

A brief guide for civil society organisations 2017

SEARCHING FOR FUNDING?

Resource mobilisation opportunities for civil society organisations working to end child marriage.

Our vision is a world without child marriage – where girls and women enjoy equal status with boys and men, and are able to achieve their full potential in all aspects of their lives.

As part of our new 2017 – 2020 Global Strategy, the *Girls Not Brides* Partnership calls for increased and sustainable funding streams to be made available to support effective interventions to address child marriage around the world, particularly for community-based organisations.

We know that fundraising can be time-consuming and challenging, especially if you are a small grassroots organisation with few staff members and limited experience on this matter. So to help you, our valued members and partners, we have developed this guide.

We hope that this resource will assist you to identify potential funders and donor organisations whose interests could be in line with your organisational and project objectives, and who you can engage for possible funding and support.

We invite you to explore the sources suggested below and find those most relevant and appropriate for your work – but please be aware that this list is not comprehensive by any means. We have focussed on funders with a particular interest in supporting small to medium sized civil society organisations, or those working on child marriage and women and girls issues. As there are many other options and opportunities out there, we recommend that you explore further to complement these sources. To get to know your donors and to never miss an opportunity or a call for proposals, we recommend that you follow these organisations on social media and subscribe to their newsletters.

Girls Not Brides members have more impact by working together. In some cases, it may be possible to apply for a grant in collaboration with other *Girls Not Brides* members and organisations. Always read the funding criteria for each donor carefully to clarify whether joint applications are eligible to apply.

We have divided this guide into the following sections to make it easy for you to consult.

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GLOBAL FOUNDATIONS

The organisations listed in this section are primarily grant-making organisations. These have broad global reach, and focus on a variety of issues relevant and linked to child marriage, and the empowerment of women and girls. They vary in the requirements and restrictions of their grants and application processes, so it is very important that you make sure you are an appropriate candidate before applying. Read all about them and their requirements, carefully and in detail, before you select the most appropriate donor - as this will ensure you are spending your time and resources on the prospective donors that best fit your organisation and project.

AmplifyChange	Provides grants for projects focusing on sexual and reproductive health and rights, including on gender-based violence, youth, partnership development. They have also previously worked on child marriage and female genital mutilation.
HIVOS	Awards grants throughout the year in all regions for issues including women's empowerment, rights and citizenship, and has previously funded initiatives working to stop child marriage.
Mama Cash	Provides core funding for women's groups that use a rights-based approach. They fund and support women's rights initiatives around the globe that challenge the root causes of injustice.
National Endowment for Democracy (NED)	Makes direct grants to organisations worldwide working to advance democratic goals and strengthen democratic institutions.
Oak Foundation	Funds organisations that address issues of global, social and environmental concern, including women's issues and child abuse.
STARS Foundation	Supports organisations working in the provision of health, education, protection and sanitation services for children, young people and their communities around the world.
The Global Fund for Children	Invests in grassroots organisations that enable the most vulnerable children in their communities to thrive.
The Global Fund for Women	Invests in women's groups that advance the human rights of women and girls.
The Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF)	VGIF provides small grants to grassroots projects that are led by women and that help empower women and girls around the world.
The Young Feminist Fund (FRIDA)	FRIDA provides accessible, strategic and responsive funding for young feminist-led initiatives.
Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights	Is a global women's fund that provides rapid response grants to women's groups that enable strategic interventions, and protect, strengthen and sustain women and transgender human rights' defenders.

FOUNDATIONS: REGIONAL OR THEMATIC FOCUS

The organisations listed here are similar to the organisations in the previous section, except they focus on a particular regions or set of countries.

African Women's Development Fund (AWFD)	Supports local, national and regional women's organisations working towards the empowerment of African women and the promotion and realisation of their rights, and ensure gender equality.
Comic Relief	Funds projects and organisations working on a variety of issues – including investing in children and young people, and empowering girls and women.
Commonwealth Foundation	Supports participatory governance across the Commonwealth with gender equality as a cross-cutting issue. They award grants for sustainable development projects that contribute to effective governance with civil society participation.
Firelight Foundation	Funds promising community organisations that support the health, resilience, and education of children in Africa.
Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres (FCAM)	Supports grassroots organisations led and formed by women who work towards the promotion and advocacy of human rights in Central America. They are the first and only feminist fund in the region.
Ford Foundation	Offers a range of direct and indirect support to civil society. They have active regional offices, including in East and Southern Africa which work closely to support civil society and work on tackling gender inequalities.
The Inter-American Foundation (IAF)	Provides grants directed at improving the quality of life for poor people and strengthening democratic practices in Latin America and the Caribbean.
The Asia Foundation	Addresses a number of issues including empowering women. The Women's Program develops women's leadership and human rights awareness, and strengthens women's organisations.
The South Asia Women's Fund	Funds small women's organisations and young women activists working on issues critical to the women's movement throughout the region.

