

# Equality fund

WHEN WE MOVE TOGETHER, WE MOVE THE WORLD

## ENHANCING CRITICAL FORMS OF FINANCING AND AID EFFECTIVENESS THROUGH COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

### STATEMENT BY THE EQUALITY FUND

The Equality Fund is honoured to share space with you in Antigua and Barbuda for the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States. We are a Canadian-based, global philanthropic institution robustly resourcing women's rights organizations and feminist movements worldwide.

Directly and in partnership with allied funders, we provide core, long-term, flexible funding to over 1000 organizations across a number of Small Island Developing States.

Through a ground-breaking initial investment of CAD \$300 million dollar from the Government of Canada (the largest single investment ever made by a government to global feminist movements), and additional resourcing from the Government of the United Kingdom, institutional funders, individual donors, and philanthropists, we are shifting power and resources to organizations and movements tackling the issues at the forefront of concern to Small Island Developing States.

Current research shows that less than 1% of philanthropic funding goes into the hands of women's rights and social justice movement organizing. This represents a mere drop in the ocean. Since 2019, the Equality Fund has been committed to supporting feminist organizations and funds that are constantly preparing for, responding to, and working at the intersection of sexual and reproductive health rights, ending gender-based violence, addressing environmental degradation and climate events, empowering girls and adolescent mothers, and advancing labour rights and access to productive resources. To date, we have dispersed approximately CAD \$10.5 million to emerging and evolving responses globally. In the Caribbean, through the Women's Voice and Leadership initiative we have disbursed CAD \$1.2 million.

By staying true to our vision to unite gender-lens investing, bold government funding, and powerful multi-sector philanthropy we are working to unlock new capital for feminist movements globally over the long term.

We call on all you now, members of this SIDS4 community to work with us to drive change by boldly and unapologetically resourcing women's rights and social justice movements, and by positively influencing the financial ecosystem.

We are confident that the returns generated by this approach will robustly resource SIDS actors, demonstrating the unique power of a model that delivers sustainable and scalable funding for feminist movements for as long as it takes to build the world we need.

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Women's rights organizations and movement leaders work most intimately with communities, and are accountable to the same. Despite this deep-seated connection, they are completely excluded from the humanitarian system and crisis response.

Our message is clear: it will take multi-sectoral collaboration to bring about change. We envision responses that move beyond small, short-term, and one-time grants for immediate response when disasters strike, to core, flexible long-term funding to prepare and build resilience, confront crises and strategize on the solutions that will define our futures.

We invite others to work with, and learn from, feminist movements at the centre of social change—intently focused on mutual respect, collaboration, intersectionality, and collective power building among women, girls, and gender-expansive people worldwide. We must do this boldly and unapologetically. Rapidly and urgently. Strategically and collectively. Here at UNSIDS4, we have been engaged in these critical conversations with civil society, and we look forward to building and strengthening partnerships that are necessary for effective and meaningful support to those at the precipice of promise and change.