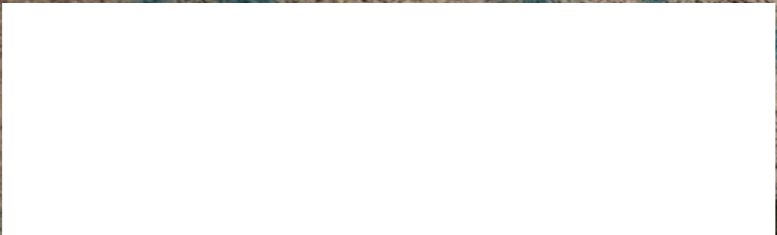
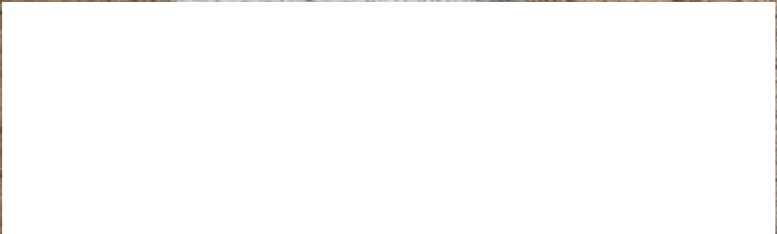


ANNUAL REPORT 2022



**ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

- 4 About Kvinna till Kvinna
- 5 Impact reporting
- 6 Our work around the world
- 6 Foreword
- 8 How we work
- 10 Development and training
- 14 Studies and research
- 16 The MENA region
- 22 Sub-Saharan Africa
- 26 Europe
- 32 The South Caucasus
- 36 Engagement and advocacy
- 40 Board
- 41 Administrative report
- 53 Auditor's report

Trial International is one of Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisations. The organisation's support to rights holders consists of free legal assistance to victims of the war. It has achieved great victories before national courts and international bodies. This work also goes hand in hand with long-term advocacy—for example structural amendments to the Bosnian law.

Amina Hujdur, Adrijana Hanušić Bećirović and Selma Korjenčić all work at Trial International in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

*Photo: Imrana Kapetanović*



# A BRIEF OVERVIEW

The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation is a member of the Swedish Fundraising Association (Giva Sverige), which works to ensure Sweden's fundraising sector is transparent, accountable, ethical and professional. As a member, we have to demonstrate the impact of our operations each year.

These are the questions Giva Sverige asks us: our answers guide you to specific pages in this report that contain more information about our organisation, work and results.

(see page 8). An overview of all our funding is provided on page 4. Our private and corporate fundraising activities are described on pages 45–48.

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

We communicate about women's rights and our work through various channels, including printed and social media. Our volunteers are an invaluable part of our communication and fundraising work as well (see pages 36–39). We also engage in advocacy, which you can read about on pages 14–15 and 36–39.

### How do you measure whether your organisation is making progress?

The way we plan and follow up on our work is described in the model on page 9. You can find specific examples on pages 10–13.

### What have you achieved so far and which long-term results are you hoping to achieve?

The model on page 9 shows how our work leads to both societal and personal change for women. Our results and long-term goals for each region are described in the regional sections: the MENA region on pages 16–21; sub-Saharan Africa on pages 22–25; Europe on pages 26–31; and the South Caucasus on pages 32–34. We describe the results of our advocacy and communication efforts on pages 36–39.

### How do you know your activities will be effective and how does your organisation work with learning?

To be able to learn and adapt, our methods & development unit, grants management unit and programme offices closely monitor and evaluate our operations. Our new strategy for 2023–2028, which we finalised this year, puts even more emphasis on organisational learning. We hold regular programme and partnership meetings to share lessons learnt. We also arrange annual workshops to share learnings across regions and within the entire organisation. For more about development and training, see pages 10–13.

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

You can find information about what we want to achieve, our vision and focus areas on page 4. Our goals are specified on pages 16–33, where we provide an account of our work around the world.

### Why was Kvinna till Kvinna founded?

You'll find the history of our organisation on page 4.

### Where does Kvinna till Kvinna work?

We work in regions affected by war and conflict. The map on pages 6–7 shows which countries we operate in.

### What does Kvinna till Kvinna do?

Our methodology and collaboration with women's rights organisations are described on pages 8–9. Our partner organisations are presented on pages 16–33, per region.

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

We provide an overview of our organisation on page 8, where you'll also find info about our offices and employees. You can read more about our capacity throughout the report, including our board (page 40) and our development work (pages 10–13).

### Which strategies do you use to achieve your goals?

Our strategies, which we explain throughout the report, vary depending on our goals and the location we work in. Our overarching strategy for the coming years and our principal method of change are explained on pages 8–9.

### How is your work funded?

Kvinna till Kvinna is able to support women in conflict-affected regions through private donations and grants

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

We work closely together with 140 local partner organisations across 20 countries to end violence against women, reach lasting peace and close the gender gap once and for all. How? By supporting our partners' programmes, conducting research and publishing studies, and raising public awareness. All without attaching importance to religious, political, national or ethnic affiliation. The future is equal. And together, we are change.

### History

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

### Vision

Kvinna till Kvinna's vision is a world of sustainable and just peace based on gender equality, human rights and democracy. Our aim is to resolve conflicts through civil, non-military means, with women having power over decisions and being included in all parts of society. In a peaceful and just society, women are free from threats, fear and exploitation, their human rights are respected, and they enjoy the same social, economic and political opportunities as men do.

### Focus areas

#### • Ending violence against women

We work to prevent and end gender-based violence. Until women can live their lives free from the threat of violence, equality and lasting peace remain out of reach for us all.

#### • Strengthening women's participation in peace processes

When women take part in peace talks, peace agreements are more likely to be sustainable and address inequality. We call for equal participation of women in peace processes and for security policies to be based on the concept of human security.

#### • Promoting women's equal participation in society

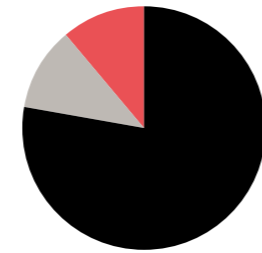
Across the world, women are underrepresented in decision-making, peace processes and the public debate. We advocate for women's full, effective and equal participation in all parts of society.

#### • Strengthening women's economic empowerment

Women's lack of economic empowerment is a major barrier to equality. That is why we work towards strengthening women's opportunities to access education, enter the labour market, access financial resources and become financially independent.

SEK 175 allow a woman in Syria to buy a month's supply of hygiene products.

FUNDING SOURCES | SEK 218 M

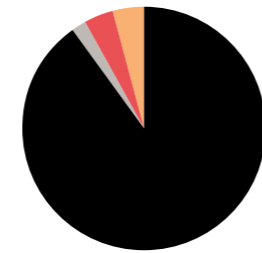


■ **78%**  
The Swedish International Development Cooperation

■ **11%**  
Fundraising

■ **11%**  
Other grants

FUNDING SPENT | SEK 195 M



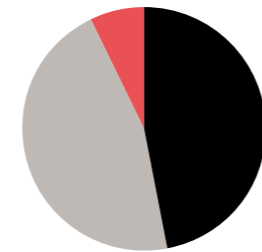
■ **90%**  
Operations in conflict regions

■ **2%**  
Information, advocacy, research

■ **4%**  
Administration

■ **4%**  
Fundraising

OPERATIONS IN CONFLICT REGIONS | SEK 174 M



■ **47%**  
Financial support to partner organisations

■ **46%**  
Coordination, counselling, project administration

■ **7%**  
Networking, capacity building, communication

# OUR WORK AROUND THE WORLD

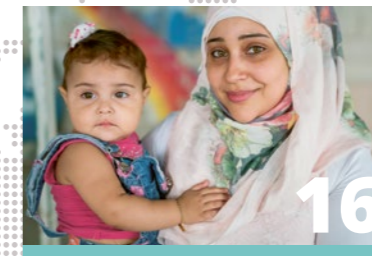
Kvinna till Kvinna operates in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA region), sub-Saharan Africa, Europe and the South Caucasus.



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



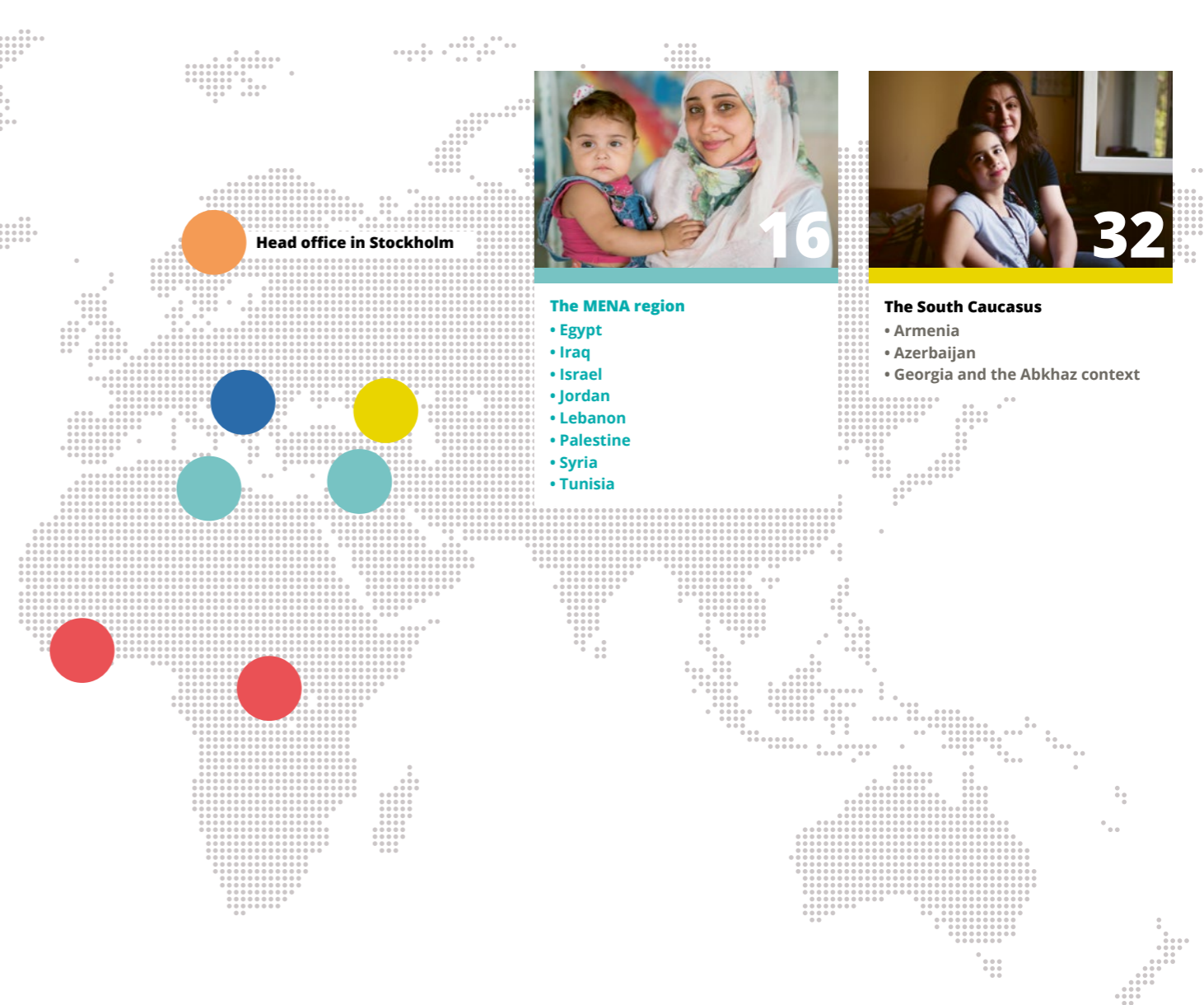
- Sub-Saharan Africa**
- Liberia
  - Rwanda
  - The Democratic Republic of the Congo



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



- The South Caucasus**
- Armenia
  - Azerbaijan
  - Georgia and the Abkhaz context



For security reasons, we can neither mention all the countries we operate in nor provide a complete list of partner organisations we support.

## A FEMINIST REVOLUTION IN THE MIDST OF CRISIS

**The world had barely made it out of the most intensive phases of the covid-19 pandemic when Russia launched their full-scale invasion of Ukraine—an invasion with horrible consequences for the people of Ukraine that also caused ripple effects all around the globe.**

In addition, 2022 was a year with increased levels of conflict, an economic crisis coupled with energy and food crises that risk people's livelihoods. This is predicted to lead to increased poverty levels exacerbating the dire situation for the poorest who are usually women. On top of that, the environmental and climate crisis.

The backlash against women's and LGBTQIA+ persons' rights has also been more evident during the last year than any of us would have feared.

Not only are women in general more vulnerable to the effects of crises. We can also see the rise of regimes, policies and actions that are outright anti-women. From the gender apartheid in Afghanistan and Iran to the sexual violence in Ukraine and Tigray, violations against women's rights continue to be perpetrated with little to no accountability.

In a more militarised and insecure world, the war on women's rights and bodies continues. In these times the work of Kvinna till Kvinna and our partners is more relevant than ever.

We are witnessing incredible acts of bravery from Iranian women and girls who stand up against gender apartheid in their country. It is a feminist revolution, with women at its forefront.

The pressure that women human rights defenders are working under is extreme, but so is their resilience and courage. As always, we stand with them in solidarity.

Grounded in our 30 years of working for women's rights in conflict-affected areas, we will broaden our partnerships, support feminist movements in new ways, and continue our work for equal and meaningful participation—because together, we have the power to be recognised and heard. The work for the protection and promotion of women's rights and toward a feminist peace is more important than ever.

**Petra Tötterman Andorff** | Secretary-General



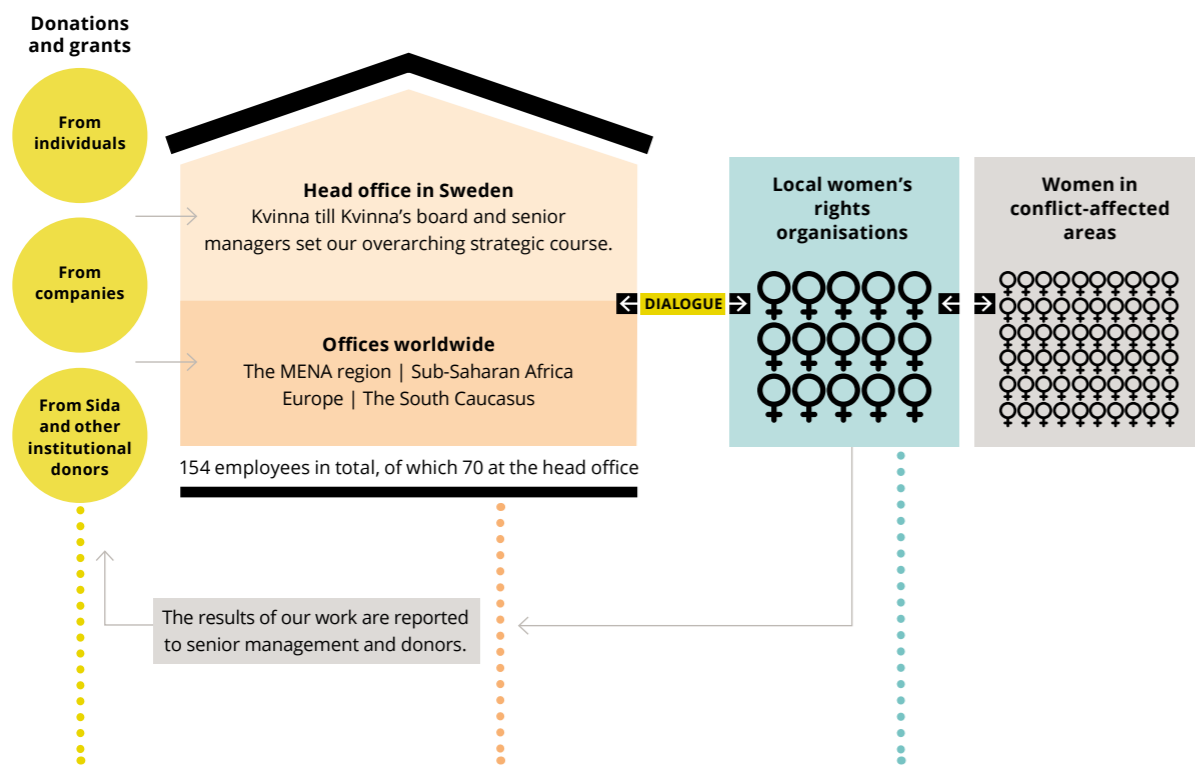
Photo: Lars Simonsson



# HOW KVINNA TILL KVINNA WORKS

A peaceful and equal world for everyone. That is what we at Kvinna till Kvinna want to achieve. We do this by supporting more than 140 partner organisations, conducting research and publishing studies, and raising awareness.

