

# ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY IN A TURBULENT WORLD

KVINNA TILL KVINNA ANNUAL REPORT 2023



 KVINNA  
KVINNA



The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation is an international non-governmental organisation founded 1993 in Sweden. Today, we are one of the world's leading women's rights organisations, working to support women's rights and peace-building in conflict-affected areas and humanitarian contexts.

This annual report summarises the activities of The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation during 2023, detailing the allocation of funds and the resulting impact. It serves as both a financial overview and an impact report, in line with the guidelines of the Swedish Fundraising Association (Giva Sverige). Comprehensive information on Kvinna till Kvinna's organisation, mission, activities, and resource allocation is provided across the introduction, activity report, and annual report sections.

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.

Kvinna till Kvinna is a member of Giva Sverige, which works to ensure Sweden's fundraising sector is transparent, accountable, ethical and professional. As a member, we are committed to demonstrating the impact of our operations each year.



Christine Mukarukwaya, Legal Counsellor, and Ninette Umurerwa, National Executive Secretary, of our partner organisation Haguruka in Rwanda.

## ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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Front page: Salome Chagelishvili,  
Director at Women's Fund of Georgia.  
Photo: Natela Grigalashvili

The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation  
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### 30 YEARS OF DEFENDING WOMEN'S RIGHTS—BUT FAR FROM DONE

Three decades ago, the women's rights and peace movement in Sweden refused to stay silent. Amid the turmoil of the wars in Former Yugoslavia, where women faced sexual violence and war crimes, something needed to be done. The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation was born.

Since then, Kvinna till Kvinna has promoted women's rights and worked towards a more peaceful and equal world. And in 2023, faced with an immense need for support, we had to rise to the occasion.

The year was marked by a cascade of crises and conflicts, with a never-ending series of violations of international law, tragedies and human suffering. From a devastating earthquake in Syria to ongoing conflicts like the war in Ukraine, the escalation of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, and the war in Gaza—the list goes on. Once again, those most vulnerable were hit hardest. Women and girls continue to face discrimination and gender-based violence. In response to these challenges, many of Kvinna till Kvinna's local partner organisations in affected regions had to suspend their usual activities and focus on providing humanitarian aid.

On top of these crises, the anti-gender movement continues to push back against the rights of women and LGBTQIA+ persons. Kvinna till Kvinna's 2023 report on the state of women human rights defenders reveals an alarming increase in the level of harassment and threats towards activists. This rise is driven by a coalition of powerful forces, including governments, traditional leaders, religious figures, and right-wing and nationalist groups, which have ample resources. Meanwhile, women's movements remain severely underfunded.

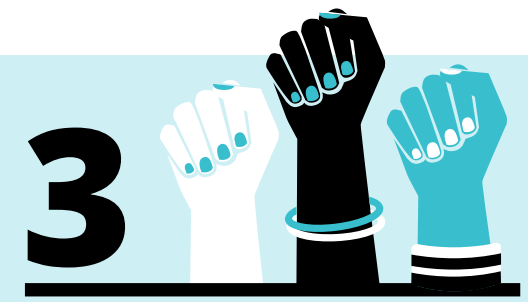
Guided by our strategic plan for 2023–2028, Kvinna till Kvinna attempted to navigate these challenges. Throughout 2023, we continued to support women's rights organisations and activists in conflict-affected areas. The accomplishments detailed in this report reflect the commitment and courage of our colleagues around the world, and the incredible work of our more than 100 partner organisations across Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, the South Caucasus, and sub-Saharan Africa. Despite challenges, women human right defenders are relentless in their fight for equality, peace, and human rights. We are determined to keep supporting and funding them.

Yes—three decades ago, a group of women chose not to stand by silently. At Kvinna till Kvinna, we continue to make this same choice: to show up and speak up for women and girls everywhere. Today, tomorrow, and every day.

**Petra Tötterman Andorff** | Secretary-General



Photo: Nata Romanovskaya



### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2023

**Our emergency fund** aided 15 partner organisations in seven countries. Thanks to the assistance of corporate and individual donors, we could provide support to Ukraine, Syria, Rwanda, Tunisia, Palestine, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Armenia—all of which faced significant challenges in 2023.

**In the Democratic Republic of the Congo,** efforts to combat impunity from gender-based violence paid off in 2023. Soldiers, police officers, and armed groups have long got off scot free when committing sexual assault. Through the work of one of our partner organisations, 23 perpetrators in the security sector were brought to court and convicted—demonstrating that no one is above the law.

**Our conference on feminist peace** in Skopje, North Macedonia, brought together more than 120 women human rights defenders, feminist activists, and academics from across the Western Balkans, Ukraine, the South Caucasus, Iraq, and Sweden, providing a platform for networking and discussions on urgent global issues.



# KVINNA TILL KVINNA'S MISSION



**As a non-profit organisation created by activists, Kvinna till Kvinna plays a vital role in the global women's rights movement. Our mission is clear: to contribute to an equal and peaceful world.**

It all started as an act of solidarity. In 1993, when reports of mass rapes during the wars in Former Yugoslavia reached Sweden, the Swedish peace and women's movements made a joint appeal under the name of 'Kvinna till Kvinna' ('Woman to Woman'). They organised a series of fundraising initiatives to support women's rights organisations in the Balkans, triggering a massive response.

Since then, Kvinna till Kvinna has grown considerably—today, we work with over 100 partner organisations across 20 countries to end violence against women, reach lasting peace and close the gender gap. We do so by supporting local, women-led organisations, conducting and publishing research, and raising public awareness. All without attaching importance to religious, political, national, or ethnic affiliation.



Photo: Maja Janeska Iliev

## OUR CHANGE AREAS

### GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND SRHR

We advocate for the right of all women and girls to a life free from violence and call for their sexual and reproductive health and rights to be respected in conflict-affected contexts.

### STRONGER MOVEMENTS

We call for increased and tailored funding for feminist and women's rights movements to make them stronger and maximise their potential to be influential and push back against shrinking space and democratic backsliding.

### EQUAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

We call for women's effective and equal participation in political and economic decision-making at all levels.

### FEMINIST PEACE

We call for women's meaningful participation, leadership and perspectives in peace-building processes.

OUR VISION

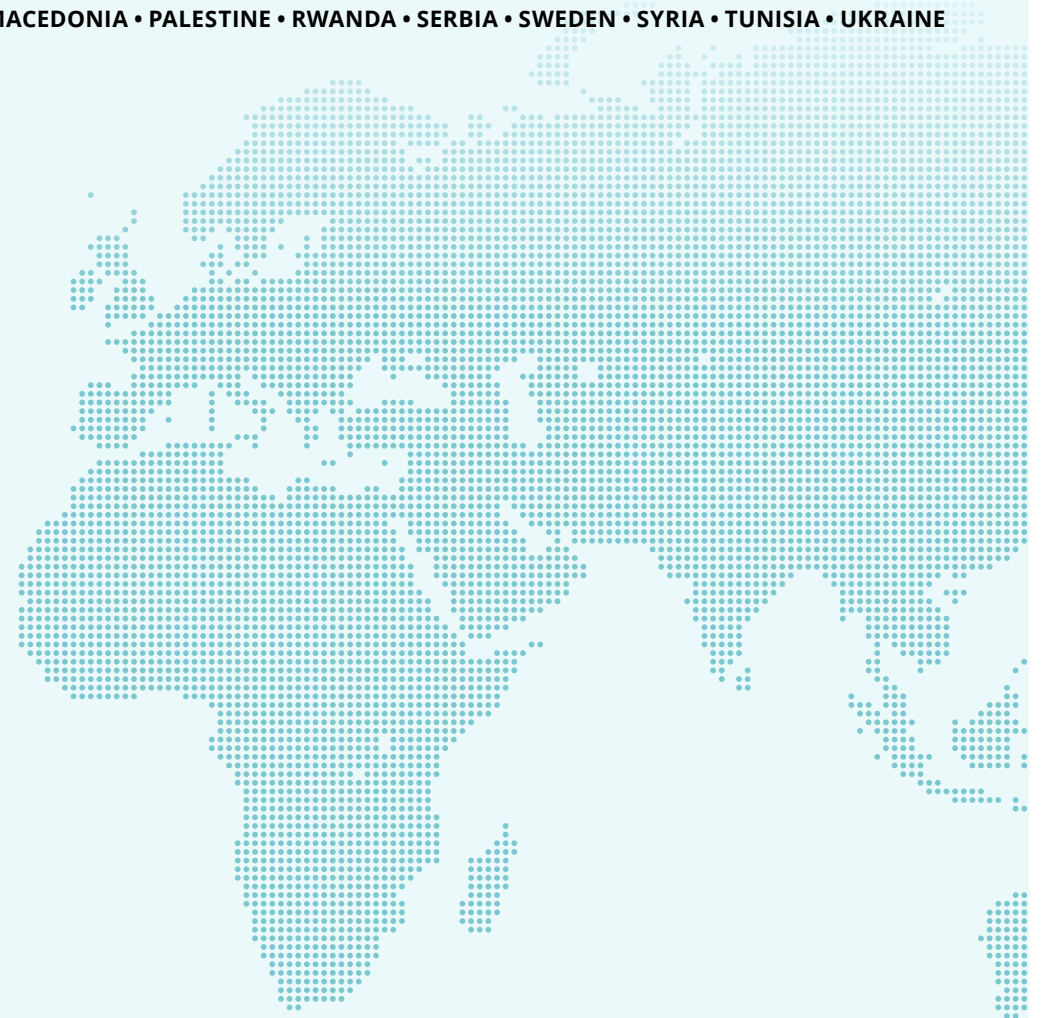
**A world of peace and justice in which women have equal rights, power and opportunities.**



Photo: Gloria Powell

**Kvinna till Kvinna operates in the Middle East & North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, Europe and the South Caucasus.**

**ALBANIA • ARMENIA • AZERBAIJAN • BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA • DR CONGO • EGYPT  
GEORGIA • IRAQ • ISRAEL • JORDAN • KOSOVO • LEBANON • LIBERIA • MONTENEGRO  
NORTH MACEDONIA • PALESTINE • RWANDA • SERBIA • SWEDEN • SYRIA • TUNISIA • UKRAINE**



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



#### Our long-term goals

- Legal frameworks, protection mechanisms and policies on gender-based violence and SRHR are improved and implemented
- Women and girls can safely access services and justice at all levels
- Gender-based violence is prevented and SRHR promoted by changing attitudes, behaviours, and social norms

**We advocate for** the right of all women and girls to a life free from violence and call for their sexual and reproductive health and rights and bodily integrity and autonomy to be respected in conflict-affected contexts.



