fields, including health, education and women's independence.

**Find out more at [sustainabledevelopment.un.org](http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org)**

**For the first time, the UN Human Rights Council's recommendations to Jordan focused on gender equality issues, women's participation and freedom of expression.**

### WOMEN'S RIGHTS UNDER SCRUTINY

Four of our partner organisations in Jordan have been working to ensure civil society voices are heard in the UN Human Rights Council's UPR (Universal Periodic Review) of Jordan, which was conducted with other human rights organisations. Kvinna till Kvinna helped the organisations to prioritise topics, prepare data and take the lead on advocacy efforts targeting the states that took part in the review. These preparations helped to amplify the message and ensure the inclusion of issues raised by the women's rights movement.

One priority was the prohibition of child marriage. This was presented by INSAN (a coalition led by our partner organisation the Jordanian Women's Union) at a meeting at UN headquarters, attended by representatives and experts from over 30 countries.

The results are clear: for the first time, recommendations of Jordan's UPR focused on gender equality issues, women's participation and freedom of expression. This is a significant success for the activists, even though Jordan did not accept many of the recommendations.

#### UPR = Universal Periodic Review

Every year, the UN Human Rights Council conducts a review of its member states. These so-called Universal Periodic Reviews are held according to a rotating schedule, with each country reviewed once every four years. When a country is up for review, its government prepares by writing a report on the measures it has taken to fulfil its human rights obligations. Civil society organisations too are invited to report. They can also contact the states who will be reviewing their country, and ask these to specifically address certain issues. Once the review has been completed, an "outcome report" is released, including recommendations that the reviewed state can either accept or reject. Accepted recommendations are later followed up.

## 107 WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVISTS MEET IN LEBANON



Photo: Christopher Herwig

**There has been a sharp rise in attacks on women's rights activists in the past decade. Attacks have also become more serious: in some cases, activists have been murdered. This has made it significantly more difficult for women's rights organisations and movements in many countries to continue their work – or exist at all.**

That is why the organisation and mobilisation of activists needs to be strengthened. In September, the WHRD-MENA coalition, one of our partner organisations, and five other organisations arranged a forum for women's rights activists from around the world. "The Women Human Rights Defender Forum" was held in Beirut, and brought together no fewer than 107 women's rights activists from Latin America, Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, post-Soviet nations, the Balkans and the MENA region, as well as representatives of international organisations, UN rapporteurs and independent experts.

The event was arranged in response to the rising global resistance to human rights and women's participation in the public space. Its purpose was to empower people to stand up to the backlash against already-won rights, to the rise in violence and to the shrinking space for women's rights activists.

The forum was based on a resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2013 to protect women's rights activists. It gave activists the opportunity to meet relevant UN representatives and help strengthen the resolution's implementation. The forum also served to strengthen cooperation between women's rights activists and enhance their access to and knowledge of UN special rapporteurs and independent experts.

### ACTIVIST ART

During "16 days of activism", imprisoned women in Iraq painted a mural in protest against gender-based violence. The activity was part of a project aimed at raising women's self-esteem, informing women of their rights, and encouraging civil engagement. The project was run by Rasan Organization for Women's Rights in Suleimaniyah, Iraq.



Photo: Rasan Organization for Women's Rights





Photo: Kafa

## ROYAL INTEREST

In October, Crown Princess Victoria and the then Minister for Gender Equality Lena Hallengren visited our Lebanese partner organisation Kafa, to learn more about its work.

Kafa is a feminist organisation working for gender equality and against different forms of violence and oppression to which women and children are subjected. During their visit, the Princess and the Minister learnt about the situation of women in Lebanon and met and talked with survivors who had come to the Kafa support centre for help.

"This visit gave us at Kafa a real boost in our work. We were moved, not just by the royal visit, but also by the genuine interest shown in our work and in what we have to say," says Kafa director Zoya Rouhana.

The visit was part of the royal couple's trip to Lebanon and Jordan to promote the Sustainable Development Goals, with a focus on gender equality, climate and humanitarian issues.

**Image:** Crown Princess Victoria and Minister for Gender Equality Lena Hallengren visiting our partner organisation Kafa in Lebanon.

**Did you know that 500 SEK can give two women refugees from Palestine access to healthcare and social support? Your donation makes a difference!**

## MEN SUPPORT WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN GAZA

The Association for Women and Child Protection (AISHA) works to combat and prevent violence against women in Gaza. They have now carried out a first ever anti-violence initiative that directly addresses men.

As a result of the initiative, attitudes and behaviour have been changing with regards to women's rights and violence against women. More men are more present at home and more engaged in household work – an important milestone in the struggle to change attitudes towards gender roles.

### Visible results

The men's wives describe major changes.

"He used to spend all his time at work or with his friends," says one of the women who took part in the project. "Now, he's more part of the household. This programme has really changed my life."

The key behind the change the initiative has brought about has been the method of working simultaneously at different levels: educating individuals, changing domestic practices, and running campaigns targeted at society at large, with schools and other institutions.

The project ran from 2015 to 2018 and educated 66 men from Gaza to change their attitudes on gender-based violence. The men were trained in non-violent conflict resolution and are now ambassadors in the prevention of gender-based violence for other men. They have set up their own initiatives and are regularly engaged to educate teenage boys. Their participation even improved their mental health.



### WORKING WITH THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

In 2018, we cooperated with the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs to evaluate the application of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in five countries, including Iraq. The project focused both on how the Agenda has been applied in Iraq, and how the presence of different UN bodies has affected implementation. As the Swedish government made recommendations on how the international community can more effectively implement the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, it took into consideration input from three of our partner organisations – the Baghdad

Women's Association, the Hawa Organization for Relief and Development and the Iraqi Organization for Women and the Future. Sweden handed over its recommendations to the UN during the "Women, Peace and Security Week" in October 2018.

"We're happy to have gotten the chance to contribute to this important work," commented Buthainah Mahmoud Abbas from the Hawa Organization and Nada Ibraheem al-Jouboury from the Iraqi Organization for Women and the Future. "The international community now just has to adopt these recommendations in Iraq too."



Photo: Julia Östgren

**GEMAKET**  
EN DEL AV KVINNA TILL KVINNA

Gemaket has geared up! We are now present in five cities in Sweden. Over the past year, 13 new Gemaket groups were founded, with ever more leaders and participants interested in joining.

