

**Reconstruction
Women's Fund**



2022
**Annual
Report**

Looking back on 2022

Another challenging year is behind us. Just when we thought the pandemic was over, the war in Ukraine befell us. Once again, concern, grief and a felt-sense of being powerless. Yet, this year has also brought us unexpected initiatives, actions and inspirations. International cooperation is becoming stronger, solidarity is defended skillfully and resolutely, now specifically enhanced by policies of caring for those closest to us, but also for those we do not necessarily know.

Feminist, environmental and labour movements have left a significant mark with new initiatives in the field of housing, anti-war activism and peace activism. With our programmes and activities, we reacted decisively, swiftly and successfully. The focus this year remained on supporting the preservation of the feminist movement and strengthening the capacity of activists and organisations that courageously fight against nationalism, racism, militarism and all forms of discrimination and violence against women.

We are particularly proud of the fact that the Reconstruction Women's Fund is growing smartly and introducing innovations in accordance with the needs of activists and groups in the field. We strengthen the work of the fund through the creation and establishment of archives. We are glad that we have been able to increase the grant budget by more than 50% in the last two years. This year, we raised the grant amount for Special Focus to 450,000 dinars! We have successfully conducted two fundraising campaigns for the "Žarana Papić" scholarships and Special Focus programmes. And we were reunited at *Joyfulness Crazyness after a break of two years!*

With the introduction of a new system of monitoring of the work of organisations, groups and initiatives in the field, we decided to divide our annual report into two parts: one concerning the work of the Fund itself and the other concerning the work of the groups. The work of the groups will be presented by the middle of the year, and until then, you can enjoy reading (about) all our joint efforts to make the Fund better, stronger and smarter!

Partnerships in 2022



Our international partners are still here with us. And this year we have been cooperating closely, by sharing resources, knowledge and experience in working to strengthen local philanthropy and to achieve change in the field of global philanthropy. Feminist philanthropy as well as women's funds are becoming more visible, recognizable and more intensely involved in making decisions about the global allocation of resources and support for the women's and feminist movement. Although the changes are slower, the RWF has the advantage of successfully cooperating with private foundations with which it is able to negotiate terms and methods of support so that our work is autonomous and flexible. Although philanthropy has been based for decades on programme support, and not on the support of the organisations themselves, RWF has established cooperation with two new donors that are completely different from the mainstream.

[Equality Fund](#) is a collective of Canadian funds and partners created in 2018 to support the feminist movement in the Global South. The following year, it was announced that the fund had received 300 million Canadian dollars, the largest donation ever made to the global feminist movement by a government. The Fund operates on the principles of flexible, non-restrictive and non-competitive allocation of resources. One of their programs refers exclusively to women's funds, and thanks to this cooperation, the RWF managed to maintain growth for the coming

years, as well as to strengthen internal procedures and principles on which feminist philanthropy is based.

Our other new partner is an ambitious initiative that emerged just before the covid pandemic. [Phenomenal Funds](#) is a collaboration between private foundations and women's funds based on feminist principles, aimed at strengthening the resilience of women's funds of the Prospera network. The initiative includes 4 foundations ([Foundation for a Just Society](#), [Open Society Foundations](#), [Wellspring Philanthropic Fund](#), [William and Flora Hewlett Foundation](#)) with a budget of 20 million dollars, which since 2020, over the next five years, is working to expand the role of feminist philanthropy in the fight for gender justice around the world. The model of participatory grant-making and joint management of resources should lead to 4 common goals: a) women's funds have the resources, systems and practices to respond to the needs of gender movements for justice, b) women's funds deepen mutual cooperation, c) women's funds use their collective voice to influence the allocation of funds for feminist movements, d) this model is used as a means of creating a new practice of shifting power and decision-making. Thanks to a joint partnership, and in addition to current needs, the RWF managed in 2021 to introduce a Reserve Fund, to be used in cases of sudden crisis, as well as the Care Fund, used in the prevention of the exhaustion of the working team and close associates.

In addition to new partners, we continue to work with our traditional allies. We are part of *the On the Right Track* initiative, supported by the [Open Society Foundation](#), which provides a response to the global attack on women's human rights by right-wing governments, oligarchs and various religious movements and churches in the world. Similar cooperation continues with the [Global Fund for Women](#), through the support of the RWF itself, but also through responses to anti-feminist movements in Serbia. Decades-long collaboration with the [Sigrid Rausing Trust](#) will end in 2024. Although we are a bit sad that our cooperation will be finished, the foundation remains a bright spot in the philanthropic field as an example of flexible and general support for the work of the RWF and the feminist movement in Serbia. Our local allies, the [Kvinna til Kvinna Foundation](#) and the [Trag Foundation](#),

continue to be close partners through general support, but also programmes against gender-based violence and the fight for peace and security. With the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation and their partner organisations, we also started to participate in advocacy towards the EU delegation for more adequate support to women's organisations in Serbia.

