



PHOTO BY ELLEN JASKOL/CENTRAL ASIA INSTITUTE

## HOW TO APPLY:

Applicants may submit an application form electronically or manually and submit a budget to the Women's Regional Network (WRN) Advisors. Grants will be approved by Urgent Action Fund (UAF), subject to recommendation from the designated WRN Advisors who will be identifying the potential grantees in each country. The grant will be disbursed by UAF and flow through an accredited organization identified by members of the WRN. As in existing UAF grants, the maximum is US \$5,000. Please contact [infowrn@gmail.com](mailto:infowrn@gmail.com) for further information regarding the application process.

## HOW CAN I HELP?

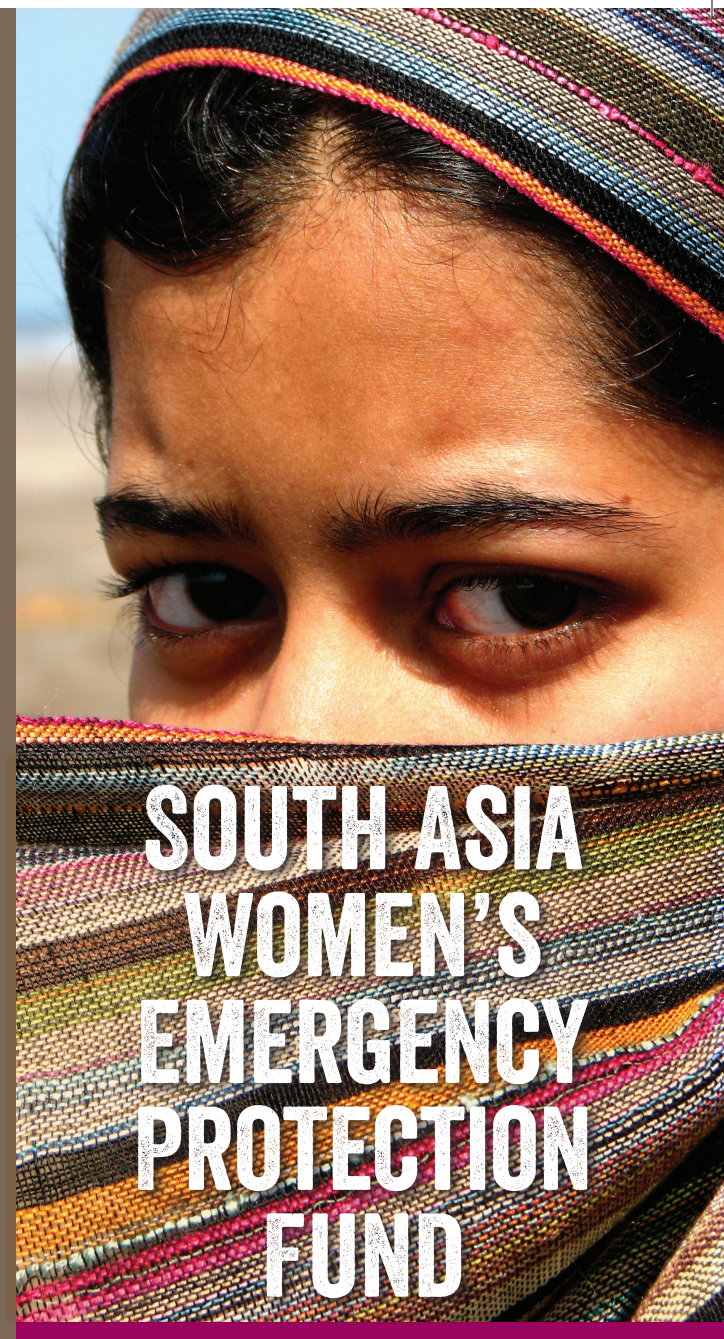
**OFFER YOUR SUPPORT FOR  
THE SAFETY AND PROTECTION  
OF WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS  
DEFENDERS AT RISK IN  
AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN AND INDIA.**

Donations can be made via Urgent Action Fund:  
[https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/  
emergencyprotectionfund](https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/emergencyprotectionfund)

or via Women's Regional Network:  
[www.womensregionalnetwork.org/  
urgent-action-fund](http://www.womensregionalnetwork.org/urgent-action-fund)