Gemaket is a forum in which young women (age 15–25) who are newly arrived in Sweden get to meet other girls who have grown up here. In Gemaket's safe space, participants get to learn about gender equality and societal norms and experience true sisterhood. Local Gemaket groups meet ten times a year to explore a set theme together. Participants can also get a mentor or apply for funding to start a project. The first scholarship was awarded to a young woman who needed a camera to start a forum for women interested in photography.

Gemaket also organised two camping weekends during the year, for leaders and participants from around the country, one at Tollare Folkhögskola in May and one at Subtopia in November. These trips allowed people to network and have fun together – participants got to try out yoga, drama and modern jazz dance, or even attend a comic-strip drawing workshop.

One of the participants at Tollare was Nour Saaed from Stockholm. She describes Gemaket as a "lovely sisterhood":

"The best things about Gemaket are all the friends and getting to know yourself better. We meet other women and get more perspectives on life. It's a way of supporting both yourself and others."



**Gemaket is a lovely sisterhood.**

**Nour Saaed**  
On empowering yourself and others through Gemaket.



### FACTS | Kvinna till Kvinna's forum for newly arrived young women

**Start:** Gemaket was launched in 2017.

**Local groups:** Gothenburg, Linköping, Malmö, Stockholm and Uppsala. Gemaket is financed by the Swedish Inheritance Fund and run in cooperation with the study association Sensus.

**Members:** This year, 170 people took part in Gemaket, including 90 newly arrived women and 80 certified leaders. Thirteen new Gemaket groups were founded. The work done by Gemaket's volunteers amounts to almost four full-time positions.





## NO TO NATIONALISM

On International Women’s Day on 8 March, we launched **#kvinnorsval**, an appeal urging Sweden’s next prime minister not to cooperate with nationalists, as this would pose a serious threat to gender equality in Sweden.

“A wave of nationalism is spreading across the world, challenging the rights of women – in Sweden, that wave is represented by the Sweden Democrats,” says Petra Tötterman Andorff.

We have extensive experience of working in countries where nationalist movements want to force women back into traditional gender roles or limit their right to their own bodies.

The goal of our appeal was to show that if they cooperate with the Sweden Democrats, future Swedish governments risk contributing to a deterioration of women’s rights in Sweden. In the end, the appeal – which also highlighted that equality in Sweden is not inherently “Swedish”, but rather the result of a long struggle for women’s rights – amassed no fewer than 11,438 signatures. It is clear that there are many of us who will never accept an increase in power and influence for nationalists.

We submitted the appeal to Minister of Gender Equality Lena Hallengren (Social Democrat) and Jessica Polfjärd (gender-equality spokesperson for the Moderate Party) in August.

A week before the election in September, we also published a film in which our goodwill ambassador Linnéa Claeson spoke out against nationalism and the Sweden Democrats. It became the most-viewed film we ever posted in our social media channels and generated considerable debate. By the end of 2018, the film had racked up over 2.5 million views and 117,000 comments.

**Image:** Our appeal against nationalism was handed over to those in power by our goodwill ambassador Linnéa Claeson and our secretary-general Petra Tötterman Andorff, pictured here at the government’s headquarters in Stockholm.



### – An appeal to the Stockholm Forum for Gender Equality

Kvinna till Kvinna took part in the global equality forum arranged in Stockholm in April 2018, where we presented an appeal in support of women’s rights activists and against civil society’s shrinking space. World leaders attending the forum were urged to take responsibility and defend women’s rights activists.

#### We focused on three areas and provided concrete advice:

- **Security for individuals and organisations:**

be careful about the type of organisation you allot space to, as some act on behalf of their governments; be mindful of negative effects of national security policies; refuse to accept the criminalisation of women’s rights activists and have zero tolerance for the violence to which they are subjected.

- **Reduced financial room for manoeuvre and financing:**

support progressive civil society and ensure all women-led organisations have access to financing; seek out new voices and movements; set up emergency financing solutions for activists under threat.

- **Acknowledgment and participation in important discussions:**

help spread the results of the work done by women’s rights activists; support the movement’s growth and become a genuine ally; make ample time for meetings and always seek equal representation of women and men at conferences, e.g. with delegations from other countries.

### KVINNA TILL KVINNA AT HIGH-LEVEL UN CONFERENCE



Our secretary-general Petra Tötterman Andorff and advocacy advisor Klara Backman were part of the official Swedish delegation to the UN General Assembly’s conference on peacebuilding and peacekeeping led by Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström. We are proud of the fact that we were able to increase our presence this year in arenas where peace and security are debated. Our main message at the UN conference was about the vital work women’s rights activists do to prevent conflict, and about how shrinking space for manoeuvre seriously hampers civil society’s work.



#### AT ALMEDALEN

During the 2018 edition of the Almedalen political week, we arranged two popular seminars. At one of them, Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström talked about feminist foreign policy; at the other, we discussed nationalism as a threat to women’s rights and democracy, together with Fojo Media Institute. We also networked, arranged breakfast meetings with MPs and corporate leaders, and took part in the Diversity Parade for all human beings’ equal worth and equal rights.



## #BACKAENAKTIVIST



## NOT YET SILENCED

On March 8, we released the Swedish version of our report “Suffocating the Movement” on shrinking space for the women’s rights movement. Women in Sweden are not immune to the changes we are seeing almost everywhere in the world.

“One of the reasons for publishing a Swedish version, was to use it during the election,” says Charlotte dos Santos Pruth, senior advocacy advisor at Kvinna till Kvinna. “Some of the activists who filled in the survey on which the report is based, are from Sweden. We can learn from what’s been happening in other countries, like in the Balkans.”

The report points out the hypocrisy of the Sweden Democrats: they claim gender equality is typically Swedish, but pursue policies that could undo previous reforms which protected women’s rights to their own bodies or evened out gender inequality in society.

**Image:** On 8 March, we launched our report with a seminar at the Stockholm Forum for Gender Equality. The panel included Liliana Religa, Alexandra Pascalidou, Judith Wirth and Irena Cvetkovic.

We will always support women’s rights activists brave enough to stand up to opposition. But shrinking space has put many women’s rights activists in an increasingly difficult situation. More than half of women’s rights activists worldwide have been subjected to violence and threats. That is why we launched the #backaenaktivist (#supportanactivist) campaign at last year’s Almedalen political week.