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



## Our funding

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

- The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) is our main source of funding. We also receive grants from the Swedish Inheritance Fund; Folke Bernadotte Academy; the EU; Canada, Ireland, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the UK; Sweden's Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Swedish Institute; the Swedish police; and various UN bodies.
- Our work also heavily relies on donations from private individuals and companies. Our main private donor is the Swedish Postcode Lottery.

## Our methods

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

## Our partner organisations

In 2022, Kvinna till Kvinna partnered with 141 women's rights organisations in four conflict-affected regions:

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

## Strategic focus

Our focus for 2016–2022 is to:

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

# HOW WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE



## Example | Finding their loved ones in Iraq

- 1 We support many women's rights organisations worldwide, including Ahel in Jordan. Ahel works against gender-based violence and to increase women's equal participation in society. They provide training across the region to women. One network that Kvinna till Kvinna has supported Ahel to set up is the Athar Network.

## How we measure results

We analyse what share of our budget directly benefits partner organisations, whether financially or through training and networking opportunities.

- 2 The 'Athar Network' has about 150 members. 2022 marked the end of the network's training programme on feminism and activism, "Arab Leadership and Mobilisation, Collective Measures for Change", in which 20 members of the Athar Network and three of Ahel's own staff participated. The goal was to train women human rights defenders from Iraq and Jordan to become leaders who bring about change through campaigns.

We regularly meet our partners and maintain a close dialogue with them. This helps us monitor their work and understand the local context.

- 3 Dalya Mahmood Almaamary is an Iraqi woman who received training from Ahel in the network. After years of seeking justice for her father who went missing, Dalya finally got Iraq's parliament to allocate more funding to analysing 97 mass graves, conducting DNA tests and identifying missing family members kidnapped by the Islamic State.

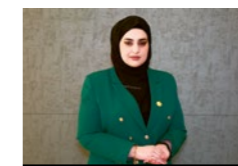
We follow up on our partners' ability to:

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

- 4 We offer Ahel capacity-development support, help them become more sustainable and invite them to networking and advocacy activities. This strengthens Ahel as an organisation so that they in turn can offer people like Dalya support.

We work with our partners to analyse their impact on society, so we may learn and develop together. Independent auditors evaluate our partners' work.

5



**Dalya Mahmood Almaamary**  
Erbil | Iraq

Dalya developed the tools and knowledge she needed during a training by Ahel, one of our Jordanian partners. Afterwards, she teamed up with five other activists and 20 mothers and wives of missing people. Together, they launched a major campaign. During a roundtable discussion organised by Kvinna till Kvinna, Dalya got to meet the Iraqi parliament and voice her demands.

Photo: Iraq Leadership Fellows program

# SECURITY, SAFETY AND SELF-CARE IS POLITICAL

Defending human rights is difficult and often dangerous. Women human rights defenders rarely have the time or the space to think about their own security and well-being. Which is why we invented the concept of Integrated Security Workshops, to provide activists with a safe space in which they can talk and learn about their own security, safety and wellbeing.



In 2010, few actors within rights-based organisations looked at risk and security through a gender lens. Eva Zillén, senior advisor at Kvinna till Kvinna, together with Urgent Action Fund and Frontline Defenders, saw the need for a holistic approach that puts women human rights defenders front and centre. Because security risks can look very different for women activists than for men. Threats can be made even by their immediate family, and burnout is a frequent risk.

For many women human rights defenders, our workshops marked the first time they got to meet each other and define security for themselves. The discussions made us realise how rarely women human rights defenders put themselves first. Eva remembers how, after a workshop, one participant said she was much calmer these days and had started taking the time to actually sit down while eating breakfast.

At the heart of the Integrated Security approach is the drive to create a safe space in which participants can discuss threats as well as ways of taking care of themselves—we believe it's important to include both topics. Our workshops usually feature a mix of discussions and exercises to get the conversation going and for participants to learn to relax.

We quite literally create a “safe” room, with pillows and yoga mats rather than chairs and tables, and with soothing colours and music.

The Integrated Security approach is also a way to start talking about risks, and what risk is, with partner

**Eva Zillén,**  
Senior advisor at Kvinna till Kvinna

**Life may not change in a three-day workshop, but some things might.**

organisations. We view burnout as a safety risk, for example; for us, self-care is political.

Eva remembers how nobody talked about this when we started arranging these workshops—and that we were met with quite a lot of resistance. But we stood firm in our belief that you cannot help others if you don't help yourself first. If you're stressed, it is difficult to make decisions, especially if you live in a context marked by threats and conflicts. Now, many others have followed and it is not as taboo to talk about self-care or putting yourself first to be able to support others.

Today, we use the Integrated Security approach in all regions that we work in. In some of them, trainings have been offered for more people to be able to facilitate workshops. It has become an essential part of our work with safety and risk. When asked about the future, Eva responds that she thinks there will always be a need for the approach. But she hopes it will keep evolving, so things don't have to return to the way they were.



With the National Women's Council of Ireland.

## BOSNIAN PARTNER'S STUDY TRIP TO IRELAND

In June, the Bosnia and Herzegovina team organised an exchange trip for our local partner organisations to Ireland, to hone their advocacy skills in terms of justice for victims and survivors of gender-based violence (GBV).

For three days, our partner organisations Lara, United Women, Trial, Centre for Women's Rights and Crvena discussed GBV, peacebuilding and movement-building with prominent Irish women's rights organisations and feminist activists. They also visited the Rape Crisis Network Ireland, the Dublin Rape Crisis

Centre and the National Women's Council of Ireland. The group returned home brimming with inspiration on how to convince politicians to set up rape crisis centres in Bosnia and Herzegovina and align existing services with the standards of the Istanbul Convention.

**Why Ireland?** Because the country is one of the EU's top performers in terms of implementing the Istanbul Convention, because there is a strong women's rights movement and because Ireland has plenty of experience with conflict-sensitivity.

**I'm proud that we were pioneers.**

Eva Zillén, Senior advisor at Kvinna till Kvinna

### E-LEARNING PLATFORM KAMPUS IS HERE!

Kampus is Kvinna till Kvinna's new digital space where our partner organisations, allies and staff can meet, learn and share knowledge. Our long-term goal for Kampus is to have it be a respected online space that is in high demand among women's rights movements and activists.





## FIVE YEARS OF BREAKING THE SILENCE



It's been five years since #MeToo went viral. The movement shone a spotlight on sexual harassment and sexual violence around the world. It challenged the culture of silence and gave victims a voice. As such, #MeToo became part of a larger, global movement of change and resistance.

But while it may have spread like wildfire, #MeToo also reminded us that movements need to be inclusive and relevant to all women. Many victims continue to live in silence, with no option whatsoever to share their experiences in public.



Photo: Aswat Nissa

In Tunis, Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisation Aswat Nissa paid tribute to the courageous voices who broke the silence around sexual harassment in Tunisia through the #EnaZeda movement by painting a fresco inspired by women protests to denounce patriarchy.

### PROCESS EVALUATION

A process evaluation of our largest programme, which covers all four of the regions we work in, has just been completed. We will use the results to prepare our next application, which we will be submitting to Sida in 2023.



# 19%

of women human rights defenders have received death threats.

## MEET, LEARN, CHANGE

**Our International Training Programme (ITP) on gender-based violence has now been running for six years. It continues to support professionals from key institutions and civil society organisations in the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe.**

This year, a new cohort of judges, prosecutors, ministry officials, police officers, prison and probation workers and representatives from shelters and women's rights organisations took part in two trainings. The group united 55 people from Albania, Kosovo, Moldova and Montenegro.

The goal of the ITP is to meet, discuss, receive training and then work on a change project. Because real change can happen if civil society and important institutions work together to combat gender-based violence.

One of this year's participants, Miroslava-Mima Ivanović, the executive director of Initiative of Youth with Disabilities of Boka, used the trainings to coordinate the publication of a brochure on early warning

signs of violence against women with disabilities. The brochure is now available digitally and in print in Montenegrin, Albanian and Romani—and in audio and braille in Montenegrin, which is unusual for the context!

In Kosovo, women's rights activist Xhuljeta Devolli uses the lessons she learnt during the ITP to lobby and conduct campaigns and trainings to raise awareness of marginalised Roma Ashkali and Egyptian women.

**Real change can happen if civil society and important institutions work together to combat gender-based violence.**

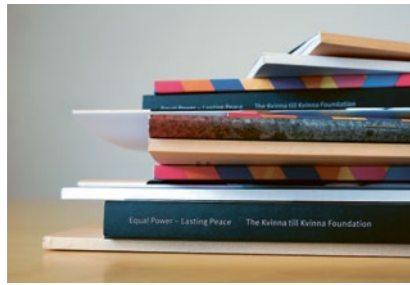
**Photo** In October, we started working on an exit plan for the ITP, to pass on ownership of the alumni network to its participants, with the help of the Swedish embassies in their respective countries.



**“It was feminist therapy, so much deeper than any other training. We cried, laughed and explored together.”**

### SHAPING FUTURE LEADERS

Shilér Al Fouadi on what it was like to be part of Kvinna till Kvinna's feminist leadership programme—a unique forum for young women human rights defenders with an immigrant background in Sweden. “For the first time, there's a forum for us and we get to be the majority. I didn't have to feel different or like a stereotype. I am not just 'Shilér from Rinkeby' but a whole person.”



Research is an important part of Kvinna till Kvinna’s mandate. We both publish reports ourselves and support our partner organisations’ research on women, peace and security. Here are some of the latest publications to roll off the presses.



Photo: Gloria Powell

**NEW POSITION PAPER**

In our latest position paper, 'The Climate, Gender and Conflict Nexus', we outline the links between environment and climate change and gender-based violence, movement-building, participation, peace-building and economic gender justice. We also showcase some of the work we and our partner organisations are already doing and list our main recommendations.



**MENA FEMINISTS AND CLIMATE JUSTICE**

Together with Oxfam, we wrote a report on feminist climate justice movements in the MENA region, drawing on data from 22 in-depth interviews with feminist activists, women environmental activists and international organisations, as well as a survey of 140 women’s rights activists from the region.

The report illustrates how overlapping contextual and structural challenges hinder these movements’ work. But it also suggests that regional momentum could be harnessed to make feminist climate activism in the MENA region more organised and strategic. The report explores avenues to make climate justice more central to existing movements in the region.



**STRENGTHENING WOMEN’S ACCESS TO BENEFITS**

Researchers and policymakers have largely ignored the impact of the Second Nagorny-Karabakh War on women. This is problematic, because disregarding women’s perspectives and priorities means international actors and local decision-makers make less of an effort to protect women’s rights.

That is why we brought together women human rights defenders, researchers, activists and experts working on the conflict around Nagorny-Karabakh to identify and explore the issues women in the region face. Women’s access to benefits was highlighted as a pressing concern, for example. In the resulting new policy paper, 'Strengthening Women’s Access to Benefits After the Second Nagorny-Karabakh War', we look at specific obstacles that prevent women from accessing benefits in the Armenian, Azerbaijani and Nagorny-Karabakh contexts.



Photo: Maja Brand

# CLIMATE CHANGE IS GENDERED



Female study participant, from Bugesera

**Things have really changed. You can never know whether it’s going to rain. But when the harvest is bad, people blame women.**

Just like in many other countries, Rwanda’s climate crisis is gendered: it hits women differently—and often harder—than men. Unpredictable seasons, weather fluctuations and natural disasters like floods, erosions and droughts are worsening gender inequalities, causing a spike in gender-based violence, and making women and girls more vulnerable on a socio-economic level. In 2022 we published the report 'Gender, women’s rights, environment, and climate change in Rwanda'.

Across all ten districts of the study, 82% of respondents agreed that women are more affected by climate change. Most of those working in agriculture in Rwanda are women (86%); the majority of them are smallholder farmers. When small-scale agriculture becomes untenable, women face unrealistic expectations to generate enough income to feed their families. The study also found increased pressure on natural resources and reduced livelihoods due to climate change being a driver of conflict and violence. This together with existing power imbalances and harmful gender norms, has led to an increase in physical, sexual, emotional and economic violence against women and girls.

Photo: Maja Jurevska Ilieva



Gender Equality Platform has organised a protest on International Women Day in Skopje. Many of Kvinna till Kvinna’s partner organisations are members of the GEP and involved in the protest. In 2022, the topic of the protest was “poverty is female”.

**WESTERN BALKANS BENCHMARK**

For the sixth year in a row, we presented a report on how the six Western Balkan countries we work in are doing in terms of women’s rights and influence, as a benchmark for their EU accession progress. We considered women in politics, gender-based violence, security for women human rights defenders and women in the labour market. The report analyses current trends and provides recommendations to national governments and the EU.

**FEMINIST ELECTION COMPASS**

In the run-up to Sweden’s parliamentary elections, we published a “feminist election compass” that analysed the positions of the country’s eight major parties on women’s rights. We looked at abortion rights, men’s violence against women, LGBTQIA+ rights and global solidarity, among other issues.



**QUEER TRAUMA**

In recent years, queer Georgians have been subjected to deadly attacks and near constant harassment. The Women’s Initiatives Supporting Group, which we have partnered with for more than a decade, conducted a study to explore how that trauma affects queer people.



The study relies on in-depth interviews with queer persons and discusses their relationship with urban space and the ways they interact in the context of trauma.





Photo: Christopher Herwig

Visit to our partner Najdeh in Beirut, Lebanon.

# TAKING THE SPACE

Since the beginning of the 2010s, the MENA region has experienced a series of mass uprisings and revolutions. These have exposed growing rates of human rights violations, restrictions on freedoms, weak and ineffective governance as well as challenging and unsustainable socio-economic conditions. These protests have been met with varying degrees of force and backlash in different countries, compounding the struggles faced by people and communities in the region. These conditions—in addition to past and ongoing conflicts and humanitarian and financial crises—have directly impacted the lives and work of feminist and women’s rights activists and organisations across MENA in 2022.

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by these challenges, and their rights are often neglected or overlooked in the broader conversations about the region’s challenges.

In 2022, we have witnessed increasing challenges for women’s rights in the MENA region, with several common trends. One of the most concerning trends is the shrinking democratic and civic space. The MENA region is being impacted by significant restrictions on democratic and civic spaces, including constitutions and parliaments being put “on hold,” peaceful protests being repressed or met with violence, civil society organisations facing restrictive laws and difficulties accessing funding, censor-

## GOALS

**Long-term goal**  
A diverse feminist movement and diverse women’s rights actors, which collectively fight for equal rights, justice and feminist peace.