# BREAKING THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

In 2023, the trend of increased militarisation persisted globally. Because militarisation reinforces patriarchal structures and norms, it entrenches gender-based violence in all its forms. This issue is especially pertinent in conflict-affected areas, where the safety and security situation—particularly for women and girls—frequently results in systematic abuse of power and violations of human rights, including gender-based violence.

Additionally, sexual and reproductive health and rights face ongoing threats and scrutiny, even in non-conflict settings. This has repercussions for people's access to these rights and the way they are prioritised and funded in conflict-affected areas.

Despite challenging and often very risky circumstances, women's rights organisations are relentless in their efforts to prevent gender-based violence and respond to the needs of women and girls. Working tirelessly within their communities, they aim to break the cycle of violence, empower women and girls, and improve structures to ensure accountability and justice.

**The photo shows** Doctor Rima Vekua in the South Caucasus.



## Strengthening SRHR and intersectionality in Rwanda

In 2023, Kvinna till Kvinna in Rwanda extended its reach by partnering with three new organisations, all led by young women: Afro Ark, Feminist Action for Development Ambition, and Impanuro Girls Initiative. These organisations collectively work with individual activists and social enterprises to advance sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) in Rwanda.

Because they serve marginalised communities, including the LGBTQIA+ community and women in prostitution, these partnerships further strengthen Kvinna till Kvinna's intersectional approach.



## VITAL SUPPORT FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN UKRAINE

Thanks to the support of Radiohjälpen, Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisations in Ukraine were able to assist women affected by violence amid the ongoing war. Together, we conducted a trip to Ukraine to observe the work and meet our partners and rights holders. An important aim was to raise awareness in Sweden of the current situation for women's rights and of our partners' work, through a film broadcast on SVT, the Swedish public service television company.

## LEGAL VICTORY AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN THE DRC

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, one of our partner organisations successfully ensured perpetrators of gender-based violence working in the security sector were brought to justice. It has long been a problem that military personnel, police, and armed groups commit sexual assault or other forms of gender-based violence without facing consequences. One of our local partner organisations, composed of young female lawyers, provided legal support to women and girls who had been subjected to gender-based violence. As a result, 23 cases against men working in the security sector were brought to court. All of them resulted in guilty verdicts—an important precedent!



## A SAFE SPACE FOR MARGINALISED GROUPS IN LEBANON

The belief that all people should have access to support, information, and services: that is what's at the core of the sexuality support hotline run by The A Project, one of Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisations in Lebanon. The first of its kind in the region, the hotline provides a safe, confidential space for people to ask any questions they may have related to gender, sexuality, sexual rights, reproductive justice, and sexual and reproductive health. Calls are answered by volunteers who are trained in sexuality counselling and who are well informed about sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). The project takes particular care to support women and trans individuals.

In addition to the hotline, The A Project offers solidarity groups and workshops for marginalised communities such as queer people, adolescents, refugees, migrants, and displaced citizens. Key activities include producing sex-positive multimedia, documenting personal narratives, and contributing to sexuality research in Lebanon.



Photo: Gloria Powell

Ninette Umurerwa, National Executive Secretary of Haguruka in Rwanda. Haguruka focuses on ending violence against women and girls and providing a safe, confidential spaces where they are listened to and given legal support by lawyers and counsellors.

## ADDRESSING SRHR CHALLENGES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

In the Middle East & North Africa, Kvinna till Kvinna's Iraq team led a regional project to improve understanding of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). From May to August, we held interactive sessions on adolescent health, family planning, and sexually transmitted infections for all our Iraqi partners, as well as participants from Syria, Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon, and Tunisia. During each session, approximately 30 participants had the opportunity to collaborate, share best practices, and strategise on how to best address SRHR challenges.

# NEW REPORT ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT

We launched several new reports in 2023! This includes our report *‘They came together not to be silenced: Gender-based violence and the role of women’s rights organisations’*. Based on case studies from Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, and Ukraine, it examined different forms of gender-based violence in conflict-affected areas and their long-term impact. We also highlighted the crucial role played by women’s rights organisations in supporting victims and survivors and preventing further violence.

Despite differences between the contexts, there are notable similarities in survivors’ experiences and the obstacles that activists face. One such similarity is the lack of government response and legal frameworks to address gender-based violence in conflict-affected countries. On top of that, survivors often face stigma and discrimination—as do children born from rape in conflict, who are often denied their basic human rights.

With this report, Kvinna till Kvinna aims to shed light on the complexities of gender-based violence, while acknowledging and highlighting the bravery, work, achievements, knowledge, and expertise of activists. The report also provides recommendations for the international community, donors, and governments to effectively and sustainably address gender-based violence in conflict-affected contexts.

During the autumn, we got to host several successful launch events, including at the Swedish Parliament and at the UN headquarters in New York City. The latter was co-hosted with the International Peace Institute and sponsored by the Permanent Representations of Sweden and Colombia. Both events included a panel with some of our partners from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and provided a space for important discussions on the role of women’s rights organisations in combatting gender-based violence.



**Dr Asmaa Jameel,**  
Professor at the University of Baghdad, Iraq.

**Often, women don’t dare to report rape, because of the stigma they and their family would face.**



Photo: Annika Flensburg

Jessica Poh-Janrell (Kvinna till Kvinna), Linnéa Wickman (Swedish parliamentarian), Sibar Khaleel (Kvinna till Kvinna), Lejla Gačanica (Kvinna till Kvinna), Mariia Kozubaska (Kvinna till Kvinna), Evelyne Ndipondjou (Kvinna till Kvinna), Katarina Tolgfors (Swedish parliamentarian).

## SUCCESSFUL EU ADVOCACY EFFORTS

In December, some of Kvinna till Kvinna’s EU advocacy efforts came to fruition: for the first time, domestic violence was explicitly incorporated into the EU Council Conclusions on Enlargement, in relation to both Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo. An important milestone!



## INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

Together with the Swedish Police Authority, Kvinna till Kvinna runs an international training programme on gender-based violence. Every year, the training supports professionals from key institutions and civil society organisations across the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe in their fight against gender-based violence.

2023 was no exception: over the course of three rounds of the programme, we provided training to a total of 64 participants from diverse backgrounds—from women’s rights activists to representatives of relevant ministries, police officers, prosecutors, and judges. We believe that a diverse group, especially one that represents the whole chain of justice, is key to efficiently combatting gender-based violence.





#### Our long-term goals

- Feminist and women's rights movements are more diverse and inclusive
- Feminist voices are amplified through joint action and coalition-building
- Feminist movements are secure, have ample resources and counter shrinking space

**We call for** increased and tailored funding for feminist and women's rights movements to make them stronger, more diverse and more well connected, and to maximise their potential to be influential and push back against shrinking space.

## BUILDING STRONG FEMINIST MOVEMENTS

In 2023, the women's movement grappled with the aftermath of a global pandemic, which made in-person meetings impossible and made activists' work environments even more challenging. Activists faced deeply worrying global trends such as rising anti-gender/anti-rights movements, democratic setbacks, funding cuts, and increased online/offline hostility, including hate speech and slander campaigns against activists.

Working towards stronger movements is perhaps more crucial than ever, and we have seen important efforts to overcome differences and foster unity. Safe spaces are a vital aspect of this work, providing a forum for activists to share experiences and strategies to shape a brighter future. This chapter provides examples of the transformative impact of these spaces, not least for strengthening solidarity among activists. In the words of a Liberian women's rights activist: "The movement will be stronger when women realise that we need to help each other, no matter who we are and where we come from".

In a climate in which actively advancing the rights of women and girls is a difficult task, there is still time to hold the line; to stand firm and collectively defend women's rights. Networking is essential for this: many activists experience the movement as their main source of strength and emphasise the importance of solidarity, both among activists and from the international community. Flexible funding and increased support are vital — it is nothing less than a matter of democracy to ensure the voices of women's rights activists are heard.



**The photo shows** Viktoriia Kharchenko and Maryna Tekuchova, Ukraine.

## A GROWING MOVEMENT IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

In November, over 30 women human rights defenders from ten conflict-affected countries in sub-Saharan Africa gathered for a second annual meeting, co-organised by Kvinna till Kvinna and the Life & Peace Institute in Nairobi. For the second year in a row, activists from diverse backgrounds came together to network and contribute with their unique perspectives. They shared updates on their progress of the past twelve months, highlighting their efforts to broaden the women’s movement in their countries and make it more inclusive. Participants mentioned they had worked hard to engage with those most marginalised to ensure their voices would be represented—including women with disabilities, women from the LGBTQIA+ community, women in prostitution, women living with HIV/AIDS, women from religious minorities, and women from indigenous and/or ethnically marginalised communities.



## PROVIDING FLEXIBLE SUPPORT IN CHANGING CONTEXTS

In the South Caucasus, many of Kvinna till Kvinna’s partner organisations reported that our flexibility has enabled them to adapt to a changing context. This was of particular importance in 2023, as it allowed our partners to effectively address the needs of women and girls in contexts such as the war in Ukraine, the blockade of the Lachin corridor, and during the displacement of the Armenian population from Nagorno-Karabakh. Partner organisations noted that Kvinna till Kvinna’s flexibility, adaptability, and sisterly approach have provided them with the support they need to be able to operate in the challenging contexts in which they exist—and most of all, to survive.



Photo: Women's Network of Bosnia and Herzegovina

## Protesting femicide in Bosnia and Herzegovina

In 2023, Bosnia and Herzegovina witnessed a surge in protests against rising femicide rates. Nationwide rallies organised on October 11th gained remarkable media attention—a reaction to the brutal murder of a woman in front of her baby, livestreamed on social media. The case highlighted the failure of the justice system to protect women who report violence, considering that the victim was denied court protection just days before she was murdered.

The wave of protests also showcased unprecedented unity among activists: women human rights defenders from different backgrounds came together to mobilise, connect, and foster a broader movement. Media coverage was extensive, which highlighted the importance of targeted media support when trying to achieve meaningful change. Several of our partner organisations were featured.