Our goodwill ambassadors have been affected too. Threats against Linnéa Claeson escalated when she began speaking up for women’s rights and against nationalism. In Almedalen, we drew attention to the threats against women’s rights activists in a tangible way: visitors to our tent could listen to recordings of threats received by ambassadors Linnéa Claeson and Alexandra Pascalidou.





Photo: Magnus Aronson, Mattias Ekvall, Gisela Greenheim, Viktor Göransson, Petra Hellberg, Nina Holm, Anna Huerta, Marie, Therese Karlberg, Mona Karlberg, Matias Lindbeck, Caroline Rossnork, Hironori Tsukue samt pressbilder.

## MANY MORE JOIN FIGHT FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Kvinna till Kvinna has been defending women's rights for 25 years. We wanted to mark this milestone by reporting on the work we have done and encouraging more people to get engaged. So on 18 April, the anniversary of Kvinna till Kvinna's first appeal in 1993, we published an op-ed article in which we and 26 other powerful voices for women's rights demanded an end to violence against women. We also launched a special anniversary web page, with highlights of the past year and interviews with volunteers and partner organisations who have been on board from the start.

The campaign had a huge impact. Women's rights continue to inspire people! On social media, which is our main channel for sparking engagement, we

and our goodwill ambassadors were able to involve even more people in our work for women's rights. We gained more followers and more people chose to interact with reports about our activities. We also raised more funds during this period, collecting almost 1.5 million SEK from private individuals, companies and organisations.

We are also more well-known among the general public: compared to 2014, there has been an increase of eight percentage points in the number of people who report having heard of us. Most people want the money we raise to go towards increasing women's self-determination and preventing violence against women – two of our primary focus areas.

### VOLUNTEERING FOR US EVER MORE POPULAR

**Our volunteers are vital to our communication and fundraising activities. More and more people want to engage in our work and become volunteers.**

Kvinna till Kvinna's volunteers meet in so-called "study circles", where they get to learn more about women's rights, peace, who we are and what we stand for. They also arrange events, talks and panel debates, and write op-ed pieces.

During the year, our volunteers arranged many high-profile events. **The Gothenburg group**, for example, held a large event at Frilagret to celebrate International Women's Day. With Kvinna till Kvinna's report on the situation of women's rights activists worldwide as a starting point, the event included panel debates, music performances and workshops on feminist self-defence. In **Umeå**, International Women's Day was celebrated with Amnesty and the local UN association.

Volunteers in **Uppsala** got two op-ed pieces published during the year, both on the vulnerable situation of women's rights activists. In **Stockholm**, Femdefenders Day was marked with a panel debate with goodwill ambassador Fanna Ndw Norrby, among others.

During the Almedalen political week, some of the facilitators of our volunteers' study circles helped staff the Kvinna till Kvinna tent. They also joined the Diversity Parade, demonstrating for women's rights and all human beings' equal worth. Many of our volunteers also became involved in Gemaket, our project for newly arrived young women.

"It's inspiring to see up close just how passionately and dynamically involved our volunteers are in women's rights," says Maja Skogh, volunteer coordinator.

**Start:** Our volunteer activities began in 2010.  
**Local groups:** Stockholm, Gothenburg, Umeå and Uppsala.  
**Number of active volunteers:** 59



**It's awesome to score a bargain, but what if we could all put aside a little of the cash we saved to support one of the world's foremost women's organisations?**



Photo: Mona Karlberg

**On Black Friday**, our goodwill ambassador Fanna Ndw Norrby started one of the year's most successful fundraising campaigns, with the slogan "Köphysteri eller Aktivistgaranti?" (Shopping frenzy or activist guarantee?). During the year, almost 200 people raised funds for us on Facebook – a growing fundraising channel.

In 2018, we raised more money than ever before. Our number of monthly donors went up by 26 per cent, mobile-phone donations increased sharply and private and corporate donors were more engaged.

## XMAS SUCCESS

**In the late autumn, our Christmas campaign drew attention to a serious problem in society: men's violence against women – which never takes a Christmas break.**

Many rallied behind the cause. We more than exceeded our fundraising goal, and half of all the monthly donors we gained in 2018 were recruited in December.

The Christmas campaign was our first integrated campaign, with material adapted to different target groups. We specifically addressed our current corporate donors, including through digital newsletters, asking them for an extra Christmas gift. In newspaper ads, we appealed to female private donors: "You can come to another woman's rescue – become a monthly donor". The campaign also featured on social media.

This Christmas, we also tested something entirely new: "We launched a new digital gift card. It was a bigger hit than we could have imagined," says Linda Kaplan, fundraising development manager at Kvinna till Kvinna. "We sold three times more of these than our printed cards. Cost-efficient, fun, good for the environment and an easy gift."



Photo: Markus Frändberg

**In 2018**, our web shop's top-selling product was a tote bag with the slogan "Girls Just Wanna Have Fundamental Human Rights". The bag costs 250 SEK, of which 195 SEK goes to our work for women's rights. A cool tote with an important message that makes a difference!



**Men's violence against women takes no Christmas break – and neither do we. Around the world, women are subjected to violence and sexual abuse simply because they are women. Violence silences women, prevents them from raising their voices and stifles their struggle for change. Every day, Kvinna till Kvinna works to address this. Do you want to be part of the change?**



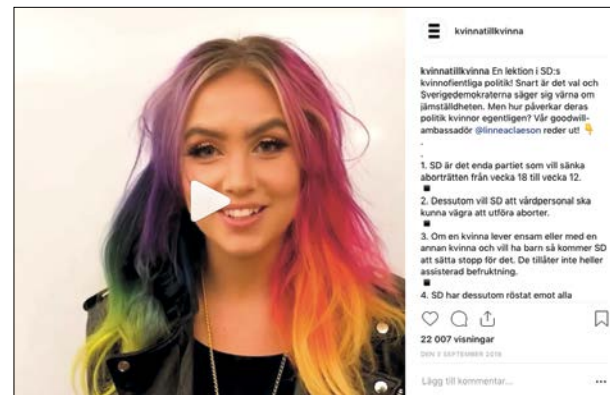
# SOCIAL MEDIA BOOM

For several years now, we have worked hard to build our brand on social media by bringing our supporters closer to reality and actively trying to reach potential followers. In 2018, we got to see the results of our efforts.

Some satisfying numbers: at the start of the year, our newsletter had 2,648 subscribers; by 31 December, this figure had risen to no fewer than 13,527! Many of our new subscribers signed up through our anti-nationalism campaign during the election.