- Short-term goals**
- Support diverse women’s rights actors and facilitate mutual learning
  - Reduce discrimination, threats and violence against women (including activists)
  - Increase access to justice for women
  - Promote a feminist economy, including by addressing legal obstacles
  - Amplify women’s voices and strengthen their leadership in governance, peace-building and climate justice

ship, harassment, and unlawful detention of women human rights defenders, to name just a few of the challenges faced by the population.

Constraints to feminist movement building constitute another challenge. Each country’s unique context—shaped by diverse political, social, and economic factors—has distinct implications for feminist organising. Women’s rights actors working to combat destructive gender norms and rhetoric, address corruption, and advocate for the rights of LGBTQI+ people, face some of the greatest risks.

Efforts to uphold women’s rights in the MENA region have been fiercely pursued at the local, regional, and national levels. We and our partners continue to work tirelessly, and some positive achievements has been made, primarily in the form of progressive legal provisions and increased representation of women in politics and government leadership positions. The fight for positive change continues!

## OUR STAFF ON 2022

I joined Kvinna till Kvinna in June this year, as the regional consortium coordinator for the FemPawer programme.

I’ve studied, worked and lived in Lebanon all my life. I love this country; if I had to choose any place to live in, Lebanon would be it. Two years ago, I turned thirty, and I have to say, things change when most of your memories suddenly start with “ten years ago...”. But I feel more mature and knowledgeable, and blessed: I’m grateful for my family, my partner and my friends (many of whom were colleagues at some point).

I have a bachelor’s degree in nutrition and a master’s degree in public health. These degrees not only paved my career, but also impacted me as a person. During my studies, I learnt about eating disorders and mental health issues. I recognised myself in them, which made me get professional help. It’s such a beautiful journey: healing from things you thought were normal. Removing the dark clouds that blurred your vision and blocked your potential.

But back to Kvinna till Kvinna. I applied for this job because both Kvinna till Kvinna and the programme promote women’s economic rights. I strongly believe that women should be independent, and that includes financial independence.

A beautiful thing about Kvinna till Kvinna is that it “walks the talk”. The organisation is not just out there defending women’s rights, it also ensures them internally to its employees. I’ve found a place that respects me as a woman and as a person, that understands employees have a whole other life outside of working hours—a life they can’t always control.

Today, more than ever, I am grateful for this healthy work environment that makes me want to give back more.

Sincerely,

**Melisa Tina Hamati**  
FemPawer Consortium Regional Office—Beirut, Lebanon



Photo: Lara Kraguljilina

OUR WORK IN BRIEF

**EGYPT**  
We have been working in the country since 2014/2015.

**IRAQ**  
We have been working in the country since 2005. We have an office in Erbil.

**Partner organisations:** *Hawa Organisation for Relief and Development, Iraqi Organization for Women and Future, Iraqi Women’s League, Pena Center, The Kurdish Rozhgar Organization for Humanitarian Aid and Environmental Protection, Al Raja Foundation for Development and Education, Human Line, Lahunna.*

**ISRAEL**  
We have been working in the country since 2001. We have an office in Jerusalem.

**Partner organisations:** *Al Tufula Centre & Alternative Coalition 1325, Assiwar, Isha L’Isha, Kayan Palestinian Feminist Organisation.*

**TUNISIA**  
We have been working in the country since 2016. We have an office in Tunis.

**Partner organisations:** *Association femme et citoyenneté, Association Tunisienne des Femmes Démocrates, Asswat Nissa, CAWTAR, Joussour de citoyenneté, Association Beity.*

**JORDAN**  
We have been working in the country since 2005. We have an office in Amman.

**Partner organisations:** *Ahel, Arab Women Organization, Sadaqa, Takatoat.*

**PALESTINE**  
We have been working in the country since 2001. We have an office in Jerusalem.

**Partner organisations:** *AISHA Association Woman and Child Protection, Al Qaws, Palestinian Working Women’s Society for Development (PWWSD), Women’s Affairs Center (WAC) Gaza, Palestinian Hydrology Group for Water and Environmental Resources Development (PHG), Womens Study Center.*

**LEBANON**  
We have been working in the country since 2005. We have an office in Beirut.

**Partner organisations:** *Anti-Racism Movement, Association Najdeh, Egna Legna Besidet, FeMale, Kafa (Enough) Violence and Exploitation, Knowledge Workshop, Lebanese Council to Resist Violence Against Women (LECORVAW), Lebanese Democratic Women Gathering (RDFL), The A Project, The Collective for Research and Training on Development-Action (CRTD.A), Women’s Humanitarian Organization (PWHO).*

**SYRIA**  
We have been working in the country since 2009.



Photo: Iraq Leadership Fellows program

## FINDING THEIR LOVED ONES

After years of seeking justice for her father who went missing, Dalya Mahmood Almaamary finally got Iraq's parliament to allocate more funding to analysing 97 mass graves, conducting DNA tests and identifying missing family members kidnapped by the Islamic State.

Dalya developed the tools and knowledge she needed to do so during a training by Ahel, one of our Jordanian partners. Afterwards, she teamed up with five other activists and 20 mothers and wives of missing people. Together, they launched a major campaign. During a roundtable discussion organised by Kvinna till Kvinna, Dalya got to meet the Iraqi parliament and voice her demands.

**”** Dalya Mahmood Almaamary, Student and human rights activist

**We did our best and I feel that the voices of the women have become stronger. The parliament members changed their impression about us, especially when they saw that we knew how to organise meetings with the local authorities.**

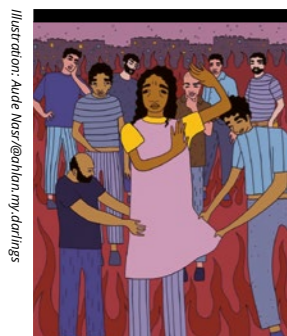


Illustration: Aude Nazr@aouham.my.darlings

### 'ACKNOWLEDGED BUT FORGOTTEN'

Egna Legna Besidet is one of Kvinna till Kvinna's newest partner organisations. The collective of domestic workers is based in Lebanon, where it works to protect women domestic workers. Sexual violence against migrant workers is rarely talked about in Lebanon, which is why Egna Legna Besidet conducted research on the issue and published a study: 'Acknowledged But Forgotten: The Gender Dimensions of Sexual Violence Against Migrant Domestic Workers in Post-Crisis Lebanon'. Journalists, diplomats, activists, researchers, university students and member of parliament were all present at the launch, during which survivors and the study's authors presented their findings. Egna Legna Besidet also launched a social media campaign to raise awareness of the plight of migrant domestic workers being subjected to sexual harassment.

### SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIAN CIVIL SOCIETY

In 2022, the Israeli authorities intensified their attacks against Palestinian civil society and entrenched their system of apartheid with impunity. International solidarity is needed more than ever. Kvinna till Kvinna's secretary-general travelled to Palestine with five other heads of Swedish civil society organisations, to meet activists who work to hold Israel accountable. Kvinna till Kvinna also supports one of the six Palestinian organisations that was outlawed by Israel to silence civil society. For us, supporting them financially is a way to actively reinforce solidarity, justice and resist shrinking space.



### EMPOWERING WOMEN IN NORTHERN SYRIA

Badael is one of the organisations we work with in northern Syria. They supported 202 rights holders this year (the majority of which were women), offering them training to empower them economically. Batoul (a pseudonym) was one of six interns who joined Badael's trainings.

"When I started the training," she said, "it was like I was suddenly in heaven. I live in a refugee camp, so I never got to complete my university education. That has been difficult. Thanks to Badael, however, I've gained new skills. Today, I am strong and confident and find it easier to socialise. I will never again let walls hem in my dreams."

## GENDER EQUALITY & CLIMATE JUSTICE

Together with Oxfam, we organised six webinars on climate justice and the link between climate justice and gender equality. We wanted to both increase participants' knowledge of the climate-gender nexus, and strengthen feminist movements' engagement with climate justice. We also commissioned a regional study to explore the reasons behind movements' reluctance to engage with this issue, and drafted recommendations to encourage them to become climate justice activists.

### Our biggest learnings?

- Feminist movements need more funding.
- We need to support women's representation in climate policy and decision-making at all levels.
- We have to make sure the voices of frontline women and women with intersecting identities are heard and reflected in decision-making.
- We need to keep pressuring governments to remove barriers to civic engagement.
- We need to support collective action and alliances by creating inclusive, safe spaces for dialogue among feminists.

**"As a mother, the climate crisis isn't just an issue I work with as an activist. It terrifies me that my child will grow up to live in a world where she'll have to fight for her share of water, because we're not doing enough to stop climate change today. I feel real terror and intense guilt. Climate change is not a luxury, nor is it isolated from gender justice. We have to view it as connected to all other issues: from bread and water in our everyday life, to social and human rights and freedoms."**

Egyptian feminist and climate activist



Photo: Anne-Sophie Le Mouff

**The award has given other young women the strength to keep fighting.**



Photo: Al Tujila

### ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN COALITION

The Alternative Women Coalition for Peace and Security 1325 is a group of Israeli and Palestinian organisations that was formed to implement the women, peace and security agenda in Israel and lift the voices of marginalised Palestinian women citizens of Israel.

In 2022, the Coalition did research in Masafer Yatta, a community whose inhabitants live under the daily threat of demolitions, evictions, and dispossession by Israeli occupation in opposition to international law. Families are denied access to their land, roads, sources of water, schools, and hospitals, in addition to nearly daily violence from Israeli settlers. The Coalition interviewed local women about their fears and the threats they face from settlers and Israeli forces. We want to keep supporting the coalition and their research, to lift the often-forgotten perspective of women.

**68%**

of women migrant domestic workers in Lebanon have been sexually harassed.

### GIVING OTHER WOMEN STRENGTH

It's been over a year since Intisar Al-Amyal won the Swedish Government's prize for democracy and human rights. With bright eyes, she says the award has given other young women the strength to keep fighting.

"It was almost like a carrot for them, 'wow, we have received international recognition', and that is very important. When other organisations go to government agencies to pursue women's rights issues, I am used as a reference: 'look, she has received an international award'. It shows that women in Iraq are a resource."



Safia,  
Stars of Hope

**We've been consulted and included in FemPower in a way that made us feel prioritised.**

Photo: Rana Khoury



Safia, from Stars of Hope, which promotes the rights of women with disabilities in Palestine.

The regional FemPower programme supports MENA civil society organisations that lobby to end economic gender-based violence. It is based on flexible and inclusive partnerships and a bottom-up approach. FemPower is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### A ROADMAP TO RECOVERY

In mid-November, we organised a webinar as part of the FemPower programme, to develop a roadmap to a just and gender-equal economic recovery in the MENA region following the pandemic. Academics and activists working on feminist economics, debt and sustainable recovery participated and discussed the impact of IMF agreements in the region, and the way those often disproportionately affect women. The webinar served as a starting point to set up a task force that can monitor IMF decisions and speak up about their impact on women.

Afterwards, we also arranged a workshop for our Tunisian partners, to bolster their advocacy efforts towards international financial institutions.

## TACKLING ECONOMIC GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

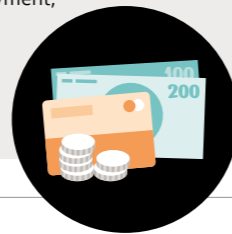
In September, we hosted a webinar on economic gender-based violence (EGBV). The idea was to provide a safe space to actors from Palestine, Tunisia, Jordan and Lebanon for discussing concrete ways to address EGBV through advocacy.

During the webinar, we got to learn how our partners deal with this issue and assess their advocacy capacity. Together, we explored areas of advocacy, strategies and action plans for tackling EGBV in the MENA region step-by-step.

Afterwards, our partners organised follow-up workshops in Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon, and developed a strategy and action plan for each country.

#### ECONOMIC GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE,

or EGBV, refers to the use of economic control, manipulation or exploitation as a means of exerting power and control over another person, particularly women, in the context of an intimate relationship or within a household. It can involve denying someone access to financial resources, controlling their access to employment, or exploiting their labour. EGBV can have severe and long-lasting effects on the victim's economic security and independence.



## COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR CHANGE

These past two years, we've worked with our partner organisation Ahel to set up and run a regional network of women human rights defenders and harness their passion, knowledge and skills. The Athar Network now has around 150 members.

In 2022, Ahel completed a training programme on feminism, activism and collective action. Twenty members of the Athar Network and three employees of Ahel attended. The aim was to train women human rights defenders from Iraq and Jordan to be leaders, with the skills to design powerful campaigns.

In Jordan, programme participants **Abeer Eleiwah, Eman Abu Khairan, Khawla Dohal and Sanaa Dayem** managed to secure a major win after the programme. They lobbied for UNRWA to unfreeze the Women's Program Centre's bank account. After 14 centres near Jordan's Palestinian camps protested, UNRWA's director visited the Women's Program Center and agreed to unfreeze its account.



Photo: WND



## SAFE SPACE IN A WARZONE

Our partner organisation Women Now for Development works in north-west Syria, an active warzone. It offers women and girls a safe space in which they can get psychological support to process abuse, isolation, anxiety, grief and fear.

This year, 47 women attended weekly support sessions, while 143 received self-help training to protect their mental health.



Iman,  
18 years old

**Life felt completely hopeless before but then I started joining in on activities in the centre. I started getting to know myself better and I discovered my own strengths.**

Photo: Assiwar



### ONLINE VIOLENCE SUPPORT

Our Palestinian partner organisation Assiwar from Haifa in Israel provides psychosocial support, a 24/7 helpline and chat support to victims of online violence. This year, they handled 700 cases, including one of a young woman who had been bullied by a man into sharing private videos on social media. Assiwar gave the woman legal aid and helped her contact the police to put an end to the threats.



Book cover design: Ibtisam Dha

### ECO-FEMINISM

Our partner organisation Knowledge Workshop felt the environmental debate in Lebanon lacked a feminist perspective. So they published a book! 'What Remains: Eco-Feminist Pursuits' explores the intersection of environmental justice and gender in Lebanon. Knowledge Workshop held talks on environmental degradation, urban planning, the economy and women's bodily rights. They also organised a webinar with a Mexican eco-feminist movement in order to start a transnational conversation.

#### DIALOGUE IS KEY

Two years into the FemPower programme, we and our Palestinian consortium partner PWWSD have learnt that carrying on an inclusive and cooperative dialogue not only gives everyone access to information, it also helps actors share their experiences. This in turn keeps everyone up to speed with the shifting trends in economic gender-based violence.

Dialogue has also made sure power and influence are equally distributed, so no single organisation dominates the agenda. It has brought small and diverse stakeholders to the table. Local, national and international communities have together discussed economic gender-based violence in Palestine and explored bottom-up solutions. All of them are determined to keep engaging in dialogue and to truly bring about sustainable change.



Photo: Gloria Powell

## A VIBRANT WOMENS' MOVEMENT

2022 was another difficult year for women in sub-Saharan Africa due to the social and economic impact of covid-19, a higher inflation than the region had seen in a decade, continued challenges caused by patriarchal norms, and lack of access to power and resources.

The African continent is severely affected by climate change, and sub-Saharan Africa is home to nine of the ten countries in the world that are most vulnerable to its effects. Women bear the brunt of this, as our new study from Rwanda on the gender-environment-climate-nexus shows.

Still, sub-Saharan Africa's vibrant women's movements managed to bring about important change. They are committed to intersectionality, diversity, anti-racism and decolonialism. And they're becoming

stronger: whether as independent activists, coalitions or community-based organisations, feminists are more vocal than ever, despite shrinking civic space in some countries.