The photo shows anti-femicide protests in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## A push-back against shrinking space in Georgia

In March, Georgia’s civil society—led by women’s rights activists and organisations, including some of our current and former partner organisations—succeeded in pushing back against the adoption of a proposed ‘foreign agents’ law. This law threatened to significantly restrict and monitor international actors, donors, and the work of local civil society. While this is an important victory, the threat of the law’s adoption still looms over the region. This could have severe consequences for civil society’s vital role and result in civic space shrinking even further. Remaining united and vigilant to protect democratic values and ensure the continued freedom of civil society in Georgia is therefore vital.

Mariam Topchishvili works at Kvinna till Kvinna’s Georgian partner organisation Young Feminists.



Photo: Nuzela Grigolashvili



# A WAVE OF HARRASSMENT

For more than a decade, Kvinna till Kvinna has monitored the global security situation for women human rights defenders. In 2023, we published a report with our latest findings, based on survey responses from 458 activists in 67 countries around the world as well as 25 in-depth interviews.

The results are alarming: women human rights defenders and LGBTQIA+ activists report an increase in harassment and threats. 75% of survey respondents say this has affected them and their organisations. Moreover, one in three respondents report incidents against their families. Government and authorities primarily drive these threats, reflecting a global trend towards authoritarianism. Additionally, anti-gender movements, traditional and religious actors, and far-right groups contribute significantly to this wave of harassment.

While these developments are concerning, our report also highlights the strength and courage of women's and queer rights activists who offer resistance. Despite seemingly endless obstacles and mounting resistance, their determination is unwavering. They won't stop fighting for their rights any time soon. Still, they need urgent support. The international community must act to safeguard civic space. It must put pressure on governments and institutions to create a more open environment for women's and queer rights activists to work in. Funding is an essential aspect of that. If we want to prioritise gender equality, we must support women's and LGBTQIA+ rights movements.



Activist  
from Nicaragua

**In this world that seems to be getting harder, it's important to remember that we cannot lose hope. Because otherwise, nothing would happen. Hope and resistance go together.**



Download  
the report!

## 3 IN 4

STATE THAT THEY AND/OR THEIR ORGANISATIONS HAVE BEEN THREATENED OR HARASSED

## 1 IN 4

HAVE RECEIVED DEATH THREATS

## 55 %

STATE THAT THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT/AUTHORITIES ARE BEHIND THE THREATS



Olivia Promise Kabatesi,  
Founder & Country Director  
of Empower Rwanda.

#### Our long-term goals

- Women participate fully at all levels of leadership and decision-making
- Women effectively participate in political life
- Barriers to women's economic rights and justice (including access to and control over resources) are removed

**We call for** women's effective and equal participation in political and economic decision-making at all levels, as well as in economic reforms and post-conflict economic reconstruction plans. We call for economic gender justice and for women's equal access to and control over resources.



# STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

In 2023, women in conflict-affected countries faced significant challenges in accessing and exercising their political and economic rights. Conflict often exacerbated existing inequalities, limiting women's participation in decision-making processes and hindering their economic opportunities.

Overall, the year entailed both progress and setbacks. In certain conflict-affected areas, women made strides in political participation, with increased representation in peace negotiations and transitional governments. But progress was uneven: many women are still excluded from formal political institutions. Additionally, women's rights activists faced increased risks, including threats and violence, as they pushed for gender equality and inclusion in post-conflict governance.

Economically, conflict and the repercussions of covid-19 continued to disproportionately impact women, exacerbating poverty and inequality. Displacement, loss of livelihoods, and disrupted markets further constrained women's economic agency and independence. On top of that, the rise of the anti-gender movement threatened progress toward economic equality by promoting the idea that women should primarily focus on unpaid care-work. This stance overlooks the crucial role of the care economy, which is integral to both national and global economies, even though it is not accounted for in GDP calculations.

Resolving these challenges requires ongoing commitment from both governments and civil society to prioritise and safeguard women's rights in conflict and post-conflict settings. Despite obstacles, many of Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisations were able to make a positive difference in 2023. With these efforts, women's rights organisations continue to demonstrate resilience and effectiveness in advancing women's political and economic rights in conflict-affected areas.



## Vocational training for young Palestinians

Our Lebanese partner Association Najdeh runs a vocational training project to address the economic and social difficulties Palestinian refugees in Lebanon face. Vocational training involves learning specific skills for a particular job or career. In 2023, the organisation held 135 courses, which in turn benefitted 1,966 Palestinian youths aged 15 to 30.

These past seven years, the project has equipped participants with important vocational skills. Out of the graduates, 1,032 have secured jobs—a 52.5% employment rate. This highlights not only the effectiveness of vocational training, but also emphasises its impact on participants' economic and social well-being. The high employment rate reflects the enhanced abilities, knowledge, and skills of the youths, which enable them to overcome challenges and successfully enter the labour market. Despite obstacles, these young graduates demonstrate true resilience by striving to make a living and improve their own circumstances.

## MOBILISING FEMALE POLITICAL CANDIDATES

In the runup to the 2023 elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kvinna till Kvinna's local partner organisation Caucus des Femmes contributed to mobilising more women to join political parties, and run for office. Through support and education, and by encouraging coaching and mentoring between potential female candidates and already elected women, the organisation achieved important progress. Numerous women are now in influential roles within parties' women's associations and territorial bodies, actively shaping strategic agendas and decisions.

## ADVOCATING FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN SYRIA

Kesh Malek, one of Kvinna till Kvinna's Syrian partner organisations, is dedicated to advancing women's economic rights. Its 'Kafwe' project focuses on empowering Syrian women by providing them with the necessary skills and experience to access the job market and have a greater say in their society to achieve equal representation in the private and public sectors.

Raghdaa is one of the participants of the project. Since her husband's passing nine years ago, she has been the sole provider for her two children. Despite the significant caregiving responsibilities she shoulders, she got a university degree and became an advocate for women's political participation in Syria. Participating in the project has strengthened her knowledge and her commitment to fighting for women's rights, says Raghdaa—but it has also benefitted her on a personal level:

**"I have gained support and self-confidence, strengthening my resilience in the face of life's and society's challenges. This newfound confidence has empowered me to pursue various job opportunities aligned with my aspirations, promising a better quality of life. I recently had a job interview that went exceptionally well."**

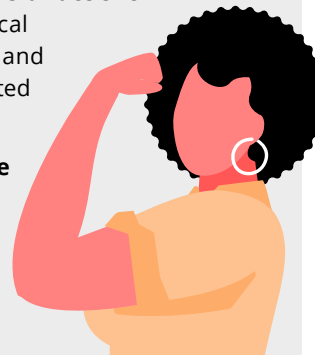


Photo: Maja Janeska Ilieva

**In North Macedonia**, our partner organisation Association for Persons with Cerebral Palsy and other Disabilities (APCPOD) works to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, including women and girls. From access to education and social and health services, to housing and employment: women and girls with disabilities often face a number of unique challenges. Through its social services, APCPOD actively combats the invisibility and inequalities experienced by women with disabilities—particularly in the realm of employment.

In 2023, the organisation implemented 'Together We Are Stronger', a project to economically empower women and girls by facilitating their access to the labour market. By offering a range of capacity-building opportunities, APCPOD strives to break down barriers and promote inclusivity. Women and girls from various municipalities actively engaged in sessions addressing discrimination, stigma, and exclusion. The sessions also promoted intersectionality, highlighting gender disparities within the context of disabilities.

**Daliborka Zlateva,**  
President of the Association of Persons  
with Cerebral Palsy and Other Disabilities.

**Systemic solutions are key, but until they are in place, APCPOD fills the gaps ignored by institutions.**



In front of the EU Parliament in Brussels. Dafina Prekazi Pallaska, Kosovar Gender Studies Center, Kosovo. Anita Lushi, Albanian Women Empowerment Network, Albania. Ines Leskaj, Albanian Women Empowerment Network, Albania. Brikena Puka, Vatra, Psychosocial Center, Albania. Valmire Rashiti, Kosovo Women's Network, Kosovo.

## KVINNA TILL KVINNA'S ANNUAL BRUSSELS ADVOCACY WEEK

In collaboration with regional colleagues, our Brussels office organised several advocacy weeks for partners from the Western Balkans, South Caucasus, and Ukraine. The aim was to present recommendations to the EU regarding candidate countries' accession processes, with a focus on enhancing gender equality and democracy.

One of these weeks was extra special—it marked our first visit to Brussels together with our Ukrainian partners! It was a valuable opportunity for them to learn about the EU, messaging and effective advocacy towards the EU institutions. Their positive feedback affirmed the shared interest and potential for collaboration, as evident in our fruitful discussions with EU institutions and parliamentarians.

### Boosting political engagement for safer elections

In August, we co-organised a hybrid training day with our Liberian partner organisation WONGOSOL. The goal was to help local partners write more effective advocacy statements and assist them in mobilising for change. As the country was preparing for elections at the time, the workshop came at an opportune moment.

Afterwards, the new 'PASSWAR' project was set up, to advance women's political engagement and empower and protect the rights of female political candidates. 'PASSWAR' published four joint political statements, which we believe helped reduce violence against women candidates during the elections, resulting in a more peaceful transition of power.

### SHAPING THE WORLD BANK'S GENDER STRATEGY

In 2023, Kvinna till Kvinna kept up its ongoing efforts to influence the World Bank's gender strategy through various meetings and networking initiatives. This included facilitating online consultations between the World Bank and our partners to ensure the inclusion of diverse perspectives, and producing a policy brief with recommendations to inform discussions. Moreover, we facilitated networking between World Bank representatives and our colleagues and partners during the Women Deliver 2023 conference in Rwanda. This allowed for productive conversations about the gender strategy and empowered our partners to maintain close ties with the World Bank. During the 2023 Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund in Marrakech, Morocco, Kvinna till Kvinna co-arranged several events at the Civil Society Policy Forum.