Our followers on Facebook increased by 14% during the year. On Instagram, we gained over 7,000 new followers – an increase of a full 62%! Most of our new Instagram followers came in March, when we launched our #kvinnorsval campaign and released the Swedish version of our report on the situation for women's rights activists. In September – election time – more people than usual started following us too. Our public profile was also raised by our 25th anniversary celebrations throughout the year.

Our most shared post ever on social media was a film in which Linnéa Claeson listed the Sweden Dem-



ocrats' negative sides from a women's rights perspective. The film was viewed more than 2.5 million times, with the greatest number of likes coming in July and September, when the Almedalen political week and the election were held, respectively.

Besides all our social media efforts, our website also made a substantial impact, generating 277,217 unique visits during the year. In October, we launched an international website, which we hope will raise global awareness of Kvinna till Kvinna and our work, strengthen our partner organisations and attract new donors.



Photo: Julia Östgren

**Alexandra Pascalidou**  
on the wars in the Balkans.

**People have to start acknowledging the abuses that were committed in the heart of Europe.**

In 2018, our goodwill ambassadors Linnéa Claeson and Alexandra Pascalidou visited projects we support in Rwanda and Bosnia & Herzegovina, respectively. They both met Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisations who support women affected by genocide, rape and war in their countries.



## BUSINESS-SECTOR TALKS

In September, we arranged Equality Talks for the first time: an event on the UN's SDGs, for selected actors from the business sector.

The morning at Stockholm's Tändstickspalatset provided a new way to engage with the business community, enabling us to forge new links with donors while strengthening existing relations.

The dialogue was attended by 30 female entrepreneurs and business leaders, as well as our goodwill ambassadors Alexandra Pascalidou and Linnéa Claeson. We presented the work we do with our partners on Sustainable Development Goal 5 (gender equality), 16 (peace) and 17 (partnerships). Kvinna till Kvinna's new secretary-general, Petra Tötterman Andorff, led conversations with participants, including Camilla Wagner from Klara K and Cissi Elwin from Chef.

# 277,217

UNIQUE VISITORS TO OUR WEBSITE

Our followers on Facebook increased by

# 14%

# 2,5 million

views of our film about the Sweden Democrats' politics

7,000 new Instagram followers, an increase of

# 62%

13,527 PEOPLE SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

**INGRID ÅKESSON, 64,**  
has been a monthly donor since the 1990s.

"Women, children and young people are often forgotten in times of war and conflict," she says. "I like the fact that Kvinna till Kvinna has a long-term perspective; providing acute help in the present is important, but looking ahead and strengthening democratic structures is just as important."

**SEBASTIAN NILSSON, 31,**  
decided to start collecting money for a women's rights organisation after #metoo.

"I make my own music. Now when I post my music clips, I ask people to like and share them, with the motivation that I'll be donating money to Kvinna till Kvinna. It's been a real win-win situation!"



Photo: Novamedia Sweden

## 12 MILLION SEK FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

The Swedish Postcode Lottery is an important donor for us. In 2018, Kvinna till Kvinna received an unprecedented sum, bringing the total we received over the years to 94 million SEK. We are proud to be one of the Postcode Lottery's trusted beneficiaries.

"Many women around the world are fighting for self-determination," says Eva Struving, charity director for the Swedish Postcode Lottery. "Kvinna till Kvinna's important work to reduce and combat violence against women creates hope. Thanks to our customers, we can help support their efforts."



**Kvinna till Kvinna** was founded by the Swedish section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). The Board is appointed by WILPF Sweden and the Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society (SPAS), and conducts its work according to procedural rules and an annual plan, which is evaluated and reviewed each year. Kvinna till Kvinna's daily operations are run by the secretary-general under the guidance of the Board.

#### CHAIRPERSON

##### 1. BIRGIT HANSSON

Active on the Board since 2010. Lives in Stockholm. Licensed psychologist. Former chairperson of the Swedish Psychological Association and rector of the Swedish National Police Academy. Holds an honorary doctorate from Stockholm University.

#### DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

##### 2. DEVRIM MAVI

Active on the Board since 2014. Lives in Stockholm. Head of the Feminist Initiative party's registry at Stockholm City Hall. Actively involved in the feminist and anti-racist movement. Former editor-in-chief and journalist.

#### SECRETARY

##### 3. JESPER HANSÉN

Active on the Board since 2012. Lives in Stockholm. Area director for Asia and Europe at Save the Children Sweden. Former secretary-general of the Swedish Foundation for Human Rights.

#### FULL MEMBERS

##### 4. MARIA APPELBLOM

Active on the Board since 2007. Lives in Stockholm and Brindisi, Italy. Holds two master's degrees, in Law and Human Rights. Has held a number of strategic and managerial positions with the Swedish police. Chief of the UN Standing Police Capacity since 2014.

##### 5. LARS JALMERT

Active on the Board since 2012. Lives in Stockholm. Emeritus professor of education at Stockholm University. Board member of Men for Gender Equality, the Fredrika Bremer Association and Feministiskt Perspektiv. Politically active in the Feminist Initiative party.

##### 6. VIOLA FURUBJELKE

Active on the Board since 2011. Lives in Söderköping. Former member of the Swedish parliament for the Social Democratic Party, president of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, ambassador to Syria/Lebanon and secretary-general of the Olof Palme International Center. Previously served as chairperson of the Swedish UN Association.

##### 7. MARIE SUNDBERG

Active on the Board since 2015. Lives in Stockholm. Journalist with a master's degree in Business. Has been a financial journalist for more than thirty years, including ten years as a Brussels-based foreign correspondent.

#### DEPUTIES

##### 8. KAJSA WEJRYD

Active on the Board since 2014. Lives in Uppsala. Former teacher and administrative manager. Has been actively involved in gender issues for many years. President of Women in the Church of Sweden, 1995–2003.

##### 9. BANAFSHE HEJAZI

Active on the Board since 2015. Lives in Stockholm. Has worked with a range of issues in the fields of gender, human rights, peace and conflict in Sweden and elsewhere for the past 15 years. Has studied Gender Studies and International Security.

##### 10. KARIN KARLSBRO

Active on the Board since 2015. Lives in Norrtälje. Sustainability manager at the Swedish Property Federation in Stockholm. Former permanent secretary at the Swedish Liberals' Parliamentary Secretariat and chief-of-staff at the Government Offices of Sweden. Trained legal professional.