CROWDFUNDING

Crowdfunding is an increasingly popular way to fund your project or activity. This is done by raising smaller donations and contributions from a large number of people, usually via online platforms. These platforms promote your organisation and the project you are aiming to raise funds for, and donors are private individuals wishing to directly support your work.

Organisations seeking funds and applying for space on crowdfunding platforms will often have to pass a due diligence process before being selected or invited to set up a profile on their website. This is to prove that your organisation is a trustworthy and credible organisation to fund, and so that people donating know their money is truly going to a good cause. You may be asked to submit financial records and proof of registration for example, but these criteria differ for different platforms, so be sure to check the criteria when applying.

Girls Not Brides has developed relationships with several major crowdfunding platforms. Some of our members have successfully featured their projects and raised funds through this form of fundraising. Please contact the *Girls Not Brides* team if you wish to explore this opportunity, as we can help!

We also have a number of resources on our [online resource centre and our website](#), including case studies, best practice examples, and blogs on how to succeed at funding. These are alongside tips on how to be successful at using crowdfunding as a great way of increasing your organisation's income or achieving a specific activity or project.

GlobalGiving

[Gives](#) non-profit organisations around the world a chance to raise money to improve their communities. They are a global crowdfunding community that connects you to donors and companies to help local organisations become more effective. Their [CrowdFundamentals](#) explain how it works. They run a quarterly Accelerator programme you can apply for.

Women's World Wide Web (W4)

[Promotes](#) projects focusing on girls' and women's empowerment work around the world, in both English and in French. They work closely with organisations to help organisations with their crowd funding initiatives through direct capacity building support, as does GlobalGiving.

You Caring

[Offers](#) a free crowdfunding platform and related support to projects working in a range of humanitarian and charitable causes.

UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES

Some United Nations (UN) agencies and departments offer funding directly to civil society organisations, particularly around women and girls' issues, as well as running programmes and projects themselves. Each UN body has its own agenda and set of goals. We strongly urge you to research the agencies to assess how you can partner and engage with them. Always answer the funding proposal calls that best fit the profile of your organisations and projects.

UN Women	<p>Provides grants to civil society organisations through two funds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fund for Gender Equality, which is exclusively for economic and political empowerment activities and women-led organisations. • The United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women which supports initiatives that demonstrate that violence against women and girls can be systematically addressed and eliminated.
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	<p>This body administers the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery which supports projects delivering direct assistance to victims of modern slavery, including forced and early marriage.</p>
The United Nations Democracy Fund	<p>Annually invites civil society organisations to apply for funding for projects that strengthen the voice of civil society, promote human rights, and advance and support democracy.</p>
UNICEF and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	<p>While these agencies have taken leadership on child marriage work in many countries, they do not have established funds to directly support organisations and their related work on this issue. However, some country offices may consider supporting child marriage related activities.</p> <p>Do not hesitate to contact your UNFPA or UNICEF local office to familiarise yourself with their work and get to know the key officials working on the practise. If they are unable to provide funding, they may be able to support in other ways, such as by inviting you to relevant meetings and training, providing you with statistics and other data and sharing their media contacts.</p>

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Many countries around the world have government-led agencies that manage their international development work and aid budgets to recipient countries. These agencies have country offices in many countries worldwide, and work on a range of development, humanitarian and aid activities, including women and girl issues.

It is not easy for small organisations to access funding from such agencies as many directly fund their own programmatic work and/or support larger organisations or coalitions. However, it is worth checking whether your country or your issue is listed as a focus or priority for that agency, what work they are doing on this, and whether they have any funding opportunities for civil society organisations. Being part of a national network or platform will often help with accessing this form of funding. Check which agencies have offices in your country, and what work they focus on at a national or sub-national level.