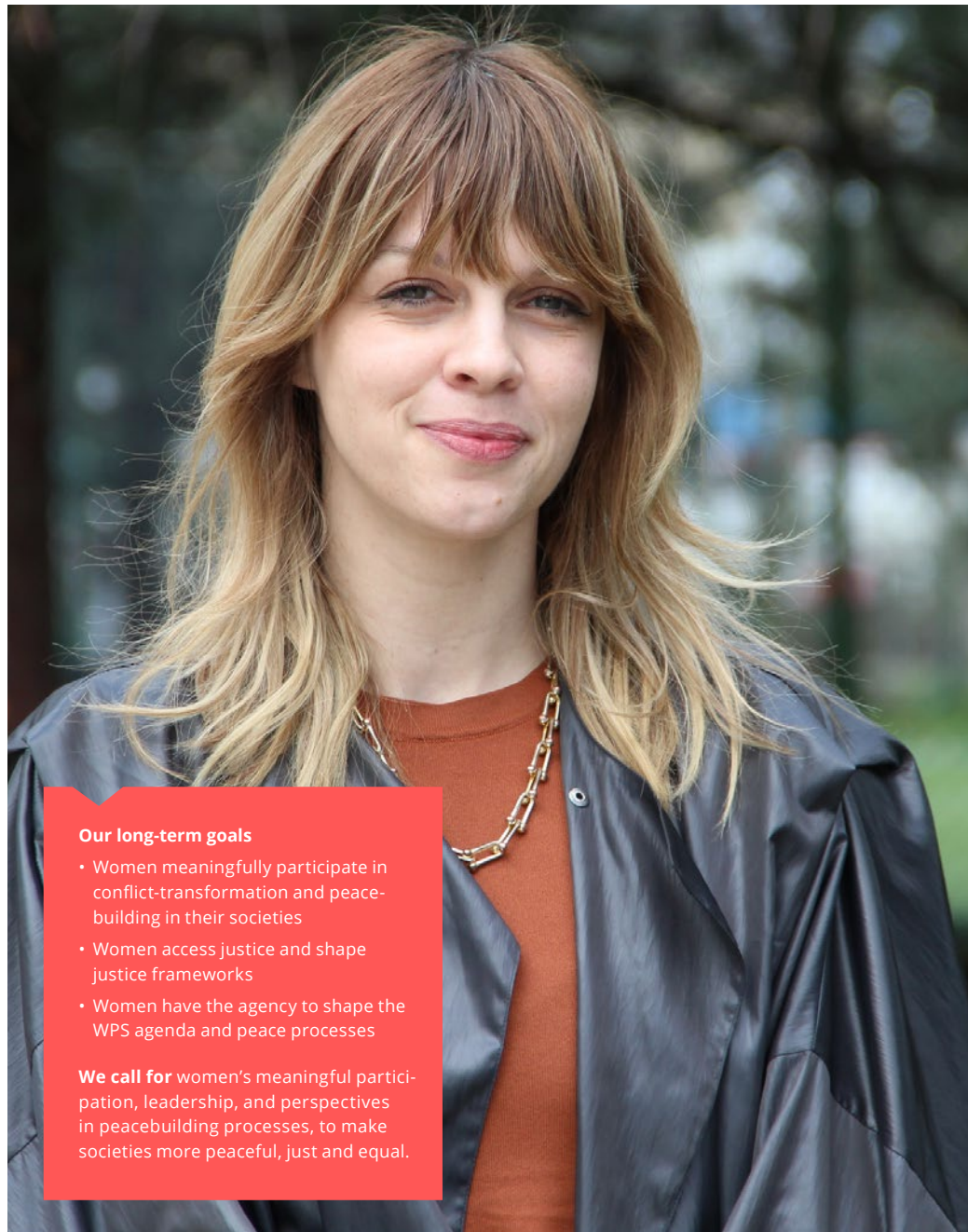
## ADVOCATING FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS UNDER RWANDA'S UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

For the first time, Rwandan women's rights organisations formed a coalition to collectively influence the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mid-term reporting. Rwanda's most recent report was issued in 2021, with mid-term reporting due in 2023 and final period reporting in 2025. Under the leadership of our partner organisation Haguruka, a coalition of 17 women's rights organisations was formed. Together, they reviewed Rwanda's mid-term progress against its UPR recommendations. They focused on gender equality and women's rights and presented 16 recommendations to the Rwandan government. These included measures to increase women's representation in decentralised government and the private sector; addressing the gender pay gap and harassment faced by women in the media profession; and increasing budgets for better reintegration of victims and survivors of gender-based violence into the community.

### What is the Universal Periodic Review?

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) refers to all 193 UN Member States reviewing each other's human rights records and making recommendations on how to improve them. Civil society can submit shadow reports during their country's UPR cycle, providing crucial additional information on human rights progress.





#### Our long-term goals

- Women meaningfully participate in conflict-transformation and peace-building in their societies
- Women access justice and shape justice frameworks
- Women have the agency to shape the WPS agenda and peace processes

**We call for** women's meaningful participation, leadership, and perspectives in peacebuilding processes, to make societies more peaceful, just and equal.

## BUILDING PEACE ACROSS DIVIDES



Global peace and security are deteriorating. The world 2023 was in a stage of 'polycrisis'. Increased levels of conflicts, economic hardship, and the environmental and climate crisis all struck peoples around the globe leading to a record high displacement—affecting women and girls particularly hard. At the same time military spending rose to an all-time high.

Kvinna till Kvinna works towards a feminist peace, which means we want everyone to thrive and enjoy human security in an inclusive, gender-equal society free from structural and physical violence. 'Feminist peace' describes our approach to peace and comprehensive security for all, with a focus on conflict-transformation. We do not just work to contain violence; we also focus on conflict-prevention, conflict-resolution, social cohesion, trust-building and dialogue, resilience, and post-conflict reconstruction. Justice is also central to our understanding of peace: Kvinna till Kvinna aims to help address current and past injustices and support women in gaining access to, and shaping, justice mechanisms and frameworks.

In 2023, several of our partner organisations contributed to conflict-prevention, including by participating in early-warning mechanisms and dialogue across divides. They also worked to resolve active violent conflicts by lobbying high-level stakeholders and participating in political and peace processes. In post-conflict or 'frozen' contexts, our partners continue to engage communities in dialogue, raise awareness of women's experiences of war and contributions to peace, and encourage peaceful coexistence.

**The photo shows** Anita Stjepčević, Project Coordinator at Women's Right Center in Montenegro.



Photo: Artpolis

**Our partner organisations** Alternative Girls' Centre (Serbia) and Artpolis (Kosovo) organised the tenth edition of their Feminist Spring School this year. Since 2014, this activity has been one of few initiatives for feminist peace striving to connect young women from Serbia and Kosovo. In a climate of deteriorating mutual relations and official narratives of hostility and intolerance, the Feminist Spring School offers an autonomous, feminist space to re-examine the violent past, and think about a common future.

Thirty young women with different ethnic and professional profiles participated in the Feminist Spring School through two modules—one held in Serbia, the other one in Kosovo. They all shared a desire to break prejudices, build bridges, and realise new ways of feminist organising. Permanent networks of exchange and cooperation were established, with the crowning initiative being a new Alumni Network that will bring together over a hundred participants from previous editions of the Feminist Spring School.

The Feminist Spring School is more than just a platform that addresses topics overlooked in formal education: it is also a catalyst for fresh perspectives and emerging activists, contributing to a more inclusive and vibrant feminist movement.

## A gendered approach to peace and conflict analysis in Georgia

In 2023, our partner organisation Social Justice Center (SJC) revealed itself to be a prominent actor in peace and conflict analysis in Georgia, with a human security perspective. From the start of the year, the organisation actively engaged in all significant conceptual discussions and debates on gender and conflict, peacebuilding, and the re-evaluation of social cohesion and peaceful conflict-resolution in Georgia.

SJC is now one of the major civil society actors that advocate at the national level for gendered perspectives in local communities, including those in Abkhazia. The organisation has managed to earn trust across ethnic lines, engaging with both Abkhazia-based ethnic Abkhaz and ethnic Georgian communities. It has also authored numerous reports and articles, challenging notions of nationalism and redefining peace in Georgia.

SJC's efforts have increased knowledge and awareness of female political figures, who expressed greater interest in conflict-related issues and became more alert to human rights violations in conflict-affected communities.



Photo: Zorica Hodžić

## PROMOTING PEACEBUILDING THROUGH ART

In August, our partner Rezon Association hosted its 12th annual Street Art Festival in Bosnia and Herzegovina's Mostar, a city still grappling with division since the 1990s' conflict. The festival brought together hundreds of visual and graffiti artists, musicians, dancers, and local, national, and international visitors to reimagine the city's narrative and advocate peaceful coexistence, and a positive transformation of urban identity.

Through vibrant expressions of art, the festival aimed to draw attention to dilapidated buildings in Mostar that have been abandoned since the war, sparking reflection among citizens about the potential of public spaces and possible ways of (re)using them. With its festival, Rezon tries to bring about peace in a natural way, by initiating dialogue and inspiring positive change and collective healing.



## Promoting peace across ethnic lines

In 2023, tensions between Kosovo and Serbia reached new heights, further complicating peacebuilding efforts in the region. Since Kosovo’s declaration of independence from Serbia in 2008, the dispute over its status has remained unresolved, with Serbia refusing to recognise Kosovo as an independent nation. This ongoing dispute has led to uncertainty and sporadic clashes between ethnic groups, exacerbating the already volatile situation.

Amid these challenges, the women’s movement has been one of few actors that have been successful crossing ethnic lines to engage in dialogue for peace. Women activists continue to achieve important victories in bridging ethnic divisions and engaging in meaningful dialogue across communities to promote reconciliation and understanding. They have also managed to unite women politicians.

Sadly, 2023 brought new obstacles for organisations dedicated to peacebuilding in Kosovo and Serbia. Escalating tensions between the two countries made it increasingly difficult for Kvinna till Kvinna’s partner organisations to operate effectively, as advocating for peace is often hindered and considered unpatriotic. This can also pose significant risks to those working to build bridges across conflict boundaries. Providing safe spaces for women activists and peacebuilders to connect has therefore become more important.

## YOUTH, PEACE, AND SECURITY IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

Kvinna till Kvinna’s South Caucasus team held a Youth, Peace, and Security meeting, bringing together women from across the region for an intergenerational dialogue. Propaganda and misleading nationalist news fuel conflicts and tensions in the area. But Gen Z outpaces traditional authoritarians: it has created its own Signal group to communicate and be able to swiftly verify news across borders. Insights from the Youth, Peace, and Security initiative in the South Caucasus have been included in a dedicated policy brief.