In Liberia and the DRC, we focused on women's participation as voters and candidates for the elections both countries will hold in 2023. Our partner organisations also kept working to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, to safeguard women's sexual and reproductive health and rights, and to promote economic gender justice. We see these issues as the key to enabling women to leave abusive relationships and actively participate in politics and society.

Progress may be slow sometimes. But as the Swahili saying goes: "pole pole, or one step at a time."

### OUR STAFF ON 2022

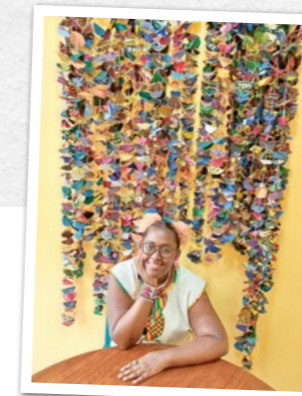
I began my career in management consultancy. Like most young Africans returning to their home country, I went where the money was, to be able to pay my bills. But the work I had was not fulfilling ... so, I started volunteering with a pan-African, community-based feminist organisation on the side. I participated in various panels discussing the state of the queer community, self-care for activists, and feminism in Rwanda, as well as East Africa and sub-Saharan Africa at large.

Doing so reminded me of the volunteering I did in my teens. I have always been a fervent advocate for the wellbeing and rights of women, girls and other marginalised communities. I always sought out ways to participate in organising: be it as a community dance teacher for primary school girls, or as part of youth groups at university, taking care of the marginalised and vulnerable communities in Cape Town, where I lived.

Today, I get to be a feminist professionally: I joined Kvinna till Kvinna in May, as regional programme officer for sub-Saharan Africa. My role is all about planning, monitoring, learning, evaluation and capacity-development for both partners and staff in Rwanda, Liberia and the DRC.

For me, the highlight of the year has been landing this job, period. I enjoy being part of the movement and the work that we do. It is at times heavy to read or hear about what happens to women and girls. But despite the challenges, I am motivated by the work we do and feel fulfilled, because I get to do something I love. People rarely love their job; I am blessed that I get to do something I love in an organisation I share the same values and passion with.

**Eunice Twahirwa,**  
Regional programme officer  
— Kigali, Rwanda



**It is at times heavy to read or hear about what happens to women and girls. But despite the challenges, I am motivated by the work we do and feel fulfilled, because I get to do something I love.**

**Left photo** Kevine Ineza, 14 years old, and Justine Niyonshuti, 16 years old, are rights holders and participants in the programme "My Voice, My Right", by our partner Paper Crown Rwanda and financed by Kvinna till Kvinna.

### OUR WORK IN BRIEF

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

**Partner organisations:** *Association des Femmes des Médias du Sud-Kivu (AFEM), Association des Femmes Juristes Congolaises (AFEJUCO), Caucus des Femmes, Cercle d'Échange pour le Développement des Jeunes dans la région des Grands Lacs (CEJ-G), Rien Sans Les Femmes (RSLF).*

**LIBERIA**  
We have been working in the country since 2010. We have an office in Monrovia.

**Partner organisations:** *Community Healthcare Initiative (CHI), Lesbian & Gay Association of Liberia (LEGAL), Liberian Women Empowerment Network (LIWEN), Rural Women Right Structure (RWRS), West Point Women for Health and Development Organization (WPHDO), Women for Self-Employment (WE4SELF), Women NGOs Secretariat of Liberia, Women Rights Watch (WORIWA).*

**RWANDA**  
We have been working in the country since 2017. We have an office in Kigali.

**Partner organisations:** *Association of Kigali Women in Sport (AKWOS), Duhozanye, Empower Rwanda, Family Circle Love Lab, Haguruka, Paper Crown Rwanda, Réseau des Femmes, Rwanda Women's Network (RWN), Save Generation Organisation (SGO), Our Sister's Opportunity, and Rwanda National Association of Deaf Women.*

### GOALS

**Long-term goal**  
A future in which women in conflict-affected countries in sub-Saharan Africa are no longer subjected to violence and have the same rights and opportunities to participate in society as men, and in which conflicts are resolved through peaceful methods.

- Short-term goals**
- Prevent violence against women and support its victims
  - Support the development and networking efforts of women's rights organisations
  - Increase women's participation at all levels of society



## TRAINING TO STAY ALIVE

In November we held a workshop in Nairobi for women human right defenders from nine conflict-affected countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The aim was to talk about risks and risk management, as well as explore ways of building a more inclusive women's movement.

We purposefully invited a diverse group of participants, selecting 30 women out of 104 applicants. The attendees included women who aren't part of any formal networks, women from rural areas, women from minority groups and women who face social stigma due to their disability, HIV status or sexual orientation. They came from contexts as diverse as Somalia, Sierra Leone, the DRC, Ethiopia and Burundi. This made for interesting discussions on what an inclusive women's movement is, how to develop it, and make sure that the individuals stay safe and last in the struggle.

**In Rwanda, SEK 2,336 can pay for a DNA test to strengthen a GBV victim's evidence in court.**

## BUILDING BRIDGES IN THE MOVEMENT

In Liberia, several LGBTQIA+ people received physical and verbal threats on social media this year. An anonymous person created an account and began uploading videos of individuals from that community, sharing their sexual orientation, preference, and HIV status. People targeted in the LGBTQIA+ community were disowned by their family members, kicked out of their homes and lived in fear as the penal code is still in effect in Liberia. Kvinna till Kvinna was informed of the incidents through an advocacy letter shared shortly before an Integrated Security training was to take place.

This training came a very crucial time as tensions were high for the LGBTQIA+ community. The workshop was used as an opportunity for Women Human Rights Defenders and LGBTQIA+ defenders to share their experiences and plan for future solidarity as human right defenders. We arranged a meeting during the training, and saw a movement take shape between women human rights defenders and LGBTQIA+ defenders. The executive director of one of our newest partner organisations (Sisters 4 Sisters), who happens to be the co-chair of both networks, will spearhead the movement. Their first goal will be trying to make Liberia's women's movement more inclusive.



### BREAKING SRHR TABOOS

In rural parts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, like Mboko and Luvungi, young people often know little about sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Coupled with taboos, this lack of information leads to unwanted teen pregnancies that force girls to drop out of school. CEDEJ-GL our partner organisation, works to change this. It raises young people's awareness of SRHR by increasing their access to digital technology and the internet. The idea is that better information will lead to fewer unwanted pregnancies and fewer sexual transmitted infections.

## MAMA RADIO COMBATS VIOLENCE

Mama Radio is a community radio station run by our partner organisation AFEM, a network of women journalists in the DRC who promote women's rights, gender equality and peace through radio broadcasting.

**"Thanks to Mama Radio, we have been able to break the silence on sexual violence, people are better informed and sexual and reproductive health issues are no longer taboo. The authorities are also held accountable on sexual violence issues and the media are mobilised on violence issues."**

Julienne Baseke, coordinator at AFEM, explains.



### MAPUTO PROTOCOL

The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, better known as the Maputo Protocol, is an international human rights instrument established by the African Union that went into effect in 2005. It has been ratified by 49 of 55 African Union countries. The document is considered highly progressive and guarantees African women's rights in terms of reproductive health and rights, political participation and economic empowerment. It also seeks to end violence against women, including harmful practices such as child marriages and female genital mutilation.

### WOMEN'S RIGHTS WATCHDOGS

Four of our Rwandan partner organisations, Réseau des Femmes, Save Generation, Haguruka and Duhozany, analysed how the government is implementing the Maputo Protocol. This resulted in three shadow reports on women's right to health, women's political participation, and widow rights, all with recommendations for legal reforms, policy changes and other measures our partners suggest the Rwandan government take. In October, the shadow reports were submitted to the African Court for Human and Peoples Rights. Working so closely together emboldened our partner organisations and strengthened their ties: they are determined to keep monitoring whether the government fulfills their commitments to women's rights.

Photo: Finda Saley and Millet Saley



Photo: Gloria Powell

Paola Ineza is a rights holder and participant in the programme "My Voice, My Right", financed by Kvinna till Kvinna.

## SELF-DEFENCE TRAINING FOR GIRLS

Rwanda is witnessing a worrying increase in gender-based violence. Girls in particular face threats at home, at school and in their communities on an almost daily basis. Our local partners work hard to reverse this trend. Paper Crown Rwanda, for example, has set up a self-defence programme for girls, teaching them tactics such as self-confidence, assertiveness, verbalisation, de-escalation, negotiation and physical self-defence. Girls who completed the programme have testified that the techniques they were taught helped them escape sexual and physical abuse.



**Sandrine,**  
a rights holder from PCR

**Girls are always taught to keep quiet and look down when they are speaking. Even those who try to speak out are labelled as rebellious or too talkative. This mindset is wrong! Girls should know that it is okay to make eye contact, to be assertive, and to use their voice!**

## ONE STEP CLOSER TO EQUAL ELECTIONS

In October 2023, Liberians will go to the polls for general elections. Women's representation in politics has traditionally been low in the country. In 2014, however, civil society managed to get a law approved that stipulates 30% of candidates for political parties must be women. So far, there haven't been any sanctions for breaking this law. But our local partner organisations, like WONGOSOL, have managed to change this. As of 2022 political parties that disregard the law will now risk fines of up to USD 5,000. Though this law has been passed in the house of representatives and the senate, it is yet to be signed into law by the president.

**Photo** WONGOSOL interaction with right holders on the issue of the 30% contribution for the preparations of women candidates for the 2023 elections.



# ADVOCACY FOR CHANGE

This year, the Western Balkans were affected by both global developments such as the pandemic, inflation and the ongoing war in Ukraine, and national and regional instabilities. Escalating tensions between Kosovo and Serbia have led to the latter deploying more troops to the border. Bosnia and Herzegovina remains stuck in a political deadlock, while tensions between North Macedonia and Bulgaria have sparked violent mass protests in North Macedonia. Meanwhile, political turmoil in Montenegro has resulted in the dissolution of the newly elected government and malfunctioning of state institutions.

In this context, it will come as no surprise that women's rights are still disregarded. Violence against women remains widespread, while women's participation in politics is low, and gendered discrimination on the labour

market is a common occurrence. A particularly worrying development in the region, especially in North Macedonia and Serbia, is the rise of the anti-gender movement, which threatens women human rights defenders and their work.

Despite these challenges, our partner organisations courageously advocated for legal changes to strengthen women's rights. They advanced peacebuilding efforts and spoke out against gender-based violence and warmongering.

For Kvinna till Kvinna—whose journey started in the Western Balkans—the region's persistent political instability is an illustration of the fact that sustainable peace requires long-term dedication, respect for human rights and the participation of women in post-conflict reconstruction. Otherwise, instability and human insecurity remain.

Selma Badžić, Aida Ćosić and Sabina Mahić all work at Center of Women's Rights.

Photo: Inirana Agreanovic

Photo: Inirana Agreanovic

## OUR STAFF ON 2022

In the five years I've been working as Kvinna till Kvinna programme officer in Serbia, the world has changed a lot. Some rights and freedoms we had won after long struggles are now being questioned again. There are no final victories for women's rights, it seems, and the fight for a better world never ends.

For me, Kvinna till Kvinna represents an inspiring work environment in which I get to learn and act in line with my values. This type of work is always political; our actions greatly influence our communities and our society.

That influence is often positive: we support hundreds of women to overcome situations of violence, become economically independent for the first time, and start a new life. It often happens, however, that it is very difficult to respond to the growing needs for financial, political and feminist support that comes from partner organisations affected by the worsening of political and inter-ethnic tensions and exposed to pressure and attacks by various state and non-state actors. Consistent feminism and peacemaking in a polarised and militarised world is a great and constant challenge that we face every day.

Mirroring that, I would say our main challenges and victories in 2022 were all tied to our efforts to ensure continuous financial and political support for dozens of partner organisations in Serbia that help thousands of women realise their rights. There are many obstacles on that path, and the general insecurity and crises that keep knocking on our door do not make our work easier.

What makes me (and many others) stay with Kvinna till Kvinna is the opportunity to demonstrate that feminist care and solidarity are not just empty phrases. They are concepts we live by that obligate us to shoulder full human and political responsibility for our words and deeds.

Tamara Šmidling  
Programme officer—Belgrade, Serbia



**We support hundreds of women to overcome situations of violence, become economically independent for the first time, and start a new life.**

### 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 of the EU accession process.

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



Center of Women's Rights is a longstanding partner organisation to Kvinna till Kvinna. The organisation was founded in 1996, to help women exercise their basic human rights in the post-war period.

OUR WORK IN BRIEF

**ALBANIA**  
We have been working in the country since 1999.  
**Partner organisation in 2022:** Albanian Women Empowerment Network.

**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**  
We have been working in the country since 1994.  
We have an office in Sarajevo.  
**Partner organisations:** Center for Women's Rights (CWR), CURE Foundation, Forum Zena Bratunac, Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka, HO Horizon, Lara Foundation, Rezon, Rights for All (Prava za sve), Roma women association Bolja budućnost Tuzla, TRIAL International, United Women Banja Luka (UW), Zenski Centar Trebinje.

**KOSOVO**  
We have been working in the country since 1994.  
**Partner organisations in 2022:** Art and Community Center Artpolis, Kosova Women's Network, Mitrovica Women's Association for Human Rights, Kosovar Gender Studies Center, Women's Association Medica Kosova.

**UKRAINE**  
We have been supporting women's rights in the country since 2015.  
**With our emergency fund we were able to support:** Slavic Heart, Insha NGO, Center Women's Perspectives, Feminist Workshop NGO, Feminist Initiatives and the Mediators and dialogue facilitators community of practice.

**NORTH MACEDONIA**  
We have been working in the country since 1999.  
We have an office in Skopje.  
**Partner organisations:** Association for Advancement of Gender Equality akcija zdruzenska - Skopje, Association for protection of workers' rights GLASEN TEXTILEC - Stip, Coalition "Sexual and Health Rights of Marginalized Communities" - MARGINS, EcHO - Educational Humanitarian Organization, ESE - Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, HERA - Health Education and Research Association, National Network to End Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, Non-government organisation "KHAM", Organization of Women of the Municipality of Sveti Nikole, Reactor - Research in Action, Tiiiit! Inc. - Skopje / Peach Preach.

**SERBIA**  
We have been working in the country since 1994.  
We have an office in Belgrade.  
**Partner organisations:** A 11 - Initiative for Economic and Social Rights, Alternative Girls' Center, ASTRA - Anti-Trafficking Action, Autonomous Women's Center, Centre for Women's Studies, Roma Center for Women and Children DAJE, Impuls Tutin, Reconstruction Women's Fund, ROZA - Association for Women's Rights Association of Women Pescanik (Sandglass), Victimology Society of Serbia, Women in Black, Women's Centre Uzice, Women's Forum Prijepolje.  
**MONTENEGRO**  
We have been working in the country since 1999.  
**Partner organisation:** Women's Rights Center.

## SUBVERSIVE WITCHES



**'It's All Witches'** (Sve su to Vještice) is a widely popular digital feminist youth platform in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Western Balkans. It has around 100,000 followers across Facebook, Instagram and soon also TikTok. Witches sees itself as a feminist, decolonial, anti-racist collective that subverts the patriarchy on a daily basis, using whatever means necessary. They are also our newest partner in Bosnia and Herzegovina!

In line with our strategy for the Western Balkans, which highlights the need to support a broader feminist movement, our Bosnia and Herzegovina team initiated several new partnerships with formal and informal innovative initiatives. Witches is an innovative example of youthful feminist organising; partnering with the collective is a good way for Kvinna till Kvinna to increase support for new, digital ways of organising.

Some of the topics Witches has addressed through multimedia are militarisation as a feminist security issue, the gendered division of housework and emancipation of and through visual arts.