##### 11. LENA BACKHAUSEN

Active on the Board since 2017. Licensed psychologist, former HR manager, and leadership and organisational consultant. Has for many years been involved in WILPF. Seeks to support women's organisation and involvement in building civil societies for sustainable peace.



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Photo: Annika af Hencker

# ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT FOR 2018

THE KVINNA TILL KVINNA FOUNDATION  
ORG NR 802401-6134

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

#### Information about our operations

The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation's vision is a world of sustainable peace based on democracy and gender equality, where conflicts are solved without violence. A world in which every individual's human rights are respected and all people can feel safe and secure. A world in which women have power and influence over decisions, and participate in the economic and political development of society to the same extent as men. Kvinna till Kvinna operates without religious, political, national or ethnic affiliations; this demand also applies to our partner organisations.

#### Kvinna till Kvinna's established mandate

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

#### Widespread support in Swedish society

Kvinna till Kvinna is supported by a number of Swedish organisations. These organisations (see below) undertake to inform their members about our work:

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, The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, The Christian Democratic Party's 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 this year

In 2018, Kvinna till Kvinna celebrated that we have continued and even increased support for women's rights activists in conflict-affected areas for 25 years. At the same time, however, the political space for civil society continued to shrink in all the regions in which we operate. This exposed our partner organisations to physical and virtual intimidation and hate campaigns, as well as legal and bureaucratic demands designed to impede their participation in and insight into political and public life. Despite this, our partner organisations have continued the long-term change work that is their focus, producing many positive results for women's rights in 2018.

In Liberia, women gained the right to own land independently thanks to a new law on land rights that was adopted after intensive debate and several years of advocacy by civil society. In Rwanda, our partner organisation *Rwanda Women's Network* managed to break the silence on controversial issues such as dowries by organising "Femdialogues". In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, women's rights organisations managed to encourage more women to vote and stand for election, despite conditions in the country having become more difficult.

In cooperation with the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Iraqi women's organisations were able to submit a set of recommendations to the UN Security Council on how its programme on women, peace and security could be improved. In Jordan, active advocacy efforts made the UN for the first time take a distinct gender-equality perspective in its review of human rights. In Palestine, a study by *the Arab Center for the Advancement of Social Media* had a powerful impact on online violence. The report, which was based on responses from 1,200 young women between the ages of 15 and 30, shows that gender-based violence on the internet differs little from violence in other public spaces. In Gaza, following a project on masculinity norms, participating men became physically and emotionally more engaged in their families. In Tunisia, a law on equal inheritance rights won government approval and was put to the national parliament.

In Georgia, a woman stood in the local council elections after having participated in a course organised by one of our partner organisations. She was elected and has now started a preschool, giving even more women the opportunity to work outside of the home. During the Armenian "velvet revolution" in the spring of 2018, many of our partner organisations took part in the non-violent movement that eventually ousted the conservative government. After the change of government, our partner organisations continued to monitor those in power and reported in a UN-led process and other contexts on violations of the freedom of expression and freedom to protest.

Women's rights activists from Kosovo and Serbia succeeded in improving inter-state relations by appealing to

female politicians and activists in both countries. North Macedonia's parliament debated issues concerning single mothers for the first time, and adopted recommendations from one of our partner organisations. Campaigns against gender-based violence led to progress at the national and local level in Serbia, where, for example, the gender perspective became more prominent in the national youth strategy. Women's rights activists from Bosnia & Herzegovina created a unique initiative called "Peace with a Woman's Face" to address sensitive issues like peacebuilding and the past. After ten years of hard work together with our partners in the Balkans, we achieved one of the greatest results to date in our EU advocacy work: the adoption by the European Parliament of an EU resolution on women's rights in the Western Balkans. The resolution emphasises that regional governments must view women's rights organisations as key interlocutors.

### Communication

2018 was Kvinna till Kvinna's best fundraising year to date. The number of monthly donors increased by 41 per cent and fundraising as a whole by 27 per cent. We take great pride and pleasure in the growing interest in women's rights – the result of long-term, determined efforts to communicate better and raise our public profile. Our follower count on social media increased to over 82,000, with our message appearing in feeds almost 14 million times during the year. We also launched a new English-language website to improve our international communication.

One important campaign during the year was our appeal against nationalism. This campaign began when we launched our report "Så tystas en kvinnorörelse" (The silencing of a women's movement) on International Women's Day and ended on polling day in September. Just over 11,400 signatures were collected and submitted to the Moderate and Social Democratic parties, with a petition urging them not to collaborate with the Sweden Democrats. We also created a film with our ambassador Linnéa Claeson on the ramifications of the Sweden Democrats' policies. The film was viewed by over 2.5 million people during the year.

### Method, development and quality assurance

During the year, we developed our thematic work on women's economic empowerment. In Rwanda and Liberia, for example, our partner organisations met and developed their competence on the subject, which is thematically closely related to gender-based violence.

A five-year training programme on gender-based violence was launched in collaboration with the Swedish Police Authority. The programme's 28 participants represent civil society and government agencies from different countries in the Western Balkans.

Kvinna till Kvinna published its updated programme handbook, to aid our staff members who work with

partner support and the financing of women's rights organisations' activities and development. We also analysed programme results from three years of thematic support to women's rights organisations.

During the year, Kvinna till Kvinna developed a new multiregional, five-year programme on women, peace and security, which Sida CIVSAM decided to finance at the end of the year. A training programme was also developed for full-time military personnel in Colombia. The Swedish Embassy in Bogotá decided to finance the programme.

*Quality assurance work:* Since 2009, Kvinna till Kvinna has issued a separate report to comply with the guidelines of the Quality Code adopted by members of the Swedish Fundraising Council (FRII). The purpose of this report is to improve transparency and support management and control within FRII's member organisations. The Quality Code is the consolidation of everything deemed good practice for the activities of FRII's members.

*Follow-up and evaluation:* Kvinna till Kvinna's vision and three mandates indicate the direction we wish to take. Kvinna till Kvinna also has four strategic aims and corresponding goals, which are presented in our six-year strategy for 2016–2021. Since 2018, the strategy has been followed up with the help of a global framework comprising 10 focus areas. Every other year, these are analysed and put to the Kvinna till Kvinna Board.

In addition to Kvinna till Kvinna's six-year strategy, we monitor and evaluate all our programmes using goals and indicators specific to each programme. The indicators are both quantitative and qualitative and help to evaluate programmes' progress. Several different methods are used to gather information, including reports from partner organisations, field visits, workshops and dialogues. Kvinna till Kvinna uses these indicators to conduct follow-ups and learn from our experiences, and to update our working methods and thereby ensure our continued relevance.