The brief serves as a comprehensive resource that encapsulates the knowledge and experiences of the young women involved.



Petra Tötterman Andorff,  
Secretary-General,  
Kvinna till Kvinna.

**Feminist  
peace means  
inclusivity  
and security  
for all.**

Photo: Mojca Janeska Iljenc



## A CALL TO ACTION FOR LASTING FEMINIST PEACE

In March, Kvinna till Kvinna organised a feminist peace conference in Skopje, North Macedonia, bringing together more than 120 women human rights defenders, feminist activists, and academics from across the Western Balkans, Ukraine, the South Caucasus, Iraq, and Sweden. The conference addressed women’s rights and feminist organisations’ role in peacebuilding and conflict-transformation. It provided a platform for discussions on urgent issues and highlighted the need for the international community to uphold its commitments.

Over the course of three days, participants shared experiences and discussed issues such as feminist peace and security, memory politics and memory activism, the root causes of structural violence and power inequalities, shrinking civic space, and the importance of funding for women civil society organisations. On the final day, over 60 representatives from entities like UN Women, the OSCE, and the Council of Europe, international NGOs, embassies, and academic institutions joined to engage with activists, who emphasised how important it is to invest in enduring peace—feminist peace.

## KVINNA TILL KVINNA'S EMERGENCY FUND

Kvinna till Kvinna's emergency fund allowed us to provide emergency relief to partners in Ukraine, Syria, Rwanda, Tunisia, Palestine, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Armenia this year. These countries all faced major challenges in 2023, either due to human-caused conflict or natural disasters. Several natural disasters—an earthquake in Syria and flooding in both Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo—impacted the initiatives we support. These catastrophes had devastating effects on local communities and once again revealed the unique impact they tend to have on women and girls. Additionally, Israel's war against Gaza led to atrocious abuse of women and terrible destruction in Gaza. This had a major effect on our local partners, who were forced to pause certain activities to focus on people's immediate humanitarian needs.

Overall, Kvinna till Kvinna distributed SEK 1.5 million in emergency relief to partner organisations in 2023. This was made possible by generous support to our emergency fund from our private and corporate donors in Sweden.



## GAZA PARTNERS NOW HUMANITARIAN HEROES

Since October 7th, the humanitarian crisis in Gaza has been beyond catastrophic. Our local partner organisations, Aisha Association for Woman and Child Protection and Women's Affairs Center, shifted their focus to provide humanitarian aid instead. Displaced from Gaza City to the southern area near Rafah, many have lost their homes, family members, and colleagues. Even though they now face dire conditions, they have tirelessly provided essential support. This includes distributing hygiene kits and food coupons to women and families, offering cash assistance to displaced individuals, and recently establishing a kitchen to prepare meals for displaced families living in tents.

**The photo shows** Gaza in 2023.



Photo: Mohammed Zannoun

## A feminist response to the earthquake in Syria

Women and girls are affected disproportionately and in unique ways by crises and humanitarian disasters. After the devastating earthquake in northern Turkey and Syria on February 6th, the disruption of basic health care services posed a serious threat to the immediate and longer-term health of millions of women and girls.

With support from Kvinna till Kvinna's emergency fund, our Syrian partner organisation Women Now for Development (WND) was able to respond in a swift, feminist way, addressing both team and community needs. Among other things, they provided psychological support and distributed so-called dignity kits with hygiene essentials such as soap, sanitiser, menstrual pads, toothbrushes, underwear and more.





Photo: Johanna Riedel

## A PLAY TO HONOUR WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS



**November 29th** is the International Day for Women Human Rights Defenders. This year, Kvinna till Kvinna commemorated this day by staging the internationally acclaimed documentary play 'SEVEN' in Stockholm. The play presents the true and often shocking stories of seven women from seven different countries who, just like Kvinna till Kvinna's partners, bravely fight for the well-being and rights of women in their communities and countries.

We invited representatives of Sweden's business community (including our corporate donors) to raise awareness of the alarming situation of women human rights defenders around the world, and to emphasise the need for strong allies and collaborative partnerships with the private sector.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended and to our seven strong actresses and artists for their support and outstanding performance: Eva Röse, Linnéa Claesson, Ala Riani, Stina Wollter, Clara Henry, Elaf Ali, and Zinat Pirzadeh!



### CREATING FEMINIST JEWELLERY

Since 2021, Kvinna till Kvinna has been a beneficiary of the Swedish jewellery brand Edblad's 'Helping Hand' project. Each year, Edblad designs a collection to support a particular organisation. In 2023, it introduced *Femmes*—a collection symbolising sisterhood and strength, inspired by the resilience of the women human rights defenders we support.

**For every piece sold, Edblad donated SEK 50 to us.**



### KVINNA TILL KVINNA PARTNERS WITH BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION

In 2023, Kvinna till Kvinna embarked on an exciting new journey: with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, we initiated a project to uphold Sweden's leadership in the fight for global gender equality. Our goal is to encourage decision-makers across the political spectrum to prioritise gender equality and maintain Sweden's status as a global leader in this field. Building on our experience as a longtime watchdog and dialogue partner to the Swedish government, we aim to encourage Sweden to hold the line and remain a global leader on gender equality, both in terms of political and financial commitments. Our new project combines advocacy and communication to target actors like the government, parliamentarians, and the general public. It aims to safeguard the broad support for global gender equality that has been a hallmark of Swedish foreign and development policy.

### Thank you to The Swedish Postcode Lottery!

We are immensely grateful to The Swedish Postcode Lottery for continuing to support us and our partner organisations with a generous donation of SEK 12 million! This support enables our partners to carry on their relentless work to prevent gender-based violence, foster social change and advocate women's inclusion in decision-making.

We are also extremely grateful for the Lottery's donation of an additional SEK 9.9 million to Kvinna till Kvinna's new leadership programme. Over the next four years, this project will equip young women in Sweden who come from a migration background with the tools to counteract segregation and foster engagement in the areas they live and work in.

**"It means so much that the Lottery believes in us. With this trust, we can now support numerous dynamic young women in Sweden, helping them become the leaders we believe the world needs,"** says Petra Tötterman Andorff, Secretary-General at Kvinna till Kvinna.



Photo: Inirana Capetronic

Bojana Mumin, Ines Latic, Belma Becirbasic, Emina Durmo, Kvinna till Kvinna in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Photo: Marcus Frenberg



## A scarf to support gender equality

Teaming up with designer Madeleine Ljungqvist allowed us to launch a limited-edition scarf: our solidarity scarf, created to celebrate women across the world and all those who have paved the way in the fight for gender equality.

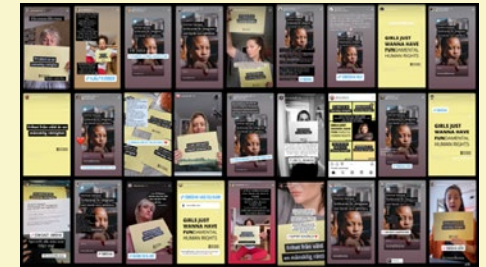


**Madeleine Ljungqvist,**  
designer

**With this design, I wanted to convey the message that we all stand united for women's rights. Because within unity lies tremendous strength.**

## THANK YOU TO OUR **150,000+** FOLLOWERS!

Kvinna till Kvinna continues to grow and raise awareness of women's rights on social media! In 2023, we saw a 6.8% increase in followers across our Swedish and international channels, bringing the total to over 150,000 followers.



### CAMPAINING FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Every year on March 8th, the world celebrates International Women's Day—a call to action for accelerating gender equality and standing up for women's rights. In Sweden, Kvinna till Kvinna carried out an awareness-raising and fundraising campaign, sharing messages and promoting knowledge of women's rights issues on social media. The campaign was a rousing success, with thousands of people engaging with our content.

## A ROYAL REVOLUTION

Time has stood still for the deck of cards. Throughout history, the queen has typically been attributed a lower value than the king. To challenge that norm, Kvinna till Kvinna released a limited deck of cards in 2023: 'Be The Change', in which the queen has a higher value than the king.

We wanted to playfully draw attention to how easy it is to get stuck in familiar thought patterns and old traditions. The idea behind the deck was to raise questions about gender equality, hierarchy, and why women are considered less valuable in different parts of the world.



Photo: Marcus Frenberg



**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.



Photo: Maja Trendin

## THE BOARD 2023

### DEVIRIM MAVI

**Chairperson | Born 1970**

Office manager at  
The Swedish Disability Rights Federation.  
Active on the board since 2014.

### MALIN ALMROTH

**Deputy chairperson | Born 1990**

Coordinator at Victim Support Sweden.  
Active on the board since 2019.

### CARINA ANDERSSON

**Secretary | Born 1963**

Unit manager at the Swedish Red Cross.  
Active on the board since 2019.

### TOVE AHLSTRÖM

**Board member | Born 1977**

Sustainability expert.  
Active on the board since 2023.

### LISEN BERGQUIST

**Board member | Born 1987**

Advocacy manager at Friends.  
Active on the board since 2019.

### JOHANNA MANNERGREN

**Board member | Born 1966**

Lecturer.  
Active on the board since 2019.

### TSEHAINESH TEKLEAB

**Board member | Born 1970**

Environmental strategist.  
Active on the board since 2019.

### DAVID MILLER

**Substitute | Born 1974**

Case officer at Save the Children.  
Active on the board since 2023.

### SEINAB HILOWLE

**Substitute | Born 1987**

Specialist at RFSU.  
Active on the board since 2023.

### ANNA VIGDIS GUSTAVSSON

**Substitute | Born 1991**

Business developer at the Swedish Red Cross.  
Active on the board since 2023.

## 3 questions to board member Malin Almroth

### How would you summarise the past year?

That's a hard question, because so much happened around the world in 2023. Sadly, the main development may have been increasing anti-gender sentiment, nationalism, and militarisation, with many lives lost as a result. It's clear that Kvinna till Kvinna and its partner organisations are needed more than ever.

### What made you proudest?

I feel proud that I'm part of an organisation that so tirelessly supports women's organising, advances feminist peace, and combats violence against women, especially in these times when doing so is harder than ever. At Kvinna till Kvinna, we stick together, and all contribute in our own way—that's a fantastic strength.