In 2023, we plan to establish cooperation with other new partners, as well as to expand activities to unusual new allies, whether companies, responsible companies or individuals and ready to recognize and support the needs for flexible support for the autonomous activities of RWF and the organisations we support. We keep our fingers crossed for the RWF to be recognized in this field as a responsible and politically articulated partner!



International cooperation in 2022

Although we are all getting really tired of the Zoom world and virtual relationships, we have managed to put RWF in the focus of many initiatives thanks to invitations to participate in numerous meaningful committees where we can articulate feminist policies, knowledge and needs of the movement, but also learn from our allies. We are honoured to become more visible and internationally recognised as a Fund that has a clear political vision, a clearly articulated policy and procedure of feminist action, and most of all we are becoming a place where others come for argumentation or friendly advice. The most important collaborations concerned knowledge sharing, management models and the creation of spaces for advocacy and better allocation of resources. Together with sister funds from the Prospera network, we continue to respond to anti-gender policies through *On the Right Track*, as well as advocacy towards the European Union (*Knocking on the EU Door*) on greater and better support for the feminist movement.

We are very proud of our participation in the creation of the course that is the result of the collaboration between the [Foundations for Peace](#) network and the [Open University](#) platform. This online course conveys the knowledge of local peace funds and *grassroots* movements that we support. The course insists on our common principles – localised support for activists, effective field support and functioning based on the realistic needs of people in the field. It took us approximately 3 years to design the course well and to put the accumulated knowledge together, so the excitement is neverending!

Our cooperation with Phenomenal Funds has put the focus on the demanding task of creating a joint management structure where our Fund coordinator participates in the management of the initiative together with representatives of 3 other funds and representatives of 4 private foundations. Challenging but noteworthy, this undertaking for shifting power in philanthropy is becoming a model of how to change the unequal dynamics of decision-making, allocating resources and creating future strategies of support to the feminist movement. At a meeting held in San Francisco in August, we had an opportunity to meet for the first time in person and to forge various plans for the coming years.



Our collaboration with the Global Fund for Women through the Feminist Alchemy initiative addresses feminist responses to crises. Although widely set up, this collective, assembled of dozens of women's funds seeks to understand and create feminist principles of response to digital security, support during wars or climate disasters, as well as activities around financial infrastructure due to the violent limits of authoritarian authorities. We map humanitarian responses to crises, negative

effects of such policies, and we create alternatives to existing models. By the end of 2023, we will organise a conference where we will present our responses, and with an idea for international organisations to change their ways of working. Ambitious, yes, we know! Every marathon zoom call was worth it! At a meeting held in Mexico in November, we had an opportunity to meet for the first time and exchange experiences on supporting the movement in times of crisis...



Next year, we will share the results of these initiatives, as well as our new presence in two collectives, [Alliance for Feminist Movements](#) and [Gender Funders Co_lab](#).

Where have we been and what have we been doing?