The goals set by our programmes have different time horizons. Some are linked to specific activities (such as courses on sexual and reproductive health and rights), with results measured directly in the form of an increase in participants' knowledge on the subject.

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 our advocacy work and to our support of women's organisations in conflict-affected regions. Since mid-1993, Kvinna till Kvinna has disbursed 1,731.8 million SEK of financial support; of this amount, 157.0 million SEK was disbursed in 2018.

### Fundraising and donations

In 2018, revenue from fundraising and donations amounted to 17.3 million SEK; including free advertising and pro bono work, the amount is 17.7 million SEK. Kvinna till Kvinna has been a beneficiary of the Swedish Postcode Lottery since 2010, receiving 12 million SEK in 2018.

### Allocations and grants

In 2018, Kvinna till Kvinna supported 131 women's rights organisations in Central and West Africa, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA region), the South Caucasus and the Western Balkans and Ukraine. Allocations amounted to 149.9 million SEK in 2018.

### Profit/loss for the year:

In 2018, Kvinna till Kvinna made a net profit of 3,990 thousand SEK (loss 491 thousand SEK, 2017). For detailed financial accounting, see the following income statement, balance sheet, cash flow statement and notes.

### Organisational sustainability

2018 has to a great extent been defined by the process of decentralising our organisation's decision-making and developing cooperation processes that take our expansion and new roles into account. Our efforts to collaborate and communicate more efficiently with each other created new interaction forums between departments and operations managers. Two internally commissioned investigations scrutinised the impact of the decentralisation process on project management and the organisation's HR work. A Sida-commissioned efficiency audit indicated room for improvement in our risk management, project management and organisation.

In response to a previous security review of our organisation, we adopted several new policies and procedures, including a general security policy and procedures for safe travel, incident reporting and office selection.

At the end of 2018, we had a total of 119 employees. Adjusted for those on leave of absence, temporary employees and employees on short-term contracts, our average number of employees was 114. Of the 65 employees in Stockholm, 49 worked at the head office, with the remainder deployed in our programme countries. The average number of employees in our programme countries was 49. In the MENA region: Erbil, Beirut, Jerusalem, Tunis and Amman. In the South Caucasus: Tbilisi (Georgia). In Africa: Monrovia (Liberia), Bukavu (DRC) and Kigali (Rwanda). In the Western Balkans and Ukraine: Belgrade, Pristina, Sarajevo, Skopje and Kiev. At our programme offices, an average of 38 staff members were locally or nationally employed.

In June, Kvinna till Kvinna appointed a new secretary-general, Petra Tötterman Andorff, who had been deputy secretary-general since 2014. Former head of the Resource Department, Pernilla Johansson, replaced Petra as deputy secretary-general in August, after a five-year leave of absence from the organisation.



### Voluntary work

In 2018, we had four active volunteer groups in Stockholm, Uppsala, Gothenburg and Umeå. Among other activities, our volunteers held regular courses and study groups for new volunteers, arranged bigger events to mark International Women's Day and Femdefenders Day, and wrote op-ed pieces, which were published in Uppsala Nya Tidning in the spring and autumn. Our study-group leaders also attended the Almedalen political week. We decided to pause two volunteer groups after its leaders (most of whom are students) moved away from their cities.

Gemaket (formerly "Systemskap") is a programme we run for newly arrived girls and young women (age 15–25) to offer them a safe and empowering space to meet other young women who have grown up in Sweden. In 2018, we expanded Gemaket from one to five cities. We arranged four leadership courses for nine leader groups, and started nine new groups. We also organised two weekend trips in Stockholm for Gemaket's leaders and participants. In the autumn, we granted our first scholarship to a participant. There is considerable public interest in our work, and our decision to change our name and visual identity, as well as our tireless networking efforts, have paid off: in 2018, we received an unprecedented number of applications to be Gemaket leaders or mentors.

### Future developments

Kvinna till Kvinna's strategy, which sets the course for the organisation until 2021, focuses on three thematic areas in which we will 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.

We continued our digital development, including by building a project management system in SharePoint that all employees can access. SharePoint is also the platform on which we gather all our documentation. We clarified the use of our financial system Xledger and (starting 2019) switched to Hogia as an HR and salary system. We reviewed our IT environment and enhanced it in terms of hardware and security. We also launched an intranet and are developing virtual meetings via Skype, to make sure we provide all our offices with the same information and discussion opportunities. In pace with this increased digitalisation, we are also reviewing

our data security procedures, both internally and for our contact with partner organisations.

### Programme development in Sweden

In 2018, we continued to develop our programme activities in Sweden. As there were fewer opportunities to obtain financing for our work with asylum-seeking women, we applied for financing for our anti-segregation work instead. We received grants from Delmos (the Delegation against Segregation) for a scoping study in Angered, Gothenburg, which we conducted with Save the Children (West Sweden), the early parental support association Tidigt Föräldrastöd and the adult-education association Sensus. The project resulted in a programme proposal and three workshops for Somali women in Angered during the autumn. In February 2019, the participants decided to form a Somali women's association. We also partnered with Save the Children (West Sweden) to submit a joint funding application to the EU for a project against gender-based violence and violence against children in west Sweden. The decision will be announced later in the year.

### 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 three departments (the Resource Department, Communications Department and Programme Department), each of which is managed by a head of department (the deputy secretary-general, the head of communication and the head of development cooperation). The Resource Department comprises three units: Methodology, Finance and Human Resources. During the year, the head of finance and the interim head of HR participated in management group activities with the other heads of department and the secretary-general. The secretary-general and the deputy secretary-general were also co-opted to the Board. A Board secretary and a staff representative, with a personal deputy, were also co-opted to the Board. The secretary-general reports to the Board, with the Board appointing and dismissing her. 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 2015.

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, for example, 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 2018.