### What will the main challenge be in 2024?

I'm worried about the fragile geopolitical state of the world and the funding cuts civil society is facing. Fear and uncertainty silence people, and silence in turn enables violence. We need to keep speaking out, keep finding ways to support the women's movement. Because ignoring women's rights would cost society so much more.



Photo: Maria Singh

## ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2023

The board of The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation hereby issues its annual accounts for the financial year of 2023.

### Administrative report

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.

Today, we are one of the world's leading women's rights organisations, with roughly 151 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 it was founded, Kvinna till Kvinna brought together Sweden's peace and women's movements. Three dozen organisations in these fields have supported us ever since.

### Significant events during the year

2023 once again brought significant challenges for Kvinna till Kvinna and its partner organisations. The war in Ukraine, global economic developments, and Sweden's new development cooperation policy resulted in harsh financial consequences for the organisation and anxiety and worry for staff. Several natural disasters—an earthquake in Syria and flooding in both Rwanda and the DRC—also affected the work we support. These catastrophes had devastating effects on local societies and revealed once more how women tend to be hit hardest by such events. Israel's war against Gaza has not only led to atrocious abuse of women and terrible destruction in Gaza, but has also affected our local partners, which have had to pause certain activities to focus on people's acute humanitarian needs instead. Around the world, the women's rights movement has continued to face headwinds, which means we and our partners have to spend a lot of time and resources on security and risk management. Thanks to The Swedish Postcode Lottery, we have been able to expand our operations in Sweden. This year, we started planning and recruiting participants for a leadership programme for young migrant women.

On a more joyful note, 2023 marked 30 years of Kvinna till Kvinna! We celebrated our anniversary where our story began: in the Western Balkans. More than 100 partners and colleagues joined us in the region to discuss feminist peace.

### Below are a few examples of our work in 2023

**Feminist peace:** Our new Georgian partner organisation Young Feminists creates safe spaces where girls and women get to talk feminism and share personal experiences. This has already made it easier for the inhabitants of several local communities to discuss conflict and peace. Young Feminists has also contributed to public debate about the connection between women and peacebuilding by arranging meetings on the issue. On top of that, the

organisation organised an art project this year: portraits captured prominent women's life stories and perspectives, exploring these women's thoughts on peace. The innovative visual storytelling project advanced peace-building and gave multiple young women the opportunity to have more of a say in their communities and help build a peaceful society.

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

Our partner organisation Slavic Heart was founded in 2014 in Sviatohirsk in the Donetsk region of Ukraine, to help those affected by the conflict in the east of the country and protect women from (conflict-related) gender-based violence. Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Slavic Heart has been scaling up its work. It now runs women's centres in the east of Ukraine, prioritising women who are particularly vulnerable: those living along the border with Russia, women with disabilities, internally displaced women, Roma women, elderly women, and women living with HIV. Slavic Heart also raises awareness among women of how to protect oneself from gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence, and offers victims/survivors legal support. On top of that, the organisation has trained Ukrainian public officials, introducing them to victim/survivor-centric ways of assisting women who have been subjected to gender-based violence and/or conflict-related sexual violence.

**Economic and political rights:** Our Tunisian partner Aswat Nissa arranged a series of leadership trainings for women this year. The initiative went beyond just training a select group of women, though: the underlying goal was community-mobilisation—a collective effort to reclaim the power that women have been denied for so long. Those who were selected for the programme all worked in agriculture. Every day, these women face challenges because their jobs are in the informal sector. Aswat Nissa wants to empower women in agriculture and equip them with the



tools to be(come) female leaders who defend their own rights. The project consisted of several steps: mobilising working women, offering capacity-building training, arranging meetings with public officials, and raising awareness in the media.

Since an earthquake rocked northern Syria (and southern Turkey) in February 2023, our partner Badael has been helping multiple local organisations through its civil society support programme (CSSP). The organisation has focused on shining a spotlight on and raising awareness of the unique needs of certain groups—especially women—that should be taken into account when coordinating humanitarian assistance. One of the organisations that took part in Badael’s training workshops, advisory sessions, and exchanges of experiences was an NGO that promotes the rights of adolescents and women in northern Syria. We also gave Badael financial support for a campaign to raise awareness of women’s rights and women’s role during catastrophes and subsequent aid efforts. The campaign made women in the area more aware of their rights, which in turn led to them getting more involved in local decision-making.

**A growing women’s rights movement:** More than 30 women human rights defenders from ten conflict-affected countries in sub-Saharan Africa took part in Kvinna till Kvinna’s annual meeting in November. Hailing from different backgrounds and parts of society, they all contributed to the discussions in valuable ways. They talked about the progress they had been making since the year before, including their work to actively reach out to people who weren’t (yet) part of the women’s movement, to broaden the movement and make it more inclusive. The activists had got in touch with at-risk/marginalised groups like women with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ women, women in prostitution, women with HIV/AIDS, Muslim women, and indigenous women, to make sure their voices would be heard and represented by the women’s rights movement.

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

We keep raising more and more funds from private and corporate donors in Sweden. We conducted three major fundraising campaigns this year: one around International Women’s Day, focusing on the legacy of historical women’s rights defenders; a summer campaign about men’s violence against women; and a Christmas campaign, centring on sexual violence during war and conflict. Together, these campaigns raised a significant amount of money, led to new monthly donors signing up, and increased our visibility among influencers and in major media channels.

We have also become more popular on social media. In 2023, we gained 6.8% more followers across our Swedish and international channels; we now have more than 150,000 social media followers! Slightly less people visited our website, though, but this may be due to the sudden spike in web visits we witnessed in 2022, when we launched our incredibly popular election compass.

We remain a faithful partner of The Swedish Postcode Lottery, which generously offered us even more funding this year. Thanks to the Lottery’s support, we can keep helping our partner organisations and the global women’s rights movement strengthen women’s rights. The Lottery has also enabled us to conduct a project in Sweden. This year, for example, we started a programme to foster the leadership skills of young women with a migration background. During the programme, these future leaders will run projects across Sweden, in places plagued by security issues and segregation. The goal of the leadership programme is to reduce violence and insecurity and raise awareness of gender equality and women’s rights. The programme is largely financed by The Swedish Postcode Lottery (where it is part of the Lottery’s range of “Dream Projects”), but also partially by Kronprinsessan Margaretas Minnesfond.

In 2022, Kvinna till Kvinna launched a crisis fund, to be able to quickly react to emergencies and catastrophes in the countries we operate in. We have kept raising money

for this fund from private as well as corporate donors, which allowed us to provide emergency relief to partners in Ukraine, Syria, Rwanda, Tunisia, Palestine, the DRC, and Armenia this year. These countries all faced major challenges in 2023, either because of man-made conflict or natural disasters. In 2023, private and corporate donors contributed SEK 1,513,544 million to our emergency fund.

In November artists performed the play ‘SEVEN’ in Stockholm, which focuses on the alarming conditions faced by women’s rights activists around the world. Seven talented actresses and artists took to the scene: Eva Röse, Linnéa Claeson, Ala Riani, Stina Wollter, Clara Henry, Elaf Ali and Zinat Pirzadeh. The audience got to hear the shocking and true stories of seven women from seven different countries who all bravely fight for women’s rights in their respective communities. The performance was attended by representatives of the Swedish business sector, as we also wanted to strengthen Kvinna till Kvinna’s ties with the private sector.

### **Important publications 2023**

The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation was founded in Sweden in the nineties, as reports of sexual violence in the Western Balkans reached Scandinavia. In 2023, we marked our thirtieth anniversary by launching a new report about sexual violence in conflict, ‘They Came Together Not to Be Silenced’. Several actors, including donors and UN bodies, showed significant interest in the publication. We also published a new edition of our recurring report on the situation for women human rights defenders around the world. The report’s unfortunate conclusion was that activists face increasing levels of hatred and threats. Lastly, we launched the seventh edition of ‘Women’s Rights in the Western Balkans’, in the European Parliament in autumn.

### Method, development and quality-assurance

We began implementing our new global strategy this year, whose main goals are promoting feminist peace, combating gender-based violence, advancing women's political and economic rights, and continuing to support women's mobilisation. To take practical steps towards achieving these goals, we successfully developed more strategic planning and follow-up tools. We are now able to produce more accurate thematic analyses of our activities, and have an excellent tool to monitor developments in the countries we work in. All of this has made us even better equipped to manage our operations.

We also redeveloped and simplified our risk-management routines and process this year, to make it easier to identify and mitigate risks. All our offices now have security plans in place that are updated once a year. As a reaction to the war in Gaza, which has left activists in the Middle East feeling very concerned, we developed and/or updated evacuation plans for our offices in the region.

Lastly, we spent quite a bit of time broadening our funding base and creating new processes and routines to apply for project funding. New donors got in touch with us as a result, which enabled us to successfully attract new funding.

### 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) have been conducted in compliance with our Articles of Association. Since mid-1993, we have disbursed SEK 2,694 million in monetary support, of which SEK 206.2 million was disbursed in 2023.

### 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. Environmental considerations, 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 2023, we raised SEK 24 million through donations and fundraising (or SEK 25.6 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 from them.

### Allocations and grants

In 2023, Kvinna till Kvinna distributed SEK 94 million in financial support to 151 partner organisations in sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), the South Caucasus and Europe. Furthermore, SEK 100 million financed programme planning & monitoring, project management, partner advisory and capacity-building.

### Net profit/loss for the year

We had a net loss of SEK 2.535 million this year. In 2022, for comparison, our net loss amounted to SEK 272,000. Kvinna till Kvinna has been hit hard by changes implemented at Sida at the start of the year. Our Sida Communication Grant, which amounted to about SEK 3 million and which funded part of our communication work, was cancelled, while other Sida grants were reduced. These include our CIVSAM funding and Sida's support for our regional work in the Middle East. We will no longer receive any support from Sida for the latter once we have submitted our Middle East report for 2023. As a result, we have had to let several employees go, both in Stockholm and in programme countries affected by these funding cuts.

For detailed financial accounts, see the following income statement, balance sheet, cash flow statement and notes.

