

UAF-Africa supported a group in ZIMBABWE as the country underwent a critical period of constitutional review. **The hard-won gains for women and girls in the country included the recognition of 'gender equality as one of the constitutional founding principles and outlaw discrimination'.** This progressive new constitution further articulates what this will entail, detailing the various issues that will be covered as pertains to women's rights including; marriage (particularly upon dissolution), sexual and reproductive health rights and land rights while creating spaces for women vying for political seats through adopting a system of proportional representation.

Our support to a group working around LGBTQ issues in SOUTH AFRICA to call attention to a heinous hate-crime in which a transgender woman lost her life, culminated in the arrest and prosecution of the perpetrator and the imposition of a 14 year sentence, the longest sentence ever issued for a hate crime in the country.

In 2012, a women's rights group in MOROCCO brought a provision of their Penal Code to our attention. Article 475(2) provides that when the rape survivor/victim marries the perpetrator, "he can no longer be prosecuted except by persons empowered to demand the annulment of the marriage and then only after the annulment has been proclaimed". This effectively prevents prosecutors from independently pursuing rape charges and what's worse allows for child marriages to be legally sanctioned. UAF-Africa issued an urgent grant to the group to advocate for the annulment of this retrogressive and abhorrent provision of law. **In 2013, the justice ministry formally backed a proposal to amend Article 475 and pledged to consider tougher sentences.**

**SPOTLIGHTING OUR GRANTS...**

**COMMUNICATIONS & KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME**

This programme is charged with reaching African women and providing them with the information and knowledge they require to access our grants as well as other related resources, both in Africa and overseas. This is achieved through use of a multiplicity of platforms and channels, from social media to physical meetings and convenings. Through this programme UAF-Africa has been represented not only on social media sites such as partner websites, Twitter, Facebook and YouTube but also in Msafiri, Oprah and The Leadership magazines and through interviews on major TV broadcasting stations.

*The objectives of the programme are:*

- Visibility