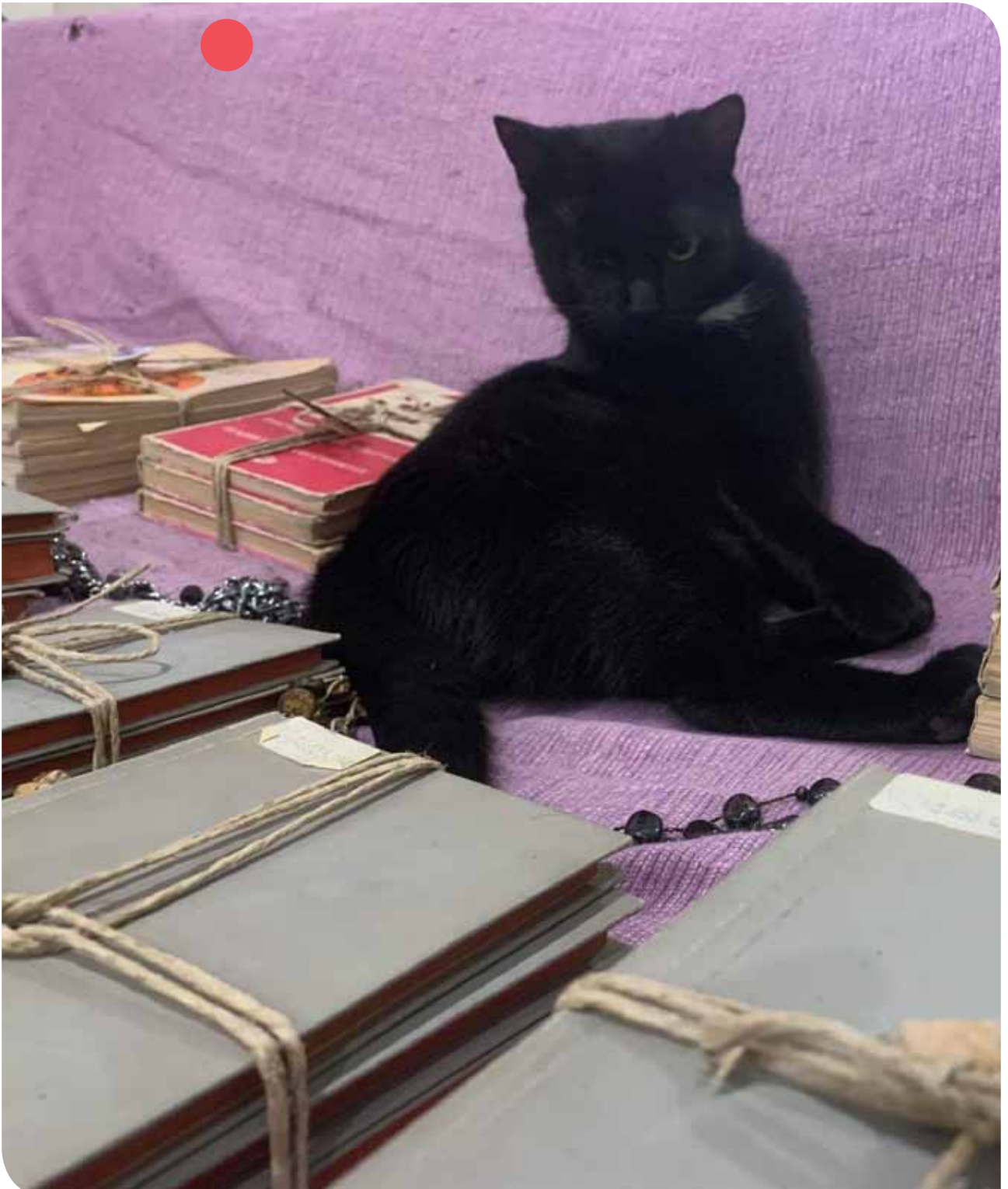
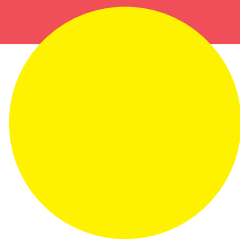
In March, we participated in an online conference on human rights, jointly with the [Global Philanthropy Project](#) Foundation, on the topic of the response of the philanthropic community to anti-gender movements. A consensus was reached that the philanthropic community has to do more and in a better manner to achieve a response to repression and that it should be in the form of more flexible support and a reduction of bureaucratisation of grants. We also sent a similar message in June, at the CuRe conference, organised by the [Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory in Belgrade](#), when we talked about a huge difference in support to anti-gender policies (these movements receive 3 times more resources than feminist movements) and uncoordinated actions of the academy and activists.

This year, cooperation within the [Prospera network of international women's funds](#) has been exciting, inspiring and promising. Throughout the year, we participated in creating a new strategic plan for the next ten years: we will all work together on greater visibility, collecting greater resources and more mature cooperation with new initiatives. The voice of small funds like RWF is emerging, and we are all committed to reducing inequalities between sister funds! We are creating new mechanisms for raising funds and gifts! The network received 10 million dollars from Mackenzie Scott! We went to Mexico twice! Once we went to Poland, for a regional meeting! Besides sombreros, we also brought mezcal, and it is no longer in our office! And in Warsaw, we were surprised by the number of vegan collectives and restaurants.