## GENDERED EU ACCESSION

With our partner organisations from the Western Balkans, we travelled to Berlin to advocate for a gendered EU accession process for the Western Balkans. In meetings with German institutions and civil society, our partners addressed the current underrepresentation of women in their respective countries' EU accession talks. They also used the opportunity to emphasise the role of women's organisations as strategic allies to the EU in furthering the EU-accession agenda, including respect for human rights, non-discrimination and rule of law.

**Photo** Advocacy visit to Berlin, Germany. Meetings with MPs in German Bundestag and with reps of international organisations.



Photo: Liliana Gornjidi

**Women are warriors by nature**

**This a quote** by Gordana, who lives in a Romani area outside of Belgrade, Serbia. She is one of the women who frequent the meeting space for mothers that was established by Aurora—an organisation our partner Roma Centre for Women and Children Daje collaborates with. It is one of the few places in Belgrade where Romani women can come to get information about women's rights, healthcare, and gender-based violence. Aurora also holds courses to teach women the tools to earn their own income.

### MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES

These past two years, three of our partners tirelessly worked to give marginalised communities in North Macedonia access to justice. They set up centres to provide free legal aid and offered psychosocial support. Here are a few facts and figures about their work:

- 239 rights holders received assistance
- Legal procedures started in 27 cases
- Mentorship support was provided for five lawyers and three psychologists
- 35 members of marginalised communities were trained to document violations, resulting in 168 cases reported
- There were 30 mentions in local and social media
- Events informed 600+ people of our partners' services
- There was a 53% rise in demand for their services



## DIGITAL FEMINIST PEACE CONFERENCE

**Together with our partner organisations and other stakeholders, we organised a three-day digital Feminist Peace Conference in June.**

Activists from the Western Balkans and Ukraine, as well as representatives of EU institutions, the OSCE, UN agencies and international NGOs, discussed women's organisations' role in peacebuilding and conflict transformation. The conference explored feminist peace and what that concept really means in everyday life, citing examples from their own communities and coming up with alternative narratives to militarisation, nationalism and war.

Oksana Potapova, a feminist activist and researcher from Ukraine who works for Kvinna till Kvinna, spoke about the effects of the ongoing war on women. She advocated for including women in decisions about community development and post-war recovery at all levels: "We need to recognise women's role and have a holistic approach to community security and post-war recovery."

During the conference, we also addressed the anti-gender movement that has grown stronger in recent years, both in the Western Balkan region and around the world.



**Katerina Karakatsanis,**  
Peacebuilding advisor at  
Kvinna till Kvinna

**The power we have is where we can start from to make the change in an unequal world. We have the power for peace.**

Irena Cvetković and Lana Bobić, two activists from North Macedonia and Croatia, spoke about their persistent fight for gender equality. They illustrated how the anti-gender movement has negatively affected democratic society and the work of women's organisations in their countries.

"They use fake news and fictional constructs and use them as if they were legitimate. Hate speech is part of this derogatory mechanism and it affects our work and our reputation," says Lana Bobic.

**In Serbia, SEK 500 can cover the costs of one court hearing for a woman who has been the victim of violence.**

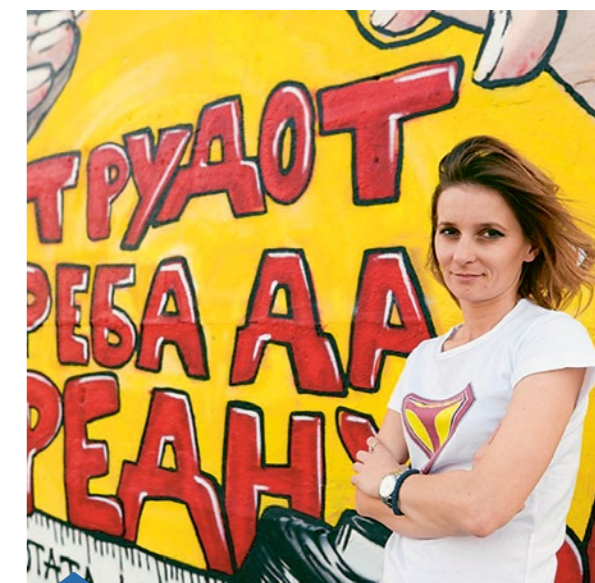


Photo: Tanja Rontsis

Kristina Ampeva, president of Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisation Loud Textile Workers who fight for women's rights in the textile industry.

## LOUD TEXTILE WORKERS

In 2021, about a hundred women textile workers lost their jobs at the Bargala textile factory in Štip, North Macedonia. The factory claimed the workers were terminated for "violating order and discipline". This wording meant the women lost their health insurance and their right to unemployment benefits.

Sadly, such occurrences are not uncommon in North Macedonia. Kvinna till Kvinna's partner Loud Textile Workers, which promotes labour rights and decent work in the textile industry, tried to intervene. They initiated a court case on behalf of the Bargala workers, but lost in the Court of Appeals. When Kristina Ampeva, who leads Loud Textile Workers, publicly pointed out that this was an indication of corruption in the justice system, she was hit with a defamation lawsuit herself. In an obvious effort to silence Kristina, Bargala demanded she pay EUR 5,000 in damages. This, however, only made Kristina and Loud Textile Workers more determined to continue their work.



Photo: Maja Jansiska Ilieva

Photo: Maja Janeska Ilieva



Andrijana Papić Mancheva from HERA, together with four other activists spoke at the panel for Femdefenders day celebration where they shared how a day looks like for a Femdefender.

### A THREAT TO SEX EDUCATION

In late 2020, North Macedonia's government reformed the primary school system, and made comprehensive sex education a subject available to children between 13 and 14 years old, as long as they have the written consent of their parents.

The anti-gender movement loudly opposes this change. Andrijana Papić Mancheva is part of Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisation HERA, that has been working with sexual and reproductive health and rights for more than 20 years. "They believe the reform will sexualise children. They've spread false information, including false translations of international documents, and manipulated and provoked people to create more fear and panic," she says. HERA now raises awareness of the importance of comprehensive sex education, because it is not just education that has come under threat in North Macedonia: it is all of the country's achievements for gender equality.

### BREAKING THE SILENCE

In patriarchal Kosovo, women and girls are regularly sexually harassed—even in public spaces like universities. Unfortunately, distrust in the country's institutions leads to many victims remaining silent, so cases go unreported.

This is why Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisation Artpolis has been raising awareness, creating infrastructure for reporting, and increasing public trust in institutions since 2012. Their goal is to have sexual harassment reported and punished. The organisation has held anti-harassment workshops at all public universities in Kosovo, trained young people to identify and address harassment, and taught them about the country's harassment laws as well as the psychological consequences of the crime.

Photo Human Rightivism Project at Artpolis art and community center, panel discussion.

## IMPORTANT PROGRESS MADE



We successfully wrapped up a four-year regional programme funded by the EU and Sida that addressed gender-based discrimination (GBD) in the labour market through research, strategic litigation, sub-granting and advocacy. The programme covered all six of the Western Balkan countries we work in and was run by our partner organisation Kosovo Women's Network, in close cooperation with several other partners and Kvinna till Kvinna.

Here are a few of the results we achieved:

- The coalition partners handled 199 cases of GBD, providing legal advice and helping the victims approach the relevant institutions.
- Together, we published 14 country/regional reports with evidence of GBD.
- Together, we held 299 meetings with stakeholders to raise awareness of the issue, and additional meetings to empower women to report discrimination.
- The media mentioned GBD 558 times, thanks to the programme.

**40%**  
of women human rights defenders have been harassed.

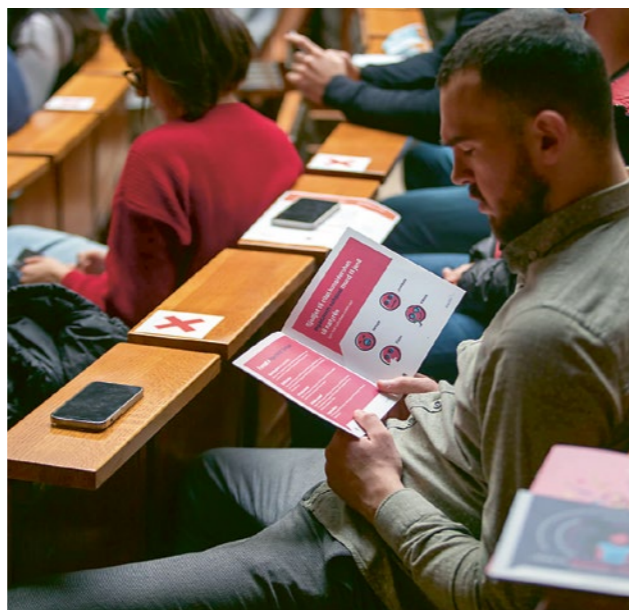


Photo: Leonhard Niedermirner / Unsplash



## EMERGENCY FUND ACTIVATED

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has led to a large-scale humanitarian crisis, with millions of people being displaced. From the early days of the invasion, there have been horrifying testimonies of sexual abuse, assault and rape.

As soon as Russia launched their full-scale invasion, Kvinna till Kvinna activated our emergency fund to provide immediate support to women's rights organisations and activists both inside and outside of Ukraine.



Pramila Patten,  
UN Special Representative  
on Sexual Violence in Conflict

**When you hear women testify about Russian soldiers equipped with viagra, it's clearly a military strategy.**

### A FEMINIST RESPONSE TO WAR

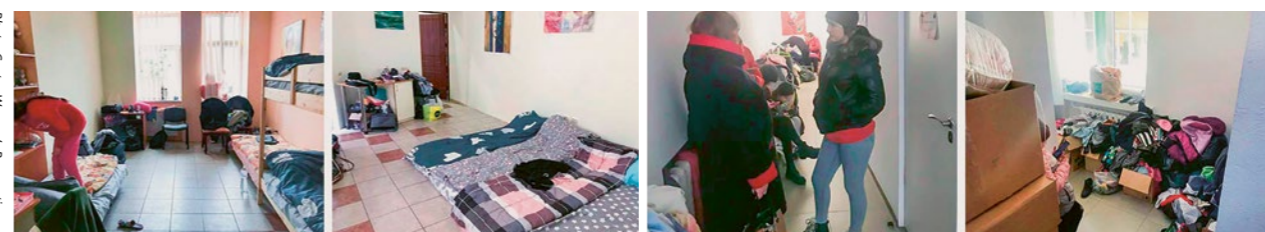
Ten months into the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, we published a feminist response with recommendations for the international community on how to prevent gender-based violence; organise a gendered, intersectional, locally-driven humanitarian response; and include women's voices in the recovery.

Our response also advocated for special protection of the LGBTQIA+ community, which is at particular risk of being attacked by both the Russian military and their own society, as discrimination of LGBTQIA+ people is common in Ukraine.



## SAFE STOP FOR WOMEN FLEEING UKRAINE

Photo: Centre Women's Perspectives



Halyna Fedkovych,  
Lawyer at Centre Women's Perspectives

**At our biggest shelter, close to the train station, we welcome women and children. They usually stay for one or two nights before moving on to cross the border.**

In March, at least 200,000 internally displaced persons were living in Lviv. Our emergency fund allowed Centre Women's Perspectives to swiftly react to the situation.

The organisation specialises in dealing with gender-based violence, but now provides humanitarian support

to refugees. It turned its biggest shelter into a temporary home for between 30 and 50 refugees, and converted its own office to shelter an additional ten people. Apart from beds, food and bathing facilities, Centre Women's Perspectives also provides psychological support; many arriving in the city are traumatised by the effects of the war.

Since the full-scale invasion in early 2022, the organisation has seen a spike in domestic violence and abuse. "At first, there were zero calls about domestic violence. But then there were increasing reports every day, especially of sexual domestic violence," says Halyna Fedkovych, a lawyer at Centre Women's Perspectives.



Anti-Violence Network of Georgia. 37-year-old Nino and her eight-year-old daughter got support from AVNG after leaving her husband who abused her. Their names have been altered for their protection.

Photo: Maja Brand

# PUTTING FEMINIST PEACE ON THE AGENDA

## GOALS

### Long-term goal

Ensuring women in the South Caucasus enjoy equal opportunities in inclusive, peaceful and cohesive communities that are free from conflict, violence and discrimination.

### Sub-goals

- Support women's and LGBTQIA+ movements that advance gender equality
- Strengthen women's participation in peace and conflict transformation
- Continue addressing sexual and gender-based violence
- Recognise the importance of women's economic rights and climate justice

Patriarchal norms remain deeply entrenched in the South Caucasus. The region as a whole struggles with a humanitarian crisis in the wake of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict, while Georgians faced spiralling prices this year due to inflation and a sudden influx of refugees from Russia.

Women are excluded from key decision-making processes and prevented from meaningfully participating in politics and the labour market. This is particularly true for economically, socially and geographically marginalised groups, and those who are extra vulnerable because of their disability status, displacement, age, ethnicity, sexuality or marital status.

We continue to strengthen our presence in the region and have become a powerful mediator and feminist ally. One of our main goals in the South Caucasus is to bridge the gap between conflict borders and create spaces for women human rights defenders to meet.

**We continue to strengthen our presence in the region and have become a powerful mediator and feminist ally.**

## OUR STAFF ON 2022

Since joining the Tbilisi team last year, I've noticed how easy it has become for me to breathe. It's a real privilege to work with fellow feminists who devote their energy to supporting women to lead the change. I have been actively involved in queer feminist activism in Georgia since my teenage years and was trying to find a job that would let me fight for queer feminist movement-building. Everyday, I realise how important it is to do work you're passionate about.

One of the best things about working at Kvinna till Kvinna is that even during heated debates, we know where we've come from and where we are headed. This common understanding, these shared values and this trust in each other's intentions is the foundation that allows us to move freely, knowing we have each other's back.

My best memories of Kvinna till Kvinna are from gatherings with our partners. Hearing and seeing how peacebuilding happens, witnessing the potential of solidarity and being with powerful feminists has had a healing effect on me. Those in-person meetings bring us closer, sharpen our strategies and help us (re)imagine our shared future.

The past couple of years have been extremely challenging for the South Caucasus region. Both the pandemic and frozen and ongoing wars have had a devastating effect on us. It has been difficult to survive, let alone fight for a feminist future. But we keep our hopes high, because we know how powerful the resistance of our feminist sisters is.

I look forward to all the challenges we will overcome together in the coming months, and the transformative change we will bring about.

**Mari Kurtanidze**  
Programme Officer—Tbilisi, Georgia



Photo from demonstration which Mari Kurtanidze co-organised with other activists from Georgian Women's Movement.

Photo: Mariam Nikuradze

## OUR WORK IN BRIEF

### ARMENIA

We have been working in the country since 2004.

#### Partner organisations:

Frontline Youth Network, Fem House, Women's Fund Armenia.

### AZERBAIJAN

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

### GEORGIA AND THE ABKHAZ CONTEXT

We have been working in the country since 2004.

We have an office in Tbilisi.

#### Partner organisations:

Anti-Violence Network of Georgia (AVNG), Social Justice Center, Womens Center Sushi, Association of Women with Disabilities, Young Feminists.



Eka Tsereteli and Nino Kharchilava from our partner organisation Women's Initiatives.

## SPEAKING OUT AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA

In Georgia, politicians often curry favour and avoid discussing real social and economic problems by using homophobic rhetoric. As a result, our partner organisation Women's Initiatives Supporting Group (WISG) regularly faces threats and hatred. WISG has been advocating for LGBTQIA+ rights and lobbying for legal change since 2000. Eka Tsereteli and Nino Kharchilava, who work for WISG, say that the problem is that there is little knowledge of LGBTQIA+ issues. "No government or political party is doing anything to change that."

