



A LOOK BACK AT 2017

It was a turbulent year. We can't say that human rights were improved, living standard of the majority of population got better, or that our social and natural surroundings were heading in the right direction. Risks are multiplying, especially for women and socially marginalized groups. Through our programs and actions we are trying to offer and support feminist responses to violence against women in public, private, economic and all other spheres, as well as resistances against militarist, nationalist and racist policies, and to contribute to the visibility of women's voices, needs and struggles.

Therefore it was natural to get reinforcement – a new Managing Board, now consisting of Dušica Parezanović, a cultural worker, Olga Manojlović Pintar, a historian, and Slavica Stojanović, an activist.

Members of the old Managing Board are still our close colleagues and important support. Slavica Stojanović retired, and Marija Jakovljević filled in the place of the program development coordinator. We are also broadening the network of external associates.

WHAT WE DID IN 2017



Through carefully designed programs we supported women`s groups from the whole Serbia, and through stipends we supported feminist education.



Realized several fundraising actions in the community, with the intention to spread local feminist philanthropy.



Offered different educational contents at our website, paying special attention to underrepresented topics important for women and feminism.



Throughout 2017 we supported education, conquering public spaces, raising visibility of women`s initiatives, spreading the voice of women.



Significant amount of time was also dedicated to reflecting on our work and thinking about future steps. In 2018 we will keep on struggling, fearless and with solidarity!

37
GRANTS

11
STIPENDS

9
PUBLIC EVENTS

You can support us with one time donation or standing order, by attending our events such as SISTERS ARE DOING IT BEST and JOYFULNESS CRAZINESS, and spreading the word on our work.

WHOM, HOW AND WHY DID WE SUPPORT

GENERAL SUPPORT

Flexible general support gives groups more freedom and possibilities for being creative and innovative in planning their activities, as well as in the process of obtaining support from other donors.

Through General Support program we **supported 10 groups** working with women in Zrenjanin, Mošorin, Belgrade, Novi Sad, Vlasotince, Užice, Prijepolje, Priboj, Nova Varoš, Pirot and border areas, villages of Western Serbia, Vojvodina and Southeastern Serbia.

Supported groups give their feminist contribution to the spheres of social services, prevention of violence against women and children, education (of children, professionals, activists), women's health, monitoring of institutions and advocacy, women's construction works, labor rights, peace activism, women's rights, journalism, prevention of violence and non-violent communication.

**TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED:
10.490.024 RSD**

SPECIAL FOCUS

Central for this program were our deep-rooted worries: militarism, nationalism, and racism. Our goal was to understand the issues, exchange knowledge, identify and support activities faced with troublesome politics.

Through three cycles of Special Focus program, Managing Board decided to support **24 projects** of groups from Vlasotince, Novi Sad, Beograd, Prijepolje, Novi Bečej, Niš, Kruševac, and Leskovac, which operate in their local communities, but also the groups realizing projects across the country. While some groups worked with local population, others gathered and included activists from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Montenegro, Macedonia. Supported programs were intended for populations of different age, gender identity, sexual orientation, educational level, professions, interests, but all sharing uncertain conditions we live and work in, attempts of marginalization of our struggles against nationalism and racism and various pressures we have been facing due to intense fascization of society.

Political understanding and addressing different dimensions of nationalism, racism and militarism were expressed in formats such as street marches and other actions in public spaces, publishing various collections, publications and special editions of street newspapers, literary criticism, feminist football tournament, feminist fanzine, feminist festival, activist caravan, movie festival, documentary movies, research of media contents, conferences, theatre performances, workshops and trainings, as well as women's court for violations of labor rights.

A third of the supported groups were **informal groups**.

**TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED:
6.320.854 RSD**

STIPENDS ŽARANA PAPIĆ

Idea of the stipends was to support women activists/academics to improve their access to knowledge and global exchange in the fields related to gender/women's issues. This year we were informed that we inspired our friends from the Women's Fund in Georgia to create a program of stipends within their support strategy.

In 2017 we awarded **11 stipends**:

- 4 for Ph. D. studies,
- 4 for M. A. studies,
- 2 for psychodrama course, and
- 1 for a summer international feminist course.

TOTAL AMOUNT APPROVED:*
1.004.606 RSD

* A part will be transferred in 2018.