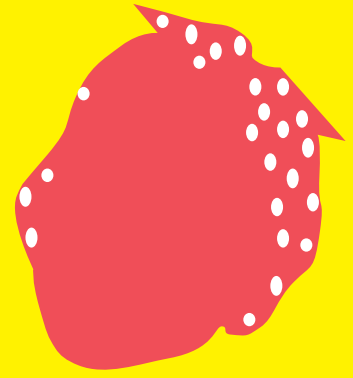
For several days In October, Istanbul was home to progressive local foundations from the Foundations for Peace network – finally a live meeting! We have arrived from Northern Ireland, Palestine, India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Georgia, Nepal and Serbia, countries in different conflict and post-conflict stages. With a joint analysis of the complex global situation and the impact of wars all over the planet, the focus of the meeting was on redefining the network and setting strategic priorities – for starters, we want the fundamental principles on which our network is based (a localised approach to peace with international solidarity,

support for autonomous action of peace movements, intersectional understanding of conflicts, insistence on the role of feminism in the transformation of conflicts) to be more present in practice and with other foundations, which is why we decided to look for more potential allied organisations and take the path of advocating for the principles mentioned. At the same time, we want the network to start practising more intensively the international networking of supported local movements and to do its best to open to activists many doors that have been closed for far too long





There is no place like home!



We had TWO fun(d)raising campaigns this year.

In [the June campaign](#) for the Special Focus program, we collected RSD 126,030. During the donor campaign, we had a total of 16 donors. We had 9 (56%) new donors and 7 (44%) recurring ones. All these donors were from the local community!

The "Žarana Papić" scholarship campaign [in November](#) was the second campaign for the "Žarana Papić" scholarship program. A total of RSD 302,342 was collected during this undertaking. During the donor venture, we had a total of 27 donors. There were 12 new donors and 15 recurring ones. We had 11 donors from the diaspora and 16 from the local community, 23 women and 4 men – women are nailing it! We had two major donations (EUR 1000 and GBP 400).

By the end of this year and at the initiative and in cooperation with the Roma Center for Women and Children "Daje" we organised the eighteenth [Sisters do it best party](#) and during this evening we collected RSD 47,650 and EUR 70! THANK YOU!

When our sisters-in-arms from the Daje partner organisation, recently came to us with the story of their protegee S.K., a single mother who got out of the human trafficking chain, and who is unable to work due to the frequent illness of her child, it was clear that it was time for another benefit rally *Sisters do it best*. The event took place in the familiar friendly place, the Oktobar Social Centre, as a party, feast and mini bazaar, and each segment was organised thanks to solidarity and volunteer contributions.

[A map of what's happening here!](#) and [map of events held in the region for 8 March](#). On March 8, 2022, once again the women of Serbia marched together, in solidarity and rebellion, for equality, for justice, for peace! Apart from the Eighth-March march in Belgrade, which was quickly and successfully organised by a group of activists of a more recent generation, Women's Day has been celebrated in a number of ways and in numerous places throughout the country. Firmly believing in feminist and working-class internationalism, and especially cultivating regional links, once again this year we presented you with a map of events in the region!

20

22





A special treat this year has been the amazing, crazy, and inspiring Audrey Lord's book! We translated *Zami: A New Spelling of my Name*, biomythography – a genre that combines history, biography and mythology derived from the writer's imagination. We have presented it several times, at the Joyfulness Craigness, on July 2 in the Grad Cultural Centre, at the meeting of Women in Black in Radmilovac, on September 25, as well as during a discussion in the [Youth Center Belgrade](#) on December 12, in cooperation with Beopolis bookstore, and we also plan promotions in other cities – for starters, Zrenjanin, get ready!

We also sent this book to live its long regional life. Except in the default National Library of Serbia and the Belgrade University Library "Svetozar Marković" and the City Library, *Zami* also made it to the libraries in Zagreb, Banja Luka, Sarajevo,

Dimitrovgrad, Novi Sad, Markovac, Užice, Paraćin, Vlasotince, Zrenjanin, Ada, Aleksinac, Arandjelovac, Bečej, Arilje, Valjevo, Bor, Veliko Gradište, Vranje, Vršac, Gornji Milanovac, Despotovac, Zaječar, Varvarin, Vrbas, Ivanjica, Jagodina, Kikinda, Indija, Mladenovac, Kragujevac, Kraljevo, Kruševac, Loznica, Niš, Negotin, Lazarevac, Leskovac, Novi Bečej, Pančevo, Novi Pazar, Požarevac, Pirot... as well as to the libraries of many women's and peace groups. And all this is so far only, since we have plans for this book to continue its journey.