### Board members

2018

8 Board meetings were held in 2018	Attendance
Birgit Hansson	7
Viola Furubjelke	6
Jesper Hansén	6
Maria Appelblom	7
Lars Jalmert	7
Devrim Mavi	5
Marie Sundberg	7
Kajsa Wejryd	7
Banafshe Hejazi	5
Karin Karlsbro	5
Lena Backhausen	5

### Multi-year overview

2018

2017

2016

2015

2014

General conditions	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Average number of employees	114	98	93	98	92
Number of partner organisations	131	111	108	104	130
<b>Income and cost-benefit analysis (TEUR)</b>					
Operating income	16 623	14 086	13 228	13 048	12 831
Operating expenses	-16 233	-14 112	-13 048	-12 691	-12 711
Profit/loss from financial items	2	-21	-17	-13	-31
Tax on economic activities	-0	-	-	-6	-6
<b>Net profit/loss for the year</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>-47</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>Financial position</b>					
Equity (TEUR)	779	379	426	340	1

### Changes in equity

	Donor-specified purpose	Retained equity	Net profit/loss for the year	Total equity
Equity 2018-01-01	328	4 267	-637	3 958
Donor-specified purpose 2018 not utilised	512	-	-	512
Utilised donations	-188	-	-	-188
Transfer to net profit/loss for the year	-	-637	637	-
Net profit/loss for the year	-	-	3 667	-3 667
<b>Equity 2018-12-31</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>3 630</b>	<b>3 667</b>	<b>7 949</b>

### Specification of designated funds (donor-specified)

The following funds are included: Bosnia & Herzegovina 66, Syrian refugees 131 and DRC 100, Georgia 5 and Israel 350.



Income statement	Note	2018	2017
<b>The Foundation's income</b>	2		
Donations		17 270	13 708
Grants		149 869	132 877
Other operating income		2 577	470
<b>Total income for the Foundation</b>		<b>169 716</b>	<b>147 055</b>
<b>Operating expenses</b>	3, 4		
Programme service expenses		-156 973	-138 499
Fundraising expenses		-3 767	-2 845
Administrative expenses	4	-5 000	-5 983
<b>Total operating expenses</b>		<b>-165 740</b>	<b>-147 327</b>
<b>Profit/loss from operations</b>		<b>3 976</b>	<b>-272</b>
<b>Profit/loss from financial items</b>			
Other interest income and similar income statement items		294	508
Interest expenses and similar profit/loss items		-277	-727
<b>Total profit/loss from financial investments</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>-219</b>
<b>Profit/loss after financial items</b>		<b>3 993</b>	<b>-491</b>
Tax	5	-3	-
<b>Net profit/loss for the year</b>		<b>3 990</b>	<b>-491</b>
<b>Allocation of net profit/loss for the year</b>			
Net profit for the year according to the income statement (see above)		3 990	-491
Utilisation of designated/unrestricted reserves from the previous years		39	-
Reservation of designated/ unrestricted funds received but not utilised during the year		-362	-146
<b>Amount remaining for the year/funds carried forward</b>		<b>3 667</b>	<b>-637</b>

Balance sheet	Note	2018-12-31	2017-12-31
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible fixed assets			
Equipment	6	25	80
Financial fixed assets			
Long-term securities holdings	7	620	321
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>645</b>	<b>401</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks etc.			
Merchandise	7	7	7
<b>Current receivables</b>			
Accounts receivable – trade		1 451	18
Other current receivables		5 418	5 445
Prepaid expenses and accrued income		2 978	3 398
<b>Total current receivables</b>		<b>9 847</b>	<b>8 861</b>
<b>Cash and bank balances</b>		<b>86 326</b>	<b>59 684</b>
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>96 180</b>	<b>68 552</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>96 825</b>	<b>68 953</b>
<b>Equity and liabilities</b>			
<b>Equity</b>			
Funds brought forward		3 959	4 450
Net profit/loss for the year		3 990	-491
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>7 949</b>	<b>3 959</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Accounts payable		1 693	2 987
Tax liabilities		3	-
Liability from received but not utilised grants	8	44 151	55 096
Other current liabilities		1 513	1 268
Accrued expenses and deferred income	9	41 516	5 643
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>88 876</b>	<b>64 994</b>
<b>Total equity and liabilities</b>		<b>96 825</b>	<b>68 953</b>

Pledged assets and contingent liabilities

10



Cash flow statement indirect method	Note	2018	2017
<b>Operating activities</b>			
Profit/loss from operations before financial items		3 976	-272
Adjustment for items not included in cash flow, etc.		55	113
Interest received		9	-
Interest paid		-6	-1
Paid income tax		72	-30
		<b>4 106</b>	<b>-190</b>
Changes in working capital			
Increase/Decrease in stocks		-	26
Increase/Decrease in accounts receivable – trade		-1 433	770
Increase/Decrease in other current receivables		449	1 252
Increase/Decrease in accounts payable – trade		-1 294	-38
Increase/Decrease in other short-term operating liabilities		25 099	-29 262
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>		<b>26 927</b>	<b>-27 442</b>
<b>Investment activities</b>			
Investment in other fixed financial assets		-299	-321
<b>Cash flow from investment activities</b>		<b>-299</b>	<b>-321</b>
<b>Financing activities</b>			
Exchange rate difference		14	-218
<b>Cash flow from financing activities</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>-218</b>
<b>Cash flow for the year</b>		<b>26 642</b>	<b>-27 981</b>
<b>Opening cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>59 684</b>	<b>87 665</b>
<b>Closing cash and cash equivalents</b>	11	<b>86 326</b>	<b>59 684</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 FRIL'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, self-esteem and psychosocial and/or physical wellbeing, or otherwise contribute to promoting women's participation in building a democratic civil society.
- To foster studies and research on the effects on women of war and armed conflict.
- To publicise facts and information about the effects of war and build public support for peaceful conflict resolution through civil methods.