### Sustainability

In our annual planning, we continue to follow up on our efforts to become a greener, more sustainable and more climate-friendly organisation. Our individual offices are implementing their own climate plans. Changes we made during the pandemic, like conducting more online meetings instead of travelling to meet up in person, have become routine, which means we aim to fly less as an organisation. We have also witnessed increasing interest in analysing and working to mitigate the effect of the climate crisis on women's rights, so these kinds of projects are becoming more common in all regions.

Overall, 2023 was a year of great uncertainty, both in terms of our financial situation and the ever more difficult circumstances women's rights activists have to work in. That is why we continuously work to strengthen our internal security, including by trying to reduce stress among staff. One step we have taken to achieve this is conducting employee surveys about our work environment.

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

In 2024, our focus will be on continuing to strengthen our private and institutional fundraising. Funding remains the gravest element of uncertainty we face, as a result of Sweden's new development cooperation policy and the fact that our most important global contract with Sida, which was originally intended to be a five-year contract, now only covers 2024. We do not yet know whether there is a possibility of this grant being extended. This is a matter we will be discussing with Sida in 2024. Our operations in the Western Balkans will undergo major changes in 2024: we have receiving funding from the UK government that will allow us to expand our work in the region. We will be cooperating with new partner organisations that support women human rights defenders in an ever more brutal



environment in which anti-gender movements are steadily gaining in power. The security of the Balkan women's rights movement will be one of our top priorities.

### Employees and regional offices

At the end of 2023, we had a total of 123 employees. Of our 65 employees in Stockholm, 59 worked at the head office while the remainder were deployed in our programme countries. At our programme offices, 58 staff members were locally or nationally employed. Adjusted for those on leave of absence, substitute employees and employees on short-term contracts, we employed an average of 125 employees this year.

An average of 56 employees worked in our programme countries, 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, Sarajevo and Skopje in Europe.

During the year, activities have been carried out within, among other things, Systematic work environment work based on employee surveys has been implemented. Measures have included:

- Continued strengthened employer-union relationship with high trust, despite challenging reorganization processes.
- Further developed the introduction process, which aims to generate a deeper knowledge and commitment for Kvinna till Kvinna.
- Measures taken to increase safety and "duty of care".
- Training in stress management and organisational and psychosocial work environment.
- The organization has also updated the global salary policy with the aim of giving all employees access to clear guidelines that describe how salaries are both determined and reviewed, which ensures transparency and fairness.

### Administration

Kvinna till Kvinna was originally 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, communication, finance, and HR & security. The senior management team comprises 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). This year, four new members joined the board.

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 as well as 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 2023.

## Board members

2023

7 board meetings were held in 2023	Attendance
	1 January - 31 December
Devrim Mavi	7
Malin Almroth	7
Johanna Mannergren	6
Tsehainesh Tekleab	6
Carina Andersson	6
Lisen Bergquist	6
Tove Ahlström*	3
David Miller*	5
Seinab Hilowe*	4
Anna Vigdis Gustavsson*	2
Maria Appelblom**	2
Lars Jalmert**	2
Kajsa Wejryd**	2
Lena Backhausen**	2

\*Newly elected May 2023 / \*\*Resigned May 2023

## Multi-year overview

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
<b>General conditions</b>					
Number of partner organisations	151	140	140	151	149
Average number of employees	125	134	132	129	126
<b>Result (thousand SEK)</b>					
Operating income	221 282	217 516	196 370	201 562	200 989
Fundraising and donations	24 050	23 848	22 845	24 611	16 242
Allocations and grants	194 742	192 671	172 569	172 475	181 199
Net turnover (webshop)	212	255	349	207	232
Other sources of income	2 278	742	608	4 269	3 316
Operating expenses	-224 127	-218 551	-195 535	-192 004	-199 786
Net operating result	-2 845	-1 035	836	9 558	1 203
Profit/loss from financial investments	398	763	202	159	-471
<b>Net profit/loss for the year</b>	<b>-2 535</b>	<b>-272</b>	<b>1 001</b>	<b>9 569</b>	<b>668</b>
<b>Financial position</b>					
Equity (thousand SEK)	16 380	18 916	19 188	18 186	8 617

## 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 2023-01-01	1 058	18 130	-272	18 916
Allocation of the previous year's profit/loss	-	-272	272	-
Net profit/loss for the year	-	-	-2 535	-2 535
Donor-designated purpose 2023	325	-325	-	-
Designated funds to Emergency fund	1 514	-1 514	-	-
Utilised donor-designated funds 2023	-718	718	-	-
Utilised funds of the Emergency fund 2023	-1 517	1 517	-	-
<b>Equity 2023-12-31</b>	<b>1 171</b>	<b>17 745</b>	<b>-2 535</b>	<b>16 380</b>

## Specification of donor-designated project funds

The following funds are included: Sweden programme SEK 14 thousand, South Caucasus SEK 12 thousand, emergency fund SEK 820 thousand and Ukraine SEK 325 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	2023	2022
<b>Operating income</b>	2		
Donations		24 050	23 848
Grants	3	194 742	192 671
Net turnover		212	255
Other operating income		2 278	742
<b>Total operating income</b>		<b>221 282</b>	<b>217 516</b>
<b>Operating expenses</b>	4, 5, 6		
Programme expenses		-206 234	-202 643
Sales expenses		-224	-254
Fundraising expenses		-7 645	-7 740
Administrative expenses		-10 024	-7 914
<b>Total operating expenses</b>		<b>-224 127</b>	<b>-218 551</b>
<b>Profit/loss from operations</b>		<b>-2 845</b>	<b>-1 035</b>
<b>Profit/loss from financial items</b>			
Profit/loss from other securities and receivables that are fixed assets	7	28	26
Interest income and similar profit/loss items	8	795	1 126
Interest expenses and similar profit/loss items	9	-425	-389
<b>Total profit/loss from financial items</b>		<b>398</b>	<b>763</b>
<b>Total profit/loss after financial items</b>		<b>-2 447</b>	<b>-272</b>
<b>Gross profit/loss</b>		<b>-2 447</b>	<b>-272</b>
Tax	10	-88	0
<b>Net profit/loss for the year</b>		<b>-2 535</b>	<b>-272</b>

Balance sheet (thousand SEK)	Note	2023-12-31	2022-12-31
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
<b>Tangible fixed assets</b>			
Equipment, tools and installations	11	836	1 154
<b>Financial fixed assets</b>	12		
Other long-term securities holdings		620	620
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>1 456</b>	<b>1 774</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
<b>Stocks etc.</b>			
Merchandise		24	82
<b>Total stocks etc.</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>Current receivables</b>			
Accounts receivable – trade		190	57
Other current receivables	13	22 734	24 450
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	14	2 726	3 908
<b>Total current receivables</b>		<b>25 650</b>	<b>28 415</b>
<b>Cash and bank</b>		114 443	82 184
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>140 117</b>	<b>110 681</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>141 573</b>	<b>112 455</b>

	Note	2023-12-31	2022-12-31
<b>Equity and liabilities</b>			
<b>Equity</b>			
Funds brought forward		17 744	18 130
Donor-designated project funds		1 171	1 058
Net profit/loss for the year		-2 535	-272
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>16 380</b>	<b>18 916</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Accounts payable		3 198	3 665
Liability from received but not utilised grants	15	53 355	55 275
Other current liabilities		2 003	1 978
Accrued expenses and deferred income	16	66 637	32 621
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>125 193</b>	<b>93 539</b>
<b>Total equity and liabilities</b>		<b>141 573</b>	<b>112 455</b>



Cash flow statement (thousand SEK)	Note	2023	2022
<b>Operating activities</b>			
Total profit/loss after financial items		-2 447	-272
Adjustment for items not included in cash flow		586	-363
Income tax paid		-107	-251
<b>Cash flow from operating activities before changes in working capital</b>		<b>-1 968</b>	<b>-886</b>
<b>Cash flow from changes in working capital</b>			
Increase/decrease in stocks and ongoing work		58	-52
Increase/decrease in accounts receivable		-134	-24
Increase/decrease in current receivables		3 667	-12 070
Increase/decrease in accounts payable		-468	310
Increase/decrease in current liabilities		31 367	-31 156
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>		<b>32 522</b>	<b>-44 078</b>
<b>Investment activities</b>			
Investments in tangible fixed assets		-50	-1 513
<b>Cash flow from investment activities</b>		<b>-50</b>	<b>-1 513</b>
<b>Cash flow for the year</b>		<b>32 472</b>	<b>-45 591</b>
<b>Opening cash and cash equivalents</b>			
Opening cash and cash equivalents		82 184	127 053
<b>Exchange difference for cash and cash equivalents</b>			
Exchange difference for cash and cash equivalents		-213	722
<b>Closing cash and cash equivalents</b>	17	<b>114 443</b>	<b>82 184</b>

Thousand SEK

### NOTE 1 Accounting and valuation principles

These annual accounts were prepared in accordance with the Swedish Annual Accounts Act, BFNAR 2012:1 (K3) and BFNAR 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

A transaction in which The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation receives an asset that has a value without returning the corresponding value is considered a gift. 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 received are valued at the real value of the asset that the organisation has or will receive. 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. Sales of goods revenue is accounted for at the time of the sale.

#### 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, rental of equipment. Leasing costs are expensed on an ongoing basis (linearly) over the lease term (including the first increased rent)

#### 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. After initial recognition, short-term investments are valued at the lowest the value principle, i.e. to the lower of the cost and net realisable value at the balance sheet date.

#### 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.

#### Cash flow statement

The cash flow statement is prepared according to the indirect method and is based on the result of operating activities. Liquid Funds include cash and bank balances and short-term investments with a maturity of less than 3 months.