In December 2022, WISG gained a significant legal victory in terms of legal gender recognition in Georgia. The European Court of Human Rights mandated that Article 8 (Right to respect for private and family life) of the European Convention on Human Rights has been violated in the cases of three transgender men. The Court pointed to the absence of a clear legal basis, procedures and guidelines in legal gender recognition mechanisms in Georgia and noted that Article 8 obliges the state to provide quick, transparent, and accessible procedures enabling the change of the registered gender marker in identity documents.

While these mechanisms are not defined, WISG has also produced a key policy document detailing specific recommendations for setting up such a mechanism and procedures.

**”** Eka Tsereteli and Nino Kharchilava, Women's Initiatives Supporting Group

**The problem is that there is little knowledge of LGBTQIA+ issues. No government or political party is doing anything to change that.**

**”** Participant after listening to the lived experiences of women on the other side of the conflict border.

**When I listen to you, I realise I know nothing about what is going on in the region.**

## DIALOGUE AND CO-CREATION FOR PEACE

How do you build peace in a region plagued by drawn-out and active conflicts?

Kvinna till Kvinna's new transformative programme in the South Caucasus aims to build peace in a conflict-affected region by gathering diverse feminist organisations, including those uniting younger and older women. The programme takes a holistic approach to explore practical applications of feminist peace and women's security concepts, with a focus on marginalized groups impacted by gender-based violence and domestic violence, sexual and reproductive health rights, women's political and socioeconomic participation, and justice. The partners will work with local decision-makers, challenge established conflict narratives, raise awareness, provide critical support to marginalised communities, establish gender-responsive early warning systems, create queer feminist safe spaces, and conceptualise the women, peace and security agenda more holistically.



SEK 190 covers the cost of a woman's meals for one day at a shelter in Georgia.



## INTERGENERATIONAL FEMINIST SOLIDARITY

**The youth, peace and security agenda is enshrined in the UN Security Council Resolution 2250. In 2015, that resolution became the first international policy document to recognise the positive role young people play in preventing and resolving conflict, countering violent extremism and building peace.**

The goal of our Feminist Peace Seminar programme is to deepen understanding of the youth, peace and security agenda among women in the South Caucasus. We want to encourage different generations to talk with each other and strive for peace in solidarity.

In practice, we organised five online sessions this year, where younger and older peace activists got to share information and learn more about UNSCR 2250 and the youth, peace and security agenda. We explored inter-

generational solidarity and dialogue tools to encourage young people to engage in peacebuilding, including mentorship by more experienced actors, setting successful precedents, capacity-development and empowerment.

One of the most significant accomplishments of these online sessions was that they gave participants from conflict-sensitive areas a safe space. This was exemplified during the planning of the first session, when the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan escalated and fighting broke out. We were unsure whether the participants would still want to talk about peace and security with each other. But all women rights activists turned out to be very eager to engage in dialogue.

Sometimes, discussions were difficult and uncomfortable. But the sessions counteracted geopolitical propaganda. Participants got to talk directly to "the other side", without war rhetoric interfering in their conversations.



### DISCUSSING LOADED WORDS

In Armenia, "peace" is a loaded word. The country has a history of conflict with neighbouring Azerbaijan over the disputed territory of Nagorno Karabakh. "Peace" can easily be used in propaganda. One way to change this is peace education for young people.

After the fighting in 2020, the Armenian grassroots organisation Frontline Youth Network developed a peace education handbook for teachers and a mobile app for students. Gender, too, was on the agenda. With the cooperation of the country's Ministry of Education, Frontline Youth Network started training secondary school teachers in the Tavush region.

The organisation did face pushback. But co-founder Lusine Kosakyan and her colleagues kept talking about peace and gender with women and young people affected by the conflict. Their approach seems to work: "Our peace education is now being implemented in other regions too," says Louise.



Photo: Ronan Furuta / Unsplash

## QUALITY FUNDING FOR WOMEN PEACEBUILDERS

Women’s peacebuilding work is woefully underfunded: sadly 0.2% of bilateral aid to conflict-affected countries goes to women’s organisations. In April, we participated in a high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on financing for peacebuilding.

Ahead of the meeting, we joined GPPAC, ICAN, GNWP, MADRE and WILPF in producing a background paper and organised expert discussions to call for increased funding and better systems to finance women’s peacebuilding work. During the meeting itself, we co-organised a side event with UN Women and The Compact on Women, Peace & Security and Humanitarian Action, co-hosted by Sweden, Bangladesh, Ireland and Sierra Leone.

**Women’s peacebuilding work is woefully underfunded: sadly 0.2% of bilateral aid to conflict-affected countries goes to women’s organisations.**

A few months later, the General Assembly adopted a resolution on the issue, calling for funding for initiatives that support women’s full, equal and meaningful participation in peacebuilding programming. The new resolution encourages both the UN itself and others to dedicate a larger share of their peacebuilding funding to gender equality and women’s empowerment.



Photo: Elinor Glüne

**We interviewed five activists this year:**

- Equality expert **Ida Östensson** talked about consent culture in schools;
- Goodwill ambassadors **Linnéa Claeson**, **Fanna Ndow Norrby** and **Alexandra Pascalidou** discussed how Kvinna till Kvinna can support local women’s rights organisations during war;
- **Sarah Dawn Finer** reminisced about growing up in a feminist family and saying yes to becoming our new goodwill ambassador;
- **Asabea Britton** is known for talking about reproductive rights and maternity care. When Russia launched their full-scale invasion of Ukraine, her initiative spread information about how to give birth without a midwife;
- Writer and influencer **Atilla Yoldas** spoke out against destructive masculinity norms.

## STEPPING UP CLIMATE ADVOCACY

**Climate change is one of the most acute challenges of our time. In 2022, we stepped up our advocacy efforts on the intersection between climate, gender and conflict by supporting our partners’ work, organising events, and drafting reports and policies.**

Women’s rights activists play a crucial role for addressing environmental degradation, climate change and climate insecurity. Yet, they face a host of barriers: according to the OECD, just 3% of climate finance was spent on women and girls in 2018. At this year’s Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development, we organised a high-level panel on how to overcome financial barriers to women’s climate action, together with SIPRI and the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Our secretary-general Petra Tötterman Andorff and Mary Balinkungeri of our partner Rwanda Women’s Network were on the panel, together with

representatives from the Folke Bernadotte Academy and the Green Climate Fund, and the UN’s Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, Elizabeth Spehar.

At the same conference, we also organised a roundtable with the Swedish Dialogue Institute for the MENA region, focusing on women’s participation in gender, climate and security issues in the region. One of the speakers was Eman Duwaik of our partner organisation the Palestinian Women Water Practitioners Network.

**Just 3% of climate finance was spent on women and girls in 2018.**



## NEW MERCH

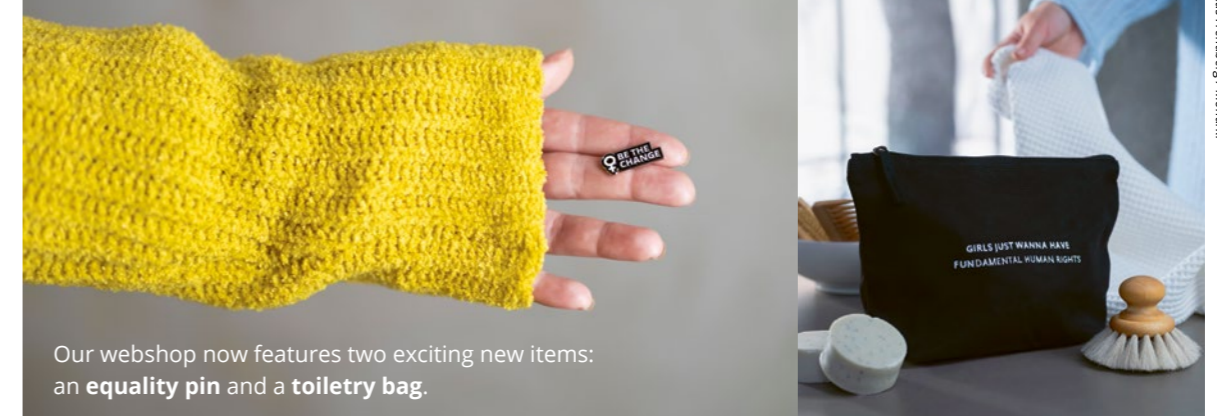


Photo: Marcus Frenberg / Monarki

Our webshop now features two exciting new items: an **equality pin** and a **toiletry bag**.

**32%**  
of women human rights defenders have been slandered.



### HOUSEWARMING IN STOCKHOLM

Kvinna till Kvinnas head office has since 2006 been located at Slakthusplan. In 2022, we moved to a new location in Hammarby Sjöstad. There was a strong focus on sustainability when finding a new place. The house is environmentally friendly, and furniture's are all second-hand. It was also important to have a participatory process where everyone got a say in how we were forming our new space.



This of course had to be celebrated with a big housewarming party where many friends of Kvinna till Kvinna came. This new space will allow for more events and be a spacious place to work.



**Petra Tötterman Andorff,**  
Secretary General, Kvinna till Kvinna

**We are thrilled to receive this funding, which is needed more than ever. Sadly, the pandemic caused a backlash for women's rights across the world and the needs continue to be immense.**



### 12 MILLION FROM THE POSTCODE LOTTERY

We are immensely grateful to the Swedish Postcode Lottery for continuing to support us and our partner organisations, who prevent gender-based violence, affect social change and lobby for women to be part of decision-making processes. Your support is vital for gender equality!



Photo: Alison De Mars

### NEW GOODWILL AMBASSADOR

We're proud to introduce our new goodwill ambassador: Sarah Dawn Finer. Sarah is a Swedish artist, TV host and actress who wants to use her platform to defend the rights of women and girls.

**THE BODY SHOP DONATES TO EMERGENCY FUND**

The Body Shop in Sweden donated SEK 300,000 to Kvinna till Kvinna's emergency fund. It was created so that Kvinna till Kvinna could rapidly respond to emergencies. In 2022, the fund supported women human rights defenders in Ukraine.

**THIS YEAR, A TOTAL OF SEK 1.7 MILLION WAS DONATED BY PRIVATE AND CORPORATE DONORS TO OUR EMERGENCY FUND**

### NEW BRUSSELS OFFICE

In January, we opened the doors to our first-ever EU-focused office—the result of 15 years of EU advocacy work by our regional and thematic teams. We share the Brussels office with several other peacebuilding and human rights organisations.

Our new office serves as a watchdog that monitors, analyses and influences the EU's development of policies that could affect feminist peace, sexual and gender-based violence, women's and LGBTQIA+ rights, human security in conflict, and the women, peace and security agenda. We also actively discuss the EU's role as a mediator, countries' EU accession processes, and the EU's humanitarian and development funding.



The current EU advocacy advisor Rosie Ball standing outside the EU Parliament in Brussels.

This first year, women peacebuilders and human rights defenders from the South Caucasus, Ukraine, Syria, Iraq and the Western Balkans all travelled to our Brussels office to meet EU representatives.



### WE STAND WITH IRAN

November 25th is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. This year, among many other activities, we teamed up with three women's rights and peace organisations to demand the Swedish government put more pressure on Iran and do more to support Iranian women and girls fighting for freedom. While we don't work in Iran ourselves, we do demand justice for the women of Iran.

**Photo** Annika Flensburg and Parul Sharma attending a demonstration in Stockholm in solidarity with Iraqi women.



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

**CHAIRPERSON**

**1. DEVRIM MAVI**

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

**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON**

**2. MALIN ALMROTH**

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

**SECRETARY**

**3. KAJSA WEJRYD**

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

**MEMBERS**

**4. JOHANNA MANNERGREN**

Associate Professor in Peace & Development Research and Senior Lecturer at Södertörn University. Former journalist, peace observer and election observer.

**5. LARS JALMERT**

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

**6. MARIA APPELBLOM**

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

**7. LENA BACKHAUSEN**

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

**DEPUTY MEMBERS**

**8. TSEHAINESH TEKLEAB**

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

**9. CARINA ANDERSSON**

Head of unit MENA and Europe at the Red Cross. Significant experience of development cooperation, including through We Effect.

**10. LISEN BERGQUIST**

Head of communication at 1825, a mental health centre for young adults. Formerly worked at Friends, the Albright Stonebridge Group and the Swedish Institute of International Affairs.



# ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2022

THE KVINNA TILL KVINNA FOUNDATION  
REGISTRATION NUMBER 802401-6134

**Content**

Administrative report	37–40
Multi-year overview	41
Income statement	42
Balance sheet	43
Cash flow statement, indirect method	44
Notes	45–48

The board of The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation hereby issues its annual accounts for the financial year of 2022.

The annual accounts use Swedish crowns (SEK). Unless otherwise specified, all amounts are reported in thousand SEK. Figures between brackets are from the previous year.

**About Kvinna till Kvinna**

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

We are one of the world leading women's rights organisations, with more than 140 partner organisations in 20 countries across the globe. We work in areas affected by war and conflict, to strengthen women's influence and power, end violence against women and highlight women's struggle for peace and human rights.

**Kvinna till Kvinna's mandate**

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

When Kvinna till Kvinna was founded, it brought together Sweden's peace and women's movements. Three dozen organisations have supported us ever since.

**Significant events during the year**

Several events this year had a major effect on our operations, including the ongoing war in Ukraine and the economic developments around the world. The global women's rights movement continued to face headwinds, focusing a great deal on physical and digital security. Kvinna till Kvinna supported Ukraine with our own emergency fund and resources from Radiohjälp. Deductions from Sweden's development budget to fund in-country costs (including costs for the reception of refugees) forced us to reprioritise and suspend some activities, pending more information from the government. Sweden's elections dominated the autumn; the result of these elections and the abovementioned cuts is raising concerns at Kvinna till Kvinna ahead of 2023.

Our head office moved to a new location in Stockholm, Hammarby Sjöstad. In January, we opened our first EU office located in Brussels—the result of 15 years of EU advocacy work.

All in all, despite the cuts to Sweden's development cooperation budget, we managed to develop as an organisation and conducted a series of successful activities.

*Strengthening the women's rights movement, advocacy and political participation:*

We supported our partner Ahel in founding and running a regional network of human rights defenders in the Middle East and North Africa. The 'Athar Network' has about 150 members. 2022 marked the end of the network's training programme on feminism and activism, "Arab Leadership and Mobilisation, Collective Measures for Change", in which 20 members of the Athar Network and three of Ahel's own staff participated. The goal was to train women human rights defenders from Iraq and Jordan to become leaders who bring about change through campaigns. One of the programme's participants successfully campaigned to get the Iraqi parliament to allocate resources to exhuming 97 mass graves and conducting DNA tests to identify long-lost family members kidnapped by the Islamic State.

In the Western Balkans, three local women's rights organisations increased their capacity and raised funds to be able to offer marginalised communities an innovative combination of free legal aid and psychosocial support. They registered and set up legal aid centres, provided more than 300 services to 239 clients, and initiated court proceedings in 27 cases.

#### *Women in peacebuilding:*

In the South Caucasus, we run the "Feminist Peace Seminar", which raises awareness and deepens understanding among women of the youth, peace and security agenda. The goal is to promote dialogue and foster intergenerational solidarity to build peace. We did so through five webinars ("The Voices of Youth and Intergenerational Solidarity"), during which younger and older peace activists got to talk with each other and learn more about UN Security Council Resolution 2250, which first defined the youth, peace and security agenda.