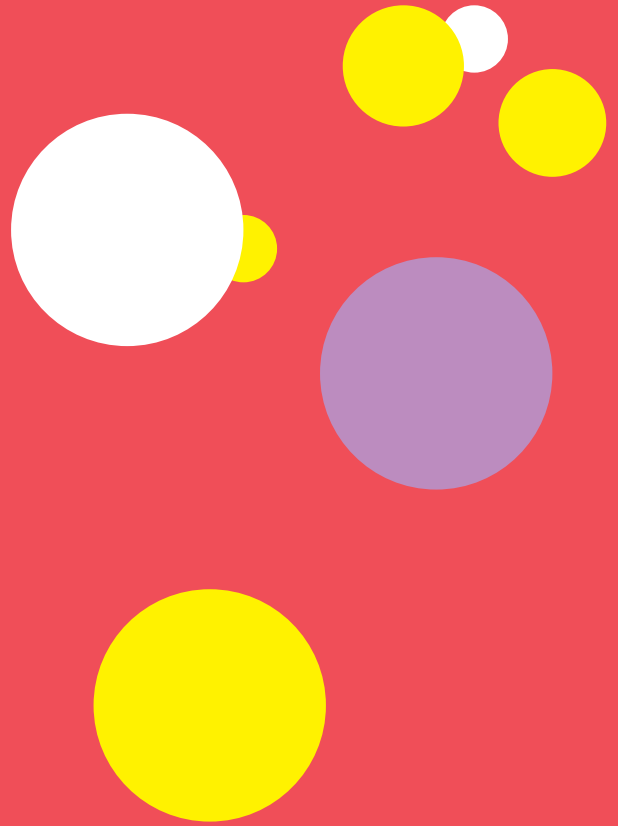
*We have more copies...Call or write and you can get a copy of *Zami*, at our place or from us – of course, for a donation. Thanks to the solidarity cooperation with the Beopolis bookshop, you can also get it there in exchange for a donation! You will get warm fuzzies, and there is so much to learn from Audre!*

Fun facts



From May 4 to 8, we participated with our associates and sisters-in-arms in the regional feminist event *Embodied Activism and Courage to Rest*, put together by the following organisations: Urgent Action Fund and Artpolis from Kosovo, with local support of the Reconstruction Women's Fund. The meeting held in Vrdnik was dedicated to a topic that has been very present lately, self-care and collective care within feminist frameworks – which is also a topic that, both in local and regional contexts, and in broader contexts as well, requires much more research and reflection in order to be conveyed into adequate practices accessible to everyone. [Galina has prepared a detailed report for you!](#)

We have finally come together with the community dear to us to share some joy! [Joyfulness Craziness, vol. 11](#), after the travels and zoom meetings, this time in Grad Cultural Centre. Regardless of the fact that all of us work in challenging conditions, we do not give up the right to pause, to take a break and celebrate what has been achieved, even for one afternoon. We needed companionship, solidarity, joy and madness! We completed the campaign, chatted about Audre Lord, watched the film Fringe Infringe of the Škart collective, listened to music from the "Marija Ručara" play, composed by Jugoslav Hadžić, as well as music played by the crew from Oktobar and Bojana Bulatović BO, but we also played cards and laughed wholeheartedly.



You have been reading:

Critical topics:

JASBIR K. PUAR:
**Bodies with New Organs: Becoming
Trans, Becoming Disabled.**

Rather than argue for a better form of discretion between the categories of trans and disability, this article analyses the ontological irreducibility of such categories, irreducibility that dissolves them through multiplicity. In following the implications of such an argument, this article unfolds trans and disability studies' concerns within a broader analysis of the geopolitics of racial ontology.

CLARE HEMMINGS:
**Unnatural Feelings: The Affective Life of
'anti-gender' mobilisations**

This article addresses the attacks on feminism and Gender Studies by an increasingly virulent anti-'gender ideology' movement, and asks after the best ways of grappling with the violence of these mobilisations at political, epistemic and collective levels. As it is well documented, attacks on the concept of 'gender' and on feminist, anti-homophobic and intersectional social movements are a central part of how the right-wing populist agenda generates its appeal and furthers its aims.

EVA VON REDECKER:
**Ownership's Shadows:
Neoauthoritarianism as Defense of
Phantom Possession**

"Authoritarianism, then, although it appears to be liberalism's nemesis, is a contradiction that liberalism itself bore to the world. It did this by tying freedom, as self-ownership, to the modern form of property."