### 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.

	2023	2022
<b>Donations are broken down as follows:</b>		
General public	9 666	9 091
Companies	1 119	1 407
The Swedish Postcode Lottery	12 000	12 000
Other foundations	1 265	1 350
<b>Total</b>	<b>24 050</b>	<b>23 848</b>

#### Donations not reported in the income statement

Advertising	156	435
Pro bono services (estimated)	1 358	786
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 514</b>	<b>1 221</b>

#### Total donations

Donations reported in the income statement	24 050	23 848
Donations not reported in the income statement	1 514	1 221
<b>Total</b>	<b>25 564</b>	<b>25 069</b>

### NOTE 3 Grants recognised as income

	2023	2022
<b>Public grants, Sida</b>		
Civsam (SPO)	52 951	48 809
Communication grant	396	2 832
Liberia	13 824	11 411
Middle East, Amman	20 784	32 860
Middle East, Lebanon	14 041	13 484
Rwanda	20 123	15 649
South Cacasus	11 028	7 538
Western Balkans	29 943	25 620
Sida administration grant	12 063	12 296
<b>Total</b>	<b>175 154</b>	<b>170 499</b>

#### Other public grants

Folke Bernadotte Academy	681	488
Swedish Police	2 122	2 313
Swedish Institute	102	647
EU	1 796	4 799
Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs	1 339	1 485
British Foreign & Commonwealth Office	34	346
Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	8 572	6 812
SDC*	-25	2 909
Global Affairs Canada	-	63
UNDP	-117	1 914
The Institute of Development Studies	37	165
Oxfam	-	231
<b>Total</b>	<b>14 540</b>	<b>22 172</b>

#### Private grants

Radiohjälpen	3 915	-
Svenska Postkodföreningen	1 133	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 048</b>	<b>-</b>

#### Total grants according to the income statement

<b>194 742</b>	<b>192 671</b>
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\*Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation



**NOTE 4 Leasing**

	2023	2022
<b>Future leasing charges fall due as follow:</b>		
Falling due and payable within 1 year	6 718	7 094
Falling due and payable within 5 years	14 784	16 917
Falling due and payable after 5+ years	5 186	4 851
<b>Total</b>	<b>26 688</b>	<b>28 863</b>
Expensed leasing charges during the period	7 362	6 457
<b>Total</b>	<b>7 362</b>	<b>6 457</b>

Leasing charges include premises plus office and IT equipment.

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

	2023	2022
<b>Number of employees (women only)</b>		
Sweden	69	71
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4	5
North Macedonia	4	5
Serbia	5	3
South Caucasus	6	6
Liberia	7	11
Palestine and Israel	2	2
Jordan	2	5
Lebanon	6	6
Iraq	3	4
Rwanda	9	8
Brussels	1	1
Tunisia	2	4
DR Congo	5	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>134</b>

**Salaries and other employee benefits**

Secretary-general	909	874
Other employees	59 661	58 104
<b>Total salaries and benefits</b>	<b>60 570</b>	<b>58 978</b>
Payroll overhead	13 336	13 916
(of which pension costs)	2 661	2 970
Pension costs secretary-general	236	245

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>

**NOTE 6 Purchase of equipment**

	2023	2022
Consumable equipment	672	1 258
<b>Total</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>1 258</b>

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

	2023	2022
Dividends	28	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>26</b>

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

	2023	2022
Interest income, bank	583	27
Exchange rate gains	212	1 098
<b>Total</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>1 125</b>

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

	2023	2022
Exchange rate losses related to accounts receivable and operating liabilities	-424	-388
Other financial expenses	-1	-1
<b>Total</b>	<b>-425</b>	<b>-389</b>

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

	2023	2022
<b>Income tax is based on taxable economic activities</b>		
Net profit/loss for the year	-2 535	-272
<b>Total</b>	<b>-2 535</b>	<b>-272</b>
Taxable income	427	-127
<b>Total</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>-127</b>
Tax calculated at prevailing rate (20.6%)	88	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>0</b>

**NOTE 11 Equipment**

	2023	2022
Costs of acquisitions brought forward	1 513	1 047
Acquisition	50	1 513
Sale/disposal	-	-1 047
<b>Closing accumulated costs of acquisitions</b>	<b>1 562</b>	<b>1 513</b>
Depreciation brought forward	-358	-1 047
Sale/disposal	-	1 047
This year's depreciation	-368	-358
<b>Closing accumulated depreciation</b>	<b>-727</b>	<b>-358</b>
<b>Closing recognised value</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>1 154</b>

**NOTE 12 Long-term securities**

	2023	2022
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>	<b>Book value</b>	<b>Market value</b>
Stocks	541	833
Money market fund	79	81
<b>Total</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>914</b>

**NOTE 13 Other current receivables**

	2023	2022
Credit for tax and fees	727	712
Security deposit	1 332	1 346
Prepaid donations	840	925
Current receivables, partner organisations	37	162
Current receivables, consortium (DMFA)	19 786	21 290
Other current receivables	13	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>22 734</b>	<b>24 450</b>

**NOTE 14 Prepaid expenses and accrued income**

	2023	2022
Prepaid rent	935	1 312
Prepaid insurance premiums	78	341
Prepaid support to partner organisations	644	1 320
Other prepaid expenses and accrued income	1 070	935
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 726</b>	<b>3 908</b>

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

	2023	2022
Sida South Caucasus	5 853	4 783
Sida Europe/Western Balkans	6 516	4 387
Sida Middle East	2 055	4 291
Sida Liberia	2 060	2 210
Sida Civsam	-	3 185
Sida Rwanda	2 175	3 185
Swedish Institute	-	35
The Swedish Postcode Lottery	8 866	-
Irish Aid	1	1 316
Radiohjälpen	921	-
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs	24 084	25 611
Other grants	654	1 379
<b>Total</b>	<b>53 355</b>	<b>55 275</b>

**NOTE 16 Accrued expenses and deferred income**

	2023	2022
Holiday pay	2 760	3 100
Other items	4 879	5 761
Prepaid grants	56 071	20 834
Repaid payroll fees*	6 694	6 694
Retroactive pension contributions*	-3 767	-3 767
<b>Total</b>	<b>66 637</b>	<b>32 621</b>

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

**NOTE 17 Cash and cash equivalents**

	2023	2022
Cash assets	291	549
Bank balances	114 153	81 635
<b>Total</b>	<b>114 443</b>	<b>82 184</b>

Stockholm 4/3/2024

*Devrim Mavi*

Devrim Mavi  
Chairperson

*Malin Almroth*

Malin Almroth

*Tsehainesh Tekleab*

Tsehainesh Tekleab

*Lisen Bergquist*

Lisen Bergquist

*Johanna Mannergren*

Johanna Mannergren

*Carina Andersson*

Carina Andersson

*Tove Ahlström*

Tove Ahlström

Our audit report has been submitted this day, 4/4/2024

*Micaela Karlström*

Micaela Karlström  
Authorized public accountant

English 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 for The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation for the fiscal year 2023. The annual accounts are included on pages 22–33 of the activity report.

In our opinion, the annual accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Annual Accounts Act and provide a true and fair view of Kvinna till Kvinna's financial position as of December 31, 2023, and its financial performance for the year 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 have conducted our audit in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISA) and generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden. Our responsibilities under these standards are further described in the section "The auditor's responsibilities." We are independent of Kvinna till Kvinna in accordance with professional ethics for accountants in Sweden and have otherwise fulfilled our professional ethical responsibilities in according with these requirements.

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

#### Other disclosures

The audit of the annual report for the previous fiscal year, January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022, has been conducted by another auditor who issued an audit report dated April 11, 2023, with unmodified opinions in the Report on the Annual Report.

#### Other information besides the annual report

The Board of Directors bears responsibility for this additional information, comprising the annual report (excluding the annual accounts and our audit report on it).

Our statement on the annual accounts does not extend to this data, and we do not provide affirmation regarding it.

In our audit of the annual accounts, we are obliged to review this information for material inconsistencies. We also consider any pertinent knowledge gained during the audit to assess for significant errors.

If, based on our examination, we find material inaccuracies in this additional information, we are obligated to report them. We have no such findings to report.

#### Responsibilities of the Board of Directors

It is the Board of Director's responsibility to prepare the annual accounts and ensure they provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Annual Accounts Act. The board is also responsible for the internal control it deems necessary to prepare a financial statement free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the annual accounts, the Board of Directors is responsible for assessing the foundation's ability to continue operating. It discloses, when applicable, any conditions that may affect the ability to continue operations and the use of the going concern assumption. However, the going concern assumption is not applied if the board intends to cease operations or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### Auditor's responsibilities

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an audit 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 ISA and generally accepted auditing standards Sweden will always detect a material misstatement, if one

exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if they individually or collectively could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users based on the annual accounts.

As part of an audit conducted in accordance with ISA, we exercise professional judgment and maintain a professionally skeptical attitude throughout the audit. Additionally, we:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to these 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 due to fraud is higher than for a material misstatement due to error, because fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misleading information, or over-riding of internal controls.
- Obtain an understanding of the internal control relevant to our audit to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not to express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of the accounting principles used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board of Directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of Board of Directors' use of the going concern assumption in the preparation of the annual accounts. We also draw a conclusion, based on the audit evidence obtained, as to whether there is a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the foundation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that there is a material uncertainty, we are required to draw attention in the audit report to the disclosures in the financial statements about the material uncertainty or, if such disclosures are inadequate, modify our opinion



on the annual accounts. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the audit report. However, future events or conditions may cause a foundation to cease operations.

- 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 provides a true and fair view.

We are required to inform the Board of Directors, among other matters, about the planned scope and timing of the audit and about any significant findings during the audit, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we have 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 fiscal year 2023.

In our opinion, the members of the board have not acted in violation of the Foundations Act, the foundation's charter, or the Annual Accounts Act.

#### Basis for opinions

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

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

#### Responsibilities of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is responsible for the administration according to the Foundation Act and the foundation's charter.

#### The auditor's responsibilities

Our objective concerning the audit of the administration, and thus our opinions, is to obtain audit evidence to assess, with reasonable assurance, whether any board member has, in any material respect:

- taken any action or committed any negligence that may give rise to liability to the foundation or grounds for dismissal, or
- otherwise acted in contravention of the Foundation Act, the foundation's charter, or the Annual Accounts Act.

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 negligence that may give rise to liability to the foundation.

As part of an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden, we exercise professional judgment and maintain a professionally skeptical attitude throughout the audit. The review of the administration primarily relies on the audit of the financial statements. Additional audit procedures are performed based on our professional judgment considering risk and materiality. This means that we focus the review on actions, areas, and circumstances essential to the operations where deviations and violations would have a significant impact on the foundation's situation. We review and assess decisions made, decision-making processes, actions taken, and other relevant circumstances pertinent to our statement.

Stockholm, April 4, 2024.

MOORE Allegretto AB

**Micaela Karlström**

Authorized public accountant

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



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