Together with some of our partner organisations and other stakeholders, we arranged a digital feminist peace conference. Activists from the European Union and the Western Balkans, Ukraine and other regions discussed the role of women and feminist organisations in peacebuilding. They talked about the concept of "feminist peace" and what it means to them in their everyday lives and communities, and offered alternative narratives to militarisation, nationalism and war. Representatives of several EU institutions, the OSCE, UN bodies and international civil society organisations made statements at the end of the conference.

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has led to a devastating humanitarian crisis. Ten months after the launch of the full-scale invasion, we published a feminist response, with recommendations to the international community. It centred on preventing and protecting women from gender-based violence; ensuring a gendered, intersectional, locally-driven humanitarian response. Following the full-scale invasion we set up an emergency fund for Ukraine. The first donations went to women's rights activists in the country, to support with shelter and offer psychosocial support to women and children.

#### *Gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health and rights:*

Young people's awareness of their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) tends to be low in rural areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. That is partly because the subject is taboo, and because information on the subject is scarce. This leads to consequences like unwanted teen pregnancies, which in turn forces girls to drop out of school. Our partner CEDEJ-GLAC works to change this, using digital technology to improve adolescents' SRHR knowledge. Access to the internet is usually anything but a given in rural communities. Ensuring young people get to use the internet makes it easier for them to access information about SRHR.

In Rwanda, there has recently been a spike in gender-based violence. Our partners work hard to prevent such violence and support victims and survivors. Paper Crown Rwanda protects girls by teaching them self-defence skills and tactics, including better self-esteem, verbalisation, de-escalation, negotiation and physical self-defence. Girls who participated in the programme have testified that what they learnt has prevented them from being sexually or physically abused.

#### *Economic empowerment:*

We hosted online seminars on awareness-raising and economic gender-based violence (EGBV) this year, providing participants with a safe space to meet, discuss and come up with concrete ways to tackle EGBV in Palestine, Tunisia, Jordan and Lebanon. The goal of the seminars was to identify awareness-raising areas and develop EGBV strategies for the MENA region. The discussions allowed participants to pinpoint concrete ways of reducing EGBV by raising awareness at the grassroots, regional and global levels. Afterwards, our partners organised follow-up workshops in Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine, developing an action plan for each country.

#### **Communication, fundraising and non-profit activities**

We kept raising more funds from private and corporate donors in Sweden. In 2022, our monthly donor base expanded by 18% compared to the year before, resulting in 24.5% more funds donated by our monthly donors. This year, Kvinna till Kvinna raised a total of SEK 23,848,000.

We also strengthened our online presence. Our Swedish website, [kvinnatillkvinna.se](http://kvinnatillkvinna.se), attracted 213,514 visitors this year—an increase of 41.16% compared to the year before, when 151,253 people navigated to the site. Our global website, [kvinnatillkvinna.org](http://kvinnatillkvinna.org), received 23,667 visitors—15.82% more than in 2021, when the number was 20,435.

#### **Social media**

- 14.7% (146,039) new followers across our channels (Swedish and international).
- +50,000 new followers on Instagram, an increase of 25.4% compared to last year.
- +20,000 new followers on LinkedIn, an increase of 34.8%.
- Our international Twitter is our fastest growing channel. We saw a 65.5% increase of our following there.

We conducted three big fundraising campaigns: one around International Women's Day, focusing on the legacy of historical women human rights defenders; a summer campaign on men's violence against women,

run by our goodwill ambassadors Fanna Ndow Norrby, Linnéa Claeson and Sarah Dawn Finer; and a Christmas campaign that centred on sexual violence during war and conflict. Together, these campaigns raised a significant amount of money, attracted new monthly donors, and increased our visibility among influencers and in major media outlets.

We held five so-called Femdefenders Talks. We interviewed equality expert Ida Östensson, who talked about the importance of developing a culture of consent in schools. On International Women's Day, our goodwill ambassadors Linnéa Claeson, Fanna Ndow Norrby and Alexandra Pascalidou talked about how Kvinna till Kvinna reacts during outbreaks of war and how we support women's rights organisations. Next, Sarah Dawn Finer, our brand-new goodwill ambassador, talked about what it was like to grow up in a feminist family and why she didn't have to think twice when we asked her to represent us. Then Asabea Britton discussed women's reproductive rights and maternal healthcare. When Russia launched their full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Asabea helped spread information about how to give birth without a midwife. Last but not least, we spoke with writer and influencer Atilla Yoldas, who is passionate about challenging toxic masculinity norms.

Kvinna till Kvinna has a new goodwill ambassador: Sarah Dawn Finer. A Swedish artist, TV host and actor, Sarah wants to use her platform to speak out about the rights of women and girls.

The Body Shop Sweden donated SEK 300,000 to Kvinna till Kvinna's emergency fund to support women human rights defenders in Ukraine. In total, private and corporate donors donated SEK 1.7 million this year.

We published five new reports and studies. Ahead of the elections in Sweden, we launched a "feminist election compass", which analysed the politics of the country's eight biggest parties in terms of women's rights.

Two of the reports we launched focused on climate and environmental change. In the Middle East, we joined Oxfam in analysing the link between climate justice and feminism. In Rwanda, we focused on the gender dimension of climate change in the country. Our research shows that women have been hit harder than their male counterparts.

We also analysed how the six Western Balkans countries we work in are doing in terms of women's rights and influence, publishing a report on this for the sixth year in a row, as a benchmark for the countries' EU accession processes.

Since the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War between Armenia and Azerbaijan, which broke out in 2020, women's needs and voices have largely been ignored in the region's recovery process. We released a study to report on what life has been like for women during and since the conflict.

#### **Method, development and quality-assurance**

Kvinna till Kvinna now has a new strategy in place for 2023 to 2028, developed in consultation with a wide range of internal stakeholders and external experts. The strategy's main goals are promoting feminist peace, combatting gender-based violence, advancing women's political and economic rights, and continuing to support women's mobilisation.

To strengthen our quality-assurance and enhance its synergy with other processes, we updated our follow-up mechanisms. In early 2022, we conducted an in-depth analysis of the tools we use as an organisation, and explored how we can make better use of the data we gather. New routines were devised to synchronise our financial follow-up with our internal narrative reporting of results.

2022 also marked the internal launch of Kampus, our new e-learning platform, for which we are already developing courses. Kampus' main target group will be our partner organisations, but we will also prioritise training within the organisation.

A process evaluation was conducted of our largest programme, Sida CIVSAM. We will be integrating the results and lessons of this evaluation into our next Sida application.

#### **Profit/loss and financial position**

Kvinna till Kvinna's activities (both our advocacy work and our support to women's organisations in conflict-affected regions) were conducted in compliance with our Articles of Association. Since mid-1993, we have disbursed SEK 2,487.8 million in monetary support, of which SEK 202.6 million was disbursed in 2022.

#### **Financial instruments and investment policy**

Kvinna till Kvinna invests with a long-term perspective in mind and will increasingly favour investments that are likely to have a positive ethical or environmental effect. We strive for risk diversification, both in terms of maturity, the stocks we invest in, and the investment managers we work with. We only invest in bank deposits, debt securities such as certificates of deposit or bonds, stocks, investment or equity funds, and alternative investments. The environment, human rights, working conditions and good governance should always factor into our investment decisions. Our policy is to avoid investing in companies that produce or sell goods and/or services in the tobacco, arms, alcohol, gambling or pornography sectors.

#### **Fundraising and donations**

In 2022, we raised SEK 23.8 million through donations and fundraising (or SEK 25.1 million, if free advertising and pro bono work are included). Kvinna till Kvinna has been a beneficiary of the Swedish Postcode Lottery since 2010, this year we received SEK 12 million.

### Allocations and grants

In 2022, we supported 140 women's rights organisations in sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa (the MENA region), the South Caucasus and Europe. Allocations amounted to SEK 192.7 million.

### Net profit/loss for the year

We had a net loss of SEK 272,000 this year. In 2021, we made a net profit of SEK 1,001,000. We will continue to sharpen our fundraising work, to raise more funds from private sources and attract additional institutional donors. Unfortunately, our private fundraising efforts have suffered from the economic downturn in Sweden, which meant we did not achieve our fundraising goals this year. For detailed financial accounts, see the following income statement, balance sheet, cash flow statement and notes.

### Sustainability

Kvinna till Kvinna cares about the environment. Our offices have implemented measures to become greener, we have a conscious-travel policy, and we continue discussing environmental issues with our partner organisations.

We conducted a comprehensive employee survey about the working environment at Kvinna till Kvinna, followed by a more limited pulse survey a few months later. The results of these two surveys were positive. It did become clear, however, that we will need to work on lowering employees' stress levels and clarifying roles going forward.

We continued bolstering our IT security by raising awareness of its importance among staff, so our security systems will be properly implemented. We also drafted a new GDPR policy.

### Expected future developments, key risks and elements of uncertainty

In 2023, our focus will be on implementing our new strategy and strengthening our private and institutional fundraising. Funding is currently the main element of uncertainty Kvinna till Kvinna faces, given the Swedish government's new development cooperation policy. We plan on expanding our Ukraine programme, to give Ukrainian women human rights defenders greater opportunities to affect their society and take part in potential peace negotiations.

### Employees and regional offices

At the end of 2022, we had a total of 154 employees. Adjusted for those on leave of absence, substitute employees and employees on short-term contracts, we employed an average of 134 employees. Of our 77 employees in Stockholm, 70 worked at the head office while the remainder were deployed in our programme countries. An average of 62 employees worked in our programme countries: they are stationed in Erbil, Beirut,

Jerusalem, Tunis and Amman in the MENA region; Tbilisi in the South Caucasus; Monrovia, Bukavu and Kigali in sub-Saharan Africa; and Belgrade, Pristina, Sarajevo and Skopje in Europe. At our programme offices, an average of 70 staff members were locally or nationally employed.

### Administration

Kvinna till Kvinna was initially formed in 1993 as a network of women's organisations. The actual 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 consists of four departments: programme & method, communications, finance, and HR & security. The senior management team is comprised of the secretary-general, the deputy secretary-general and the heads of the four departments. The secretary-general and deputy secretary-general were co-opted to the board during the year. A board secretary and a staff representative, with a personal deputy, were also co-opted to the board. The secretary-general is appointed and dismissed by the board, which functions as the former's employer. The board is elected every fourth year by WILPF Sweden (6 members) and the Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society (1 member). The current board took up office in May 2019.

The board's rules of procedure and annual plan are revisited and evaluated once a year. The rules of procedure stipulate who is responsible for the organisation's long-term strategic planning and guidelines and evaluations, and specify procedures for internal management & control and for financial management. They also regulate matters pertaining to the accounts and budget decisions, and require Kvinna till Kvinna's auditor(s) to attend at least one board meeting each year, which they duly did in 2022.

### Board members

2022

9 board meetings were held in 2022	Attendance
	1 January - 31 December
Devrim Mavi	8
Malin Almroth	9
Maria Appelblom	8
Lars Jalmert	9
Kajsa Wejryd	9
Lena Backhausen	7
Johanna Mannergren	6
Tsehainesh Tekleab	8
Carina Andersson	7
Lisen Bergquist	9

### Multi-year overview

2022

2021

2020

2019

2018

General conditions	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Number of partner organisations	140	140	151	149	131
Average number of employees	134	132	129	126	114
<b>Result (thousand SEK)</b>					
Operating income	217 516	196 370	201 562	200 989	169 716
Fundraising and donations	23 848	22 845	24 611	16 242	17 270
Allocations and grants	192 671	172 569	172 475	181 199	149 869
Net turnover (webshop)	255	349	207	232	216
Other sources of income	742	608	4 269	3 316	2 361
Operating expenses	-218 551	-195 535	-192 004	-199 786	-165 741
Net operating result	-1 035	836	9 558	1 203	3 975
Profit/loss from financial investments	763	202	159	-471	19
<b>Net profit/loss for the year</b>	<b>-272</b>	<b>1 001</b>	<b>9 569</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>3 990</b>
<b>Financial position</b>					
Equity (thousand SEK)	18 916	19 188	18 186	8 617	7 949

### Definitions

Equity - The Foundation's net assets, ie. the difference between assets and liabilities.

### Changes in equity

	Project-specific donations	Retained capital	Profit/loss for the year	Total capital
Equity 2022-01-01	653	17 534	1 001	19 188
Allocation of the previous year's profit/loss	-	1 001	-1 001	-
Net profit/loss for the year	-	-	-272	-272
Donor-designated purpose 2022	300	-300	-	-
Designated funds to Emergency fund	1 723	-1 723	-	-
Utilised donor-designated funds 2022	-718	718	-	-
Utilised funds of the Emergency fund 2022	-900	900	-	-
<b>Equity 2022-12-31</b>	<b>1 058</b>	<b>18 130</b>	<b>-272</b>	<b>18 916</b>

### Specification of donor-designated project funds

The following funds are included: Sweden programme SEK 109 thousand, South Caucasus SEK 178 thousand, Emergency fund SEK 823 thousand.

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

Income statement (thousand SEK)	Note	2022	2021
<b>Operating income</b>	2		
Donations		23 848	22 845
Grants	3	192 671	172 569
Net turnover		255	349
Other operating income		742	608
<b>Total income for the Foundation</b>		<b>217 516</b>	<b>196 371</b>
<b>Operating expenses</b>	4, 5, 6		
Programme expenses		-202 643	-181 342
Sales expenses		-254	-349
Fundraising expenses		-7 740	-5 551
Administrative expenses		-7 914	-8 293
<b>Total operating expenses</b>		<b>-218 551</b>	<b>-195 535</b>
<b>Profit/loss from operations</b>		<b>-1 035</b>	<b>836</b>
<b>Profit/loss from financial items</b>	7		
Profit/loss from other securities and receivables that are fixed assets		26	27
Interest income and similar profit/loss items	8	1 125	343
Interest expenses and similar profit/loss items	9	-389	-168
<b>Total profit/loss from financial items</b>		<b>763</b>	<b>202</b>
<b>Total profit/loss after financial items</b>		<b>-272</b>	<b>1 038</b>
<b>Gross profit/loss</b>		<b>-272</b>	<b>1 038</b>
Tax	10	0	-37
<b>Net profit/loss for the year</b>		<b>-272</b>	<b>1 001</b>

Balance sheet (thousand SEK)	Note	2022-12-31	2021-12-31
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
<b>Tangible fixed assets</b>			
Equipment, tools and installations	11	1 154	0
<b>Financial fixed assets</b>	12		
Other long-term securities holdings		620	620
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>1 774</b>	<b>620</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
<b>Stocks etc.</b>			
Merchandise		82	30
<b>Total stocks etc.</b>		<b>82</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Current receivables</b>			
Accounts receivable – trade		57	33
Other current receivables	13	24 450	14 085
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	14	3 908	2 146
<b>Total current receivables</b>		<b>28 415</b>	<b>16 264</b>
<b>Cash and bank</b>		82 184	127 053
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>110 681</b>	<b>143 347</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>112 455</b>	<b>143 967</b>
<b>Equity and liabilities</b>			
<b>Equity</b>			
Funds brought forward		18 130	17 534
Net profit/loss for the year		-272	1 001
Donor-designated project funds		1 058	653
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>18 916</b>	<b>19 188</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Accounts payable		3 665	3 356
Tax liabilities		0	138
Liability from received but not utilised grants	15	55 275	61 721
Other current liabilities		1 978	2 026
Accrued expenses and deferred income	16	32 621	57 538
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>93 539</b>	<b>124 779</b>
<b>Total equity and liabilities</b>		<b>112 455</b>	<b>143 967</b>



Cash flow statement (thousand SEK)	Note	2022	2021
<b>Operating activities</b>			
Total profit/loss after financial items		-272	1 038
Adjustment for items not included in cash flow		-363	-180
Income tax paid		-251	160
<b>Cash flow from operating activities before changes in working capital</b>		<b>-886</b>	<b>1 018</b>
<b>Cash flow from changes in working capital</b>			
Increase/decrease in stocks and ongoing work		-52	-8
Increase/decrease in accounts receivable		-24	652
Increase/decrease in current receivables		-12 070	-11 472
Increase/decrease in accounts payable		310	1 377
Increase/decrease in current liabilities		-31 356	30 506
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>		<b>-44 078</b>	<b>22 073</b>
<b>Investment activities</b>			
Investments in tangible fixed assets		-1 513	0
<b>Cash flow from investment activities</b>		<b>-1 513</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Cash flow for the year</b>		<b>-45 591</b>	<b>22 073</b>
<b>Opening cash and cash equivalents</b>			
Opening cash and cash equivalents		127 053	104 800
<b>Exchange difference for cash and cash equivalents</b>			
Exchange difference for cash and cash equivalents		722	180
<b>Closing cash and cash equivalents</b>	17	<b>82 184</b>	<b>127 053</b>

### NOTE 1 Accounting and valuation principles

These annual accounts were prepared in accordance with the Swedish Annual Accounts Act, BFAR 2012:1 (K3) and BFAR 2020:1, and with the operating guidelines for annual accounts of the Swedish Fundraising Association (GIVA Sverige). These principles have not been changed since last year.