To note, there are certain governments that have provided progressive work and leadership on the issue of child marriage and have on occasion assisted civil society with funding for programmes on the issue in the past. These include:

- Canada: through its international development department [Global Affairs Canada](#).
- The Netherlands: through their [Foreign Investment and Development Agency](#).
- The United Kingdom: through the [Department of International Development \(DFID\)](#).
- The United States of America: through [USAID](#).

For more details on leading government development agencies and their work, we recommend you visit [fundsforNGOs](#).

FOREIGN EMBASSIES

Some countries' foreign embassies sometimes provide small grants to organisations based in the host country, or work closely with local organisations on certain programmes or issues. Many also host international development programmes or projects that are implemented through their bilateral agencies. If they are not able to provide direct funding, it is worth exploring other ways in which they could support your activities – through invitations to meetings, access to decision makers or other opportunities. It is sometimes more effective to approach such bodies as a civil society collective to show how you are working in partnership to impact change. Make sure to research or contact the embassies of the governments listed above to find out more on their work in your country on broader women's issues, and particularly that of child marriage.

As the list of embassies is vast, it is difficult to cover all of them here. We encourage you to explore the embassy websites of foreign governments present in your country and to contact them to learn about opportunities. For a comprehensive list, visit [Embassy World online](#).

ONLINE RESOURCES

There is a wealth of information about possible funding sources, as well as tips and guides online. Other online resources include databases of donors and websites – particularly ones that specialise in funding or on women and girls' issues.

fundsforNGOs	Sends alerts with new calls for proposals, donor deadlines and other useful resources for civil society organisations working around the world. They also offer support such as capacity building webinars and resources to help strengthen your fundraising abilities if you join as a premium member.
Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)	AWID has a searchable donor list to make it easier for feminist and women's rights organizations to connect with the right kind of funders. Their calls for participation include funding opportunities, so it's good to stay updated about these.
Directory of Human Rights Funders	Is a tool designed to enable both grant makers and grant seekers to search for human rights funders by several key criteria. They also have a resource centre for grant seekers with useful guides and resources for you to use.
Ford Foundation online resource	Has a comprehensive list of possible funding opportunities you can access.
Women's Funding Network	Is the largest philanthropic network in the world devoted to women and girls. You can read about their members in their directory .
International Network of Women's Funds	Is a membership association linking Women's Funds to promote philanthropy with a feminist perspective. You can read about their members in their directory .
European Foundation Centre	Is an international membership association of foundations and corporate funders. You can read about their members in their directory .

GIRLS NOT BRIDES TOOLS AND RESOURCES

Become a member!

The *Girls Not Brides* secretariat send out targeted emails to our members for relevant opportunities that are limited to specific audiences. So if you or other organisations in your network aren't already members, [become one today](#) so we can share specific opportunities with you and help support you in your fundraising activities!

Read the newsletter

[Subscribe](#) to our monthly newsletter to stay updated about current funding opportunities and resources for civil society organisations and to help you in your work.

Follow our [blogs and news stories online](#)!

We have posted a series of blogs which explore a range of different aspects of fundraising. These include fundraising tips from donors, through to success stories and best practice examples from our members around the world. These particularly look at tips and tools for grassroots organisations that struggle with limited access to funding opportunities. Follow our blog closely as we post these throughout the year!

- Girls Not Brides member, Godfrey Ochieng Okumu of Nyanza Initiative for Girls' Education and Empowerment (NIGEE), Kenya [shared their experience](#) on successfully applying for international funding opportunities.
- Suzanne Walker of [AmplifyChange](#) – a multi-donor fund that supports civil society advocacy for sexual and reproductive health and rights – [shared her tips](#) to make your grant application stand out.

Watch our webinars

Previously, *Girls Not Brides* co-produced webinars designed specifically for our members to help with fundraising. These were delivered by GlobalGiving.

The “Good Fundraising – Practical Skills Webinar” provided members with fundraising essentials using concrete examples, checking lists, and best practises. A [recording of the webinar](#) is available for you online.

The webinar on “Core Case for Support to Boost Your Fundraising” focused on how to build a strong reference document – including the problem you aim to address, your work and your impact - to help members in their grant writing efforts. You can [view the recording](#) of the webinar online.

Now you should be all ready to go - good luck! We wish you every success with your fundraising.

Do not hesitate to contact us at info@GirlsNotBrides.org if you need material on child marriage to support your fundraising efforts.