Guest editions:

MARGARETA BAŠARAGIN, PhD
Women Antifascist of Subotica: members of League of Communist Youth of Yugoslavia, partisan movement and Women's Antifascist Front

I deeply believe that, for our present and some future society, it is extremely important to know women's history, the history of the feminist movement and the history of individual women. Why? Because of what we can learn from their dedication, their courage, their solidarity, their selflessness and their love for peace. Unfortunately, little is known today about the peace and anti-fascist activities of women in the once multilingual, multicultural and multi-confessional city of Subotica, the cultural metropolis of the interwar period. Likewise, for a very long time, the topic of antifascism has been reduced to the margins of the Subotica public, hence the book "Women Antifascist of Subotica: members of League of Communist Youth of Yugoslavia, partisan movement and Women's Antifascist Front" represents a one of a kind contribution to the culture of remembering, a culture of not forgetting.

Politics and resilience of women's NGOs active in the field of sexual violence: Experience of Incest trauma center, Belgrade, Serbia

Caring for oneself as human rights defenders is a political issue, a political attitude at the level of the organisation and equally at the individual level. The social position of women human rights defenders active in the field of sexual violence is one of the priority areas of work within the *European Women's Network against Sexual Violence*, of which we are a member and a co-founder organisation. In drafting the organisation's policy, our thinking is that it is necessary to comprehend the system of values of defenders, the social changes they have made as a result of their work, the risks they are exposed to in their work and the sources of personal strength and vulnerability (including personal histories), the lived and survived experiences of violence precisely because they are defenders in the field of sexual violence, then the changes that identify themselves as having arisen at a personal level, in life, as a result of working on this topic, and the ways of caring for themselves and self-protection they communicate that they have used.

LUTKICE ZA DEVOJČICE: Životna priča Čarne Ćosić (Little dolls for little girls: Čarna Ćosić's life story) (NLO, editors Veronika Mitro and Biljana Stanković)

Čarna Ćosić (1974 – 2008) combined in her life and work seemingly incompatible and drastically different fields: literary studies, followed by studies of theology, study of Buddhism, feminist theory, feminist theology and feminist, primarily lesbian activism, art – poetry, painting, performance. She has significantly contributed to the visibility of lesbians by collecting their life stories within the Novi Sad Lesbian Organization (NLO).

Year in figures:

**GENERAL SUPPORT:
14 GRANTS**

**AMOUNT AWARDED:
26,474,649 RSD**

45.6% of grants were awarded to organisations in Belgrade, while 54.4% were awarded to groups elsewhere. 79.5% of the funds were allocated to registered and 20.5% to informal collectives.

**SPECIAL FOCUS:
43 GRANTS**

**AMOUNT AWARDED:
15,526,775 RSD**

The groups are from: Aleksinac, Belgrade, Brodarevo, Čičevac, Kraljevo, Kruševac, Mošorin, Niš, Novi Bečej, Novi Pazar, Novi Sad, Obrenovac, Pančevo, Subotica, Užice, Valjevo, Vlasotince, Zaječar, Zrenjanin, Šabac (20)

The activities were implemented in the following towns and cities: Aleksinac, Belgrade, Bosilegrad, Brodarevo, Čičevac, Dimitrovgrad, Divljane, Ivanjica, Kragujevac, Kraljevo, Kruševac, Leskovac, Medveđa, Mosorin, Niš, Novi Bečej, Novi Pazar, Novi Sad, Obrenovac, Pančevo, Priština, Prizren, Prćilovica, Pula, Radmilovac, Sarajevo, Snica, Smederevo, Sombor, Subotica, Šabac, Tirana, Užice, Valjevo, Vlasotince, Vranje, Zaječar, Zrenjanin, Žitkovac (39)

**URGENT GRANTS:
11 GRANTS**

**AMOUNT AWARDED:
1,534,003 RSD**

**ŽARANA PAPIĆ
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:
7 STIPENDS**

**AMOUNT AWARDED:
858,000 RSD**

What's to follow?

This won't end next year! We are going to Brussels, and to Chile to visit our sisters from [Fondo Alquimia](#), to conferences and meetings of networks and allies... We are still on Zoom, but we are also more and more in field visits throughout Serbia, we still run, act, share and laugh together.

We are preparing a detailed report for this year on the work of groups and initiatives. A special treat will arrive by April!

And yes...we still plan to annoy the right-wing people. More [about the clitoris](#) on the next *Joyfulness Crazyness*. See you on May 26th.

We have secured the entire budget for 2023!
We look forward to our contribution to the smooth operation of the movement.



Stay tuned!



**Reconstruction
Women's Fund**

Braće Baruh 6,
11000 Belgrade, Serbia
+381 11 2184 674
+381 64 644 1498
office@rwwfund.org
www.rwwfund.org