#### 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 from the general public, companies, organisations, associations, private and non-profit funds and foundations; sponsorship; 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 donate a percentage of their sales to us are also deemed funds raised, because the company in question, not Kvinna till Kvinna, is the seller. As a rule, donations are recognised as income when they are received and valued at their fair value.

##### Grants

Funds that the organisation has received from the European Union, the Swedish state or independent bodies formed by either of these, and which are provided in the form of transfers of resources to an organisation in exchange for the organisation meeting, or pledging to meet, certain conditions through its activities, are deemed public grants and are to be reported as grants (K3, Sections 36.8 and 37.10). If these conditions are not met, there is an obligation for such grants to be repaid. The definition of a grant also applies to other organisations that provide funds under these conditions.

Grants are recognised as income once the conditions for receiving the grant have been met; until then, grants are recognised as liabilities. Grants received to cover certain costs are reported in the same financial year as the cost they are intended to cover.

##### Net turnover

Income from the sale of products via the webshop.

##### Other income

This primarily refers to income from consultancy assignments and trainings Kvinna till Kvinna conducts. In previous years, it also included income from the International Training Programme. Unless otherwise specified below, income is valued at the fair value of the benefit that has been or will be received.

##### Operating expenses

Operating expenses are divided as follows: programme, fundraising and administrative expenses.

##### Programme expenses

Programme expenses refer to expenses that have a direct connection to 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 health, or that otherwise help promote women's participation in building a democratic civil society.
- To publicise facts and information about the effects of war and to build public support for peaceful conflict-resolution through the use of civil methods.
- To foster studies and research on the effects of war and armed conflict on women.

Administrative expenses incurred as a direct result of an activity/project are seen as programme expenses. Examples of such expenses are our international offices, centralised project management & governance, and the administrative handling of grant applications

##### Fundraising expenses

Fundraising expenses consist of expenses with a direct connection to fundraising activities that target all of the organisation's donors. Examples of such expenses are staff salaries, system expenses and donor management.

##### Administrative expenses

Administrative expenses are costs that the organisation incurs to fulfil the quality requirements it has for its operations and donors, but that cannot be regarded as programme expenses. We use about 7.3% of our allocations to cover such administrative expenses; these are accounted for as programme expenses. What remains are expenses for certain managers and staff in the finance and communication departments, as well as expenses to develop our administrative and organisational processes, accounting expenses and some common expenses.

##### Common expenses

Common expenses include IT, finance and accounting functions, premises and management (board of directors and the secretary-general).

##### Leasing

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

##### Employee remuneration

Ongoing remuneration to employees in the form of wages and salaries, payroll overhead and the like are recognised as expenses concurrently with the performance of their duties. Since all pension obligations are classified as defined contributions, these costs are recognised in the year in which they are incurred.

##### Profit/loss from financial investments

Interest income is recognised as it accrues. Dividends received are recognised when the right to receive payment is established.

##### Income tax

Tax expenses for the year include tax relating to that year's taxable income. It applies to product sales and any consulting assignments and trainings we conduct. In previous years, it also included income from our International Training Programme. There are no temporary differences, which is why deferred tax is not reported.

##### Balance sheet

Assets and liabilities are valued at their cost of acquisition unless otherwise stated below.

##### Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are valued at their cost of acquisition less depreciation according to plan. They are systematically depreciated over their assessed economic life, and derecognised when they are disposed of or when their use is not expected to produce any future economic benefits.

We apply the following depreciation period:

Equipment	5 years
Computers	3 years

Some equipment purchases are reported as programme expenses. This is the case when appropriations have been made for their purchase, or when the equipment is regarded as expendable, due to the risk of it being stolen in the field.

**Merchandise stock**

Merchandise is valued (according to the first-in first-out principle) at its lowest cost of acquisition and its net realisable value on the balance sheet day.

**Financial assets**

At the moment of acquisition, financial assets are valued at their cost of acquisition plus direct transaction costs.

**Receivables**

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

**Foreign currencies**

Cash, bank balances and other financial assets are valued at the closing day rate.

**Equity**

Retained earnings include all profits and losses brought forward from the current and previous periods. Designated funds are recognised as donations for a specific cause that have not yet been utilised and other project-specific funds.

**Liability for grants received but no utilised**

If the organisation has received a grant but not yet fulfilled its conditions, the grant is recognised as a liability. Allocated but not yet disbursed grants are recognised as either a non-current or current liability.

**NOTE 2 The Foundation's income****Accounting estimates**

Estimates on the balance sheet day are based on assumptions about the future and other important variables, such as whether there has been a discussion on the conditions under which a grant may be recognised as income, the uncertain valuation of certain financial assets and whether allocated grants will actually be utilised.

	2022	2021
<b>Donations are broken down as follows:</b>		
General public	9 091	8 335
Companies	1 407	2 208
The Swedish Postcode Lottery	12 000	12 002
Other foundations	1 350	300
<b>Total</b>	<b>23 848</b>	<b>22 845</b>

**Donations not reported in the income statement**

Advertising	435	2 000
Pro bono services (estimated)	786	277
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 221</b>	<b>2 277</b>

**Total donations**

Donations reported in the income statement	23 848	22 845
Donations not reported in the income statement	1 221	2 277
<b>Total</b>	<b>25 069</b>	<b>25 122</b>

**NOTE 3 Grants recognised as income**

	2022	2021
<b>Public grants, Sida</b>		
Civsam (SPO)	48 809	51 157
Communication grant	2 832	4 543
Liberia	11 411	9 675
Middle East, Amman	32 860	34 583
Middle East, Lebanon	13 484	-
Rwanda	15 649	15 428
South Cacasus	7 538	1 201
Western Balkans	25 620	21 674
Other Sida	-	163
Sida administration grant	12 296	9 826
<b>Total</b>	<b>170 499</b>	<b>148 250</b>

**Other public grants**

Folke Bernadotte Academy	488	83
Swedish Police	2 313	2 172
Swedish Institute	647	374
Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs	-	1 372
EU	4 799	4 197
Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs	1 485	700
British Foreign & Commonwealth Office	346	-
Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	6 812	4 808
SDC*	2 909	1 622
Global Affairs Canada	63	4 795
UNDP	1 914	2 544
The Institute of Development Studies	165	-
Oxfam	231	-
Other	-	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>22 172</b>	<b>22 723</b>

**Private grants**

Radiohjälpen	-	1 596
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1 596</b>

**Total grants according to the income statement**

<b>Total</b>	<b>192 671</b>	<b>172 569</b>
--------------	----------------	----------------

\*Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

**NOTE 4 Leasing**

	2022	2021
<b>Future leasing charges fall due as follow:</b>		
Falling due and payable within 1 year	7 094	5 314
Falling due and payable within 5 years	16 917	12 720
Falling due and payable after 5+ years	4 851	6 264
<b>Total</b>	<b>28 863</b>	<b>24 298</b>
Expensed leasing charges during the period	6 457	6 365
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 457</b>	<b>6 365</b>

Leasing charges include premises plus office and IT equipment.

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

	2022	2021
<b>Number of employees (women only)</b>		
Sweden	71	73
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5	3
Kosovo	0	1
North Macedonia	5	5
Serbia	3	3
South Caucasus	6	5
Liberia	11	11
Palestine and Israel	2	3
Jordan	5	6
Lebanon	6	5
Iraq	4	4
Rwanda	8	7
Brussels	1	0
Tunisia	4	4
DRC	3	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>132</b>

**Salaries and other employee benefits**

Secretary-general	874	911
Other employees	58 104	51 746
<b>Total salaries and benefits</b>	<b>58 978</b>	<b>52 657</b>

Payroll overhead	13 916	14 479
(of which pension costs)	2 970	3 224
Pension costs secretary-general	245	287

Changed accounting regulations for employee taxes at our programme offices result in lower reported payroll overhead costs but higher salary costs.

**Board and senior managers**

Women	6	6
Men	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>

**Volunteer work**

All through the year, a varying number of individuals volunteered for Kvinna till Kvinna (e.g. packing dispatches, raising awareness and raising funds in the streets). The value of their efforts has not been recognised in the income statement.

**NOTE 6 Purchase of equipment**

	2022	2021
Consumable equipment	1 258	1 583
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 258</b>	<b>1 583</b>

**NOTE 7 Profit/loss from other securities**

	2022	2021
Dividends	26	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>

**NOTE 8 Other interest income and similar items**

	2022	2021
Interest income, bank	27	1
Exchange rate gains	1 098	364
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 125</b>	<b>365</b>

**NOTE 9 Interest expenses and similar profit/loss items**

	2022	2021
Exchange rate losses related to accounts receivable and operating liabilities	-387	-163
Other financial expenses	-1	-5
<b>Total</b>	<b>-389</b>	<b>-168</b>

**NOTE 10 Tax on the year's taxable income**

	2022	2021
<b>Income tax is based on taxable economic activities</b>		
Net profit/loss for the year	-272	1 001
<b>Total</b>	<b>-272</b>	<b>1 001</b>
Taxable income	-127	179
<b>Total</b>	<b>-127</b>	<b>179</b>
Tax calculated at prevailing rate (20.6%)	-	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>37</b>

**NOTE 11 Equipment**

	2022	2021
Costs of acquisitions brought forward	1 047	1 464
Acquisition	1 513	-
Sale/disposal	-1 047	-417
<b>Closing accumulated costs of acquisitions</b>	<b>1 513</b>	<b>1 047</b>
Depreciation brought forward	-1 047	-1 464
Sale/disposal	1 047	417
This year's depreciation	-358	-
<b>Closing accumulated depreciation</b>	<b>-358</b>	<b>-1 047</b>
<b>Closing recognised value</b>	<b>1 154</b>	<b>0</b>

**NOTE 12 Long-term securities**

	2022	2021
Costs of acquisition brought forward	620	620
<b>Closing accumulated costs of acquisition value</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>620</b>
<b>Securities specification</b>	Book value	Market value
Stocks	541	699
Money market fund	79	78
<b>Total</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>777</b>

**NOTE 13 Other current receivables**

	2022	2021
Credit for tax and fees	712	641
Security deposit	1 346	1 033
Prepaid donations	925	1 817
Current receivables, partner organisations	162	609
Current receivables, consortium (DMFA)	21 290	9 593
Other current receivables	15	391
<b>Total</b>	<b>24 450</b>	<b>14 085</b>

**NOTE 14 Prepaid expenses and accrued income**

	2022	2021
Prepaid rent	1 312	1 179
Prepaid insurance premiums	341	75
Prepaid support to partner organisations	1 320	449
Other prepaid expenses and accrued income	935	442
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 908</b>	<b>2 146</b>

**NOTE 15 Liability, received but not utilised grants**

	2022	2021
Sida South Caucasus	4 783	101
Sida Europe/Western Balkans	4 387	3 370
Sida Middle East	4 291	4 817
Sida Liberia	2 210	157
Sida Rwanda	3 185	4 458
Sida Civsam	8 077	8 828
Sida Communication	-	13
Swedish Institute	35	-
TheSwedish Inheritance Fund	-	3
Irish Aid	1 316	1 511
Radiohjälpen	-	23
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs	25 611	37 185
Other grants	1 379	1 254
<b>Total</b>	<b>55 275</b>	<b>61 721</b>

**NOTE 16 Accrued expenses and deferred income**

	2022	2021
Holiday pay	3 100	3 198
Other items	5 761	6 055
Prepaid grants	20 834	45 359
Repaid payroll fees*	6 694	6 694
Retroactive pension contributions*	-3 767	-3 767
<b>Total</b>	<b>32 621</b>	<b>57 538</b>

\*Adjustment made during 2019 and 2020 for staff posted abroad.

**NOTE 17 Cash and cash equivalents**

	2022	2021
Cash assets	549	330
Bank balances	81 635	126 723
<b>Total</b>	<b>82 184</b>	<b>127 053</b>

**NOTE 18 Significant events after the end of the financial year**

After the turn of the year, we received information regarding reductions in grants from Sida based on the current government's decreased budget of the total grant to Sida. For Kvinna till Kvinna's part this means that our communication grant will be terminated immediately, the agreement applied from 2022 to 2025 for approx. SEK 4.5 million per year. We also received a reduction in our grant from Civsam for 2023 by 10.5% and our regional grant for MENA by 20%.

Kvinna till Kvinna has also had its Dream Project granted by the Swedish Postal Code Lottery. This means that we have received SEK 9,999,000 to create a feminist leadership training for young women with a migration background and connection to vulnerable areas in Sweden. The project will last for four years.

Stockholm 2023-03-29

 Devrim Mavi  
Ordförande

 Malin Almroth

 Maria Appelblom

 Lena Backhausen

 Lars Jalmert

 Johanna Mannergren

 Kajsa Wejryd



Vår revisionsberättelse har lämnats 2023-04-11

 Kajsa Goding  
Auktoriserad revisor

 Monika Wannholm  
Auktoriserad revisor

Office translation of original document in Swedish

AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

Report on the annual accounts

**Opinions**

We have audited the annual accounts of Kvinna till Kvinna for the year 2022. The annual accounts are included on pages 41-52 in the activity report.

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 2022 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.

**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 ISA, 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 2022.

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 April 11, 2023

Kajsa Goding  
Authorized Public Accountant

Monika Wannholm  
Authorized Public Accountant



### The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation | 2023

Project manager: Jenny Sonesson and Marie Wikström  
Editor: Eva Corijn and Jenny Sonesson  
Impact reporting: Jenny Sonesson  
Communication officers: Maja Frendin, Sophie Ehmsen, Hanna Larsson  
Production and art direction: Fine and Dandy  
Translation: Eva Corijn  
Photos (unless otherwise stated): Maja Frendin, Anna-Carin Hall, Voskre Naumoska Ilieva, Aline Niwenshuti, Johanna Riedel, Tamara Smidling, Ylle Stigzelius Åkermo  
Publisher: Marie Wikström  
Printing: Lenanders Grafiska AB

**Image** Julienne Baziki, 17, Pauline Uwera, 17, Alex Vichua Ishimwe, 1, Janneti Iribori, 17 are rights holders and participants in Empower Rwanda's programme for teen mothers.

*Photo: Gloria Powell*



Kvinna till Kvinna has a 90-account—a special type of bank account granted by the non-profit organisation Swedish Fundraising Control. This account is an assurance to the public that the accountholder's fundraising activities are monitored by the Swedish Fundraising Control. It guarantees that funds are raised in an ethical and responsible way and used for their intended purpose.

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