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 per cent 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 Communications 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 (the Board 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 0 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 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**

	2018	2017
<b>The Foundation's income is detailed as follows:</b>		
Donations	17 270	13 708
Grants	149 869	132 877
Other operating income	2 577	470
<b>Total</b>	<b>169 716</b>	<b>147 055</b>

**Donations are detailed as follows:****Donations reported in the income statement**

General public	4 225	3 347
Companies	595	161
Swedish Postcode Lottery	12 000	10 000
Other foundations	450	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>17 270</b>	<b>13 708</b>

**Donations not reported in the income statement**

Advertising	251	1 253
Pro bono services (estimated amount)	218	3 181
<b>Total</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>4 434</b>

**Total donations**

Donations reported in the income statement	17 270	13 708
Donations not reported in the income statement	469	4 434
<b>Total</b>	<b>17 739</b>	<b>18 142</b>

**Grants recognised as income****Sida grants for projects and activities**

Western Balkans	14 010	15 268
South Caucasus	4 822	4 808
Middle East, Jerusalem	10 795	9 602
Middle East, Amman	32 569	15 140
Liberia	10 213	10 622
Ukraine	4 550	345
Cross-regional framework allocations	30 284	30 313
Information contributions	3 597	2 305
Other Sida	667	12 662
Rwanda	9 915	4 104
Sida allocations for administration	9 766	8 321
<b>Total</b>	<b>131 188</b>	<b>113 490</b>

**Other grants for projects and activities**

Delmos	284	-
Swedish Inheritance Fund	1 399	1 116
UN Trust	1 284	1 092
EU	2 127	803
Folke Bernadotte Academy	477	399
International Alert EPNK project	2 277	2 041
Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs	3 217	1 152
Canada	996	2 854
British Foreign & Commonwealth Office	6 620	5 107
Swedish Postcode Lottery	-	4 823
	18 681	19 387
<b>Total</b>	<b>149 869</b>	<b>132 877</b>

**NOTE 3 Leasing**

	2018	2017
<b>Future leasing payments fall due according to the following:</b>		
Falling due and payable within 1 year	4 938	5 302
Falling due and payable later than 1 but within 5 years	3 114	2 471
Falling due and payable later than 5 years	-	300
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 052</b>	<b>8 073</b>

Expensed leasing charges during the period	5 456	5 959
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Leasing charges include premises, and office and IT equipment

**NOTE 4 Average number of employees, staff costs**

	2018	2017
<b>Number of employees (women only)</b>		
Sweden	65	61
Bosnia & Herzegovina	3	2
Kosovo	2	2
North Macedonia	4	2
Serbia	3	4
South Caucasus	4	3
Liberia and DRC	8	10
Palestine and Israel	5	4
Jordan and Lebanon	10	7
Iraq	2	2
Rwanda	5	1
Ukraine	2	-
Tunisia	1	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>98</b>

**Salaries and other employee benefits**

Secretary-general	773	876
Other employees	39 699	33 898
<b>Total salaries and benefits</b>	<b>40 472</b>	<b>34 774</b>
Payroll overhead	14 403	13 235
(of which pension costs)*	2 674	2 399
Pension costs secretary-general	326	276

\*Retroactive pensions for the period 2004–2013 amount to SEK 372,000.

**Board and senior management****Number of Board members on balance sheet date**

Women	5	5
Men	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>

**Number of secretary-generals**

Women	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

**Voluntary work**

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

**NOTE 5 Tax on profit/loss for the year**

	2018	2017
<b>Income tax based on taxable economic activities</b>		
Pre-tax profit/loss recognised	189	-101
Unused tax losses utilised during the year	-174	-
Tax calculated at prevailing rate (22%)	3	-
Reported tax expense	3	0

**NOTE 6 Equipment**

	2018-12-31	2017-12-31
Costs of acquisitions brought forward	1 666	1 666
Sales and disposals	-202	-
<b>Closing accumulated costs of acquisitions</b>	<b>1 464</b>	<b>1 666</b>
Depreciation brought forward	-1 586	-1 473
Sales and disposals	202	-
Depreciation for the year	-55	-113
<b>Accumulated depreciation carried forward</b>	<b>-1 439</b>	<b>-1 586</b>
<b>Residual value according to plan</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>80</b>

**NOTE 7 Long-term securities held**

	2018	2017
Acquisition value brought forward	321	-
Year's acquisitions	299	321
<b>Closing accumulated acquisition value</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>321</b>
<b>Closing residual value according to plan</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>321</b>
<b>Securities specification</b>		
	Book value	Market value
Stocks	540 914 SEK	487 119 SEK
Money market fund	78 899 SEK	78 595 SEK
<b>Total</b>	<b>619 813 SEK</b>	<b>565 714 SEK</b>

**NOTE 8 Liability, received but not utilised grants**

	2018	2017
Sida South Caucasus	-	28
Sida Europe/Western Balkans	1 179	1 443
Sida Middle East	23 605	31 439
Sida Liberia	267	297
Sida Ukraine	4 741	9 655
Sida Rwanda	10 059	7 167
Sida framework grant	879	1 691
Sida information	284	182
Sida other	-	3 191
Other allocations	3 137	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>44 151</b>	<b>55 096</b>

**NOTE 9 Accrued expenses and deferred income**

	2018	2017
Holiday pay	2 346	2 002
Other items	3 770	2 789
Prepaid grants, Sida	35 400	852
<b>Total</b>	<b>41 516</b>	<b>5 643</b>

**NOTE 10 Pledged assets and contingent liabilities**

	2018-12-31	2017-12-31
Rental guarantee	849	849
Mortgages	664	664
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 513</b>	<b>1 513</b>

**NOTE 11 Cash and cash equivalents**

	2018	2017
Cash assets	342	323
Bank balances	85 984	59 361
Cash and cash equivalents in cash flow statement	86 326	59 684

**NOTE 12 Significant events after the end of the financial year**

Appropriation  
Kvinna till Kvinna has signed a five-year agreement with Sida CIVSAM (2019-2023). The total sum from CIVSAM amounts to 254 million SEK.

Stockholm 2019-03-20



Birgit Hansson  
Ordförande



Jesper Hansén



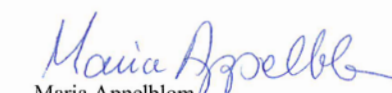
Lars Jalmert



Marie Sundberg



Viola Furubjelke



Maria Appelblom



Devrim Mavi

Vår revisionsberättelse har lämnats 2019-04-02



Kajsa Goding  
Auktoriserad revisor



Monika Wannholm  
Auktoriserad revisor



# 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 2018. The annual accounts are included on pages 1-2 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 2018 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.

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

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.

- 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.

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 2018.

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 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.

Stockholm 2 April 2019

Kajsa Goding  
Authorized Public Accountant

Monika Wannholm  
Authorized Public Accountant



**The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation | 2019**

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Kvinna till Kvinna has a 90-account, which is a special type of account granted by the Swedish Fundraising Control for donations. It is the public's assurance that the fundraising is monitored by the Swedish Fundraising Control. It guarantees that the fundraising is managed in an ethical and responsible way, and that the funds that are collected are used for the intended purpose.



The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation strengthens women's rights in conflict-affected regions.  
Visit [kvinnatillkvinna.org](https://kvinnatillkvinna.org) to find out more about our work.



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