**THE WOMEN'S REGIONAL NETWORK,  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
URGENT ACTION FUND  
FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS,  
PROVIDES EMERGENCY SUPPORT  
FOR THE SAFETY AND  
PROTECTION OF WOMEN  
HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS  
AT RISK IN AFGHANISTAN,  
PAKISTAN AND INDIA.**

[www.womensregionalnetwork.org](http://www.womensregionalnetwork.org)  
[www.urgentactionfund.org](http://www.urgentactionfund.org)



# SOUTH ASIA WOMEN'S EMERGENCY PROTECTION FUND



WOMEN'S REGIONAL NETWORK  
AFGHANISTAN • PAKISTAN • INDIA

**URGENT ACTION FUND**  
FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS





**YOUR DONATION COULD SAVE A LIFE.  
SUPPORT THE WOMEN WHO STAND UP  
NOT ONLY FOR THEIR RIGHTS BUT  
THE RIGHTS OF ALL.**



**T**he Women's Regional Network is a collaborative network of women working within and across borders to ensure the enshrinement and protection of human rights; sustainable development and women's full participation in equitable growth to ensure a more peaceful and just world. The WRN is committed to strengthening women's security and enhancing women's leadership to initiate and take action in preventing conflict and developing solutions to eradicate corruption.

Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights partners with women's and LGBTQ movements to support activists striving to create cultures of justice, equality and peace. Since 1997, Urgent Action Fund has provided Rapid Response Grants to protect and sustain activists in over 110 countries worldwide.



## WHY AN URGENT NEED?

The situation of Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) particularly in **Afghanistan** is steadily deteriorating, with many activists fearing for their safety. Women have already lost gains made in political participation and there is an increase in public opposition to women's rights, including targeted killings of high profile WHRDs. In **Pakistan**, attacks against women and those working on women's rights issues continue with impunity. In **India** the situation of WHRDs is also deteriorating with the shrinking of democratic and public space and the increasing number of false cases filed, the majority against women. There have been a number of cases in which WHRDs protesting to protect their land, campaigning for the rights of the marginalized, or protesting against high profile sexual violence cases have been arbitrarily detained and become the targets of state and non-state perpetrated violence including sexual violence and extrajudicial killings.

**“ (WHRDs ARE) COURAGEOUS WOMEN WHO DEFY PATRIARCHY EVERY DAY, EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD, TO CHAMPION HUMAN RIGHTS. THEY HOLD COMMUNITIES TOGETHER IN TIMES OF WAR — AND HOLD THE KEY TO BUILDING PEACEFUL COMMUNITIES WHEN THE GUNS GO SILENT. IN SO MANY MALE-DOMINATED INSTITUTIONS, THEY CAMPAIGN FOR WOMEN'S VOICES TO BE HEARD. THEY STAND WITH MEN IN PUBLIC SQUARES TO CHALLENGE AUTOCRATIC LEADERS. ”**

*Hina Jilani, former UN Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders & Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Prime Minister of Norway*

**“ IN THE ABSENCE OF POLITICAL WILL BY THE GOVERNMENT AND RAMPANT CORRUPTION AT THE JUDICIARY, PROTECTION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN PARTICULAR IS CRUCIALLY IMPORTANT FOR THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN A COUNTRY LIKE AFGHANISTAN. ”**

*Ahmad Fahim Hakim, Former Deputy, Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission*

## ABOUT THE FUND

The fund is housed by Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights International, which has the expertise in managing such a specialized funding mechanism based on its over fifteen years of experience in providing this form of protection and support for WHRDs at risk worldwide.

## WHAT IS THE CRITERIA FOR AID?

- ✓ Any WHRDs who are at risk or under threat (i.e., not limited to physical) because of their activism for the advancement of women's human rights;
- ✓ Any women who are at risk or under threat because they are breaking gender stereotypes, setting new standards or benchmarks for women's human rights or going against cultural or societal norms and traditions that discriminate against women;
- ✓ Only women or WHRDs from Afghanistan, Pakistan and India may apply for the grant. Currently we are only able to consider one grant per application.