RAPID RESPONSE GRANTS

Rapid response grants are awarded in cases of fear and lack of safety, when a new situation of brutal violation of women's human rights, safety of activists and discrimination on any ground, arises as unexpected and urgent. In 2017 were 3 rapid response grants:



For an engaged theatre troupe to finally provide space without suffering political and economic pressures on daily basis



For a direct action of solidarity and support to Roma families exposed to racist attacks and capitalist violence



For organizing a media conference in a situation of escalation of violence against Roma and inadequate institutional response

**RAPID RESPONSE GRANTS WERE
AWARDED IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF
305.013 RSD**

LOCAL PHILANTHROPY AND ACTIONS WITHIN COMMUNITY

MARCH 8TH - MAP OF EVENTS

In 2017 RWF made online **8th of March map of events for the whole Serbia**. It included events in 10 Serbian towns, and also presented what women across the region organized for the occasion. It was sent to local, regional and international network.

SUPPORT TO REFUGEES

Nastavile smo i u 2017. godini političku i humanitarnu inicijativu zajedno sa Ženama u crnom, a za pomoć ljudima izbeglim od ratova i siromaštva. Podrška je bila skromna u sredstvima, ali blagovremena, kontinuirana i direktna.

JOYFULNESS CRAZINESS

In July in Pančić's Park **Joyfulness Craziness** was held for the eighth time. Together with friends from independent cultural scene and public institutions, we organize Joyfulness Craziness in order to present to the broader public artists and art initiatives dealing with social and life challenges in their specific and unconventional ways. This manifestation creates public spaces for exchange, socializing, actions of solidarity and networking.

The eight craziness and joyfulness took you through intergenerational waves, singing, playing and creative workshops, since what was important for us was to be together, to imagine and, in the times of confusion, get to know how to make joint actions of solidarity.

During the evening our donation box named Cakana collected around **2000 RSD**.

SADIB

For three times in 2017 we have realized Sisters Are Doing It Best – fundraising events for different needs we identify in cooperation with some of the friendly organizations:

●
SISTERS ARE DOING IT BEST 11 for Femix, i.e. for the first Rock Camp for Girls

●
SISTERS ARE DOING IT BEST 12 for Bicycology, i.e. cargo bicycles for Roma

●
SISTERS ARE DOING IT BEST 13 for an associate of Roma Centre for Women and Children Daje, a woman in situation of relationship violence.

**TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED WAS
121.715 RSD.**

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CAMPAIGN HSCDIB

Within the feminist philanthropy program Reconstruction Women`s Fund initiated an educational campaign **HOW SISTERS COULD DO IT BEST**.

The campaign was about exchanging experiences with activists, education on the issues of public and private money, as well as developing local philanthropy in the community. Through different formats we addressed the topics such as distribution and management of public money, corruption, right to information of public importance, budgeting and human rights, austerity measures, public participation in decision making at local level, with a special focus on the budgeting process, practices of local fundraising, developing budget of an organization, as well as working on our bodies and voices for public appearances such as fundraising and advocacy.

Activists working in the domains of struggle against violence against women, against human trafficking, for human rights – particularly LGBTQ, labor, students` and rights of persons with disabilities, economic empowerment of women and social entrepreneurship, art (literature, music, animation), social theory, education, local policies, preserving and conquering public spaces, but

with a common ground of feminism and struggle for social justice, expressed their interest for the campaign. So 27 persons from 7 towns of Serbia (Belgrade, Zrenjanin, Novi Sad, Šabac, Smederevo, Niš and Pirot) attended the seminar and workshops and had opportunity to organize fundraising actions within their communities.

THEORY AND POLITICS IN PRACTICE: FUNDRAISING ACTIONS DURING THE CAMPAIGN

Yard Sale

During BeFem festival there was the RWF Yard Sale intended to promote the Campaign and fundraise at the same time. By selling second hand items donated by different people we raised **13.461 RSD** for the **fund for “Žarana Papić” Stipends**. It was one in a range of activities within **Feminist local philanthropy** guided by the idea that small individual donations from many people make our circle strong and significant.

Delicatessen Monday: How Sisters Could Cook It Best

Was another chance to promote the Campaign and let the participants exercise their fundraising skills and promote the work of their groups. On that occasion we raised **32.000 RSD** for the stipends program.

Actions of Participants

Participants of the HSCDIB campaign were split in two groups for practical actions. One group organized the action **Sisters for Sisters** for fundraising for RWF program for stipends Žarana Papić, while the other had the event **Cat and Dot...: Our responsibility for Abandoned Animals** and raised money for purpose of public importance – care of abandoned animals, i.e. informal group of citizens „Cat and Dot...” from Surčin. Each of the two actions included creative contents for participants of different ages.

Sharing Knowledge

Part of the knowledge obtained in the process we systematized in the **publication #HSCDIB**, which was the result of joint efforts of members of RWF, lecturers and workshop facilitators during the Campaign and participants of the Campaign. On one hand it includes reflections on the process of learning during the Campaign, and on the other it offers an overview of key topics we worked on in dealing with issues of public money and development of philanthropy, such as austerity measures, budgeting, participation of citizens in management of public money and local organizing around issues of public importance. Special attention was also given to developing budgeting skills, reaching information of public importance and communication.

We concluded the Campaign with the **press conference**.

DONORS EVENINGS

We organize donors evenings for the purpose of making links and getting to know new people whom we reach via our friends. Then we exchange information, open new perspectives, get advices. We are happy when after socializing we get new **individual donors** who believe in our efforts to transform the world into one where women would live better. This year we organized an evening for journalists from different media and laid the foundation for cooperation in future actions.

INTERNATIONALISM

It has been a part of our policy from the very beginning. Our internationalism reflects in supporting projects and groups in accordance with it, that contribute to spreading the value of internationalism, also in supporting refugees, and in our choice of networks to take part in, i.e. in our international exchange. In 2017 we took part in different international events that gathered organizations, foundations, and individuals struggling for women's human rights and social justice, such as the meeting of European women's funds in Warsaw, the meeting of international women's funds in Sri Lanka, regional meeting of women's organizations and foundations in Sarajevo, study visit to Swedish organizations against violence against women. We choose to be members of these international networks since it was politically important for us to overcome the boundaries of national and to go on with such exchange of knowledge and cooperation.

READ

Critical issues

In 2017 Reconstruction Women's Fund presented its new **edition UPSIDE DOWN 2017!** If you haven't already read it, make sure you do:

Hannah Arendt: Franz Kafka – A Revaluation

“In a dissolving society which blindly follows the natural course of ruin, catastrophe can be foreseen. Only salvation, not ruin, comes unexpectedly, for salvation and not ruin depends upon the liberty and the will of men. Kafka's so-called prophecies were but a sober analysis of underlying structures which today have come into the open.”

W. G. Sebald: Air War and Literature

„I grew up with the feeling that something was being kept from me, at home, at school, and by the German writers whose books I read hoping to glean more information about the monstrous events in the background of my own life.“

Bruce Sterling: THE FUTURE – History that Hasn't Happened Yet

The speech of Bruce Sterling at the SXSW Festival, march 2017

Pier Paolo Pasolini: Civil War

“In America, granted the very brief nature of my stay, I lived many hours in the clandestine climate of conflict, of revolutionary urgency, of hope, that was proper to the Europe of 1944 and 1945. “

Dragiša Lapčević: War and Serbian Social Democracy

„Mercy is a product of a social form very merciless to humankind; its purpose is to conceal and cover up severe class antagonisms inherent to the contemporary social order. “

Rosa Luxemburg: The Russian Revolution

„To concern one's self with a critical analysis of the Russian Revolution in all its historical connections is the best training for the German and the international working class for the tasks which confront them as an outgrowth of the present situation.“

In the edition Sources of Epistemology: Critical Life you may find

An interview with the psychiatrist Dr. Judith Lewis Herman

Interviews

Within our program of feminist philanthropy, we keep spreading the voices of women giving us inspiration and motivation. Read this year's interviews:

Akua Naru: Nothing Without Women!
**Tata Traore-Rogers:
We Need Funds To Be Able To Build
A Strong Movement!**

Newsletter

This year we had three newsletters covering work of the groups RWF supports and spreading the news of actions and ways to donate to the Fund. If you haven't subscribed to our **newsletter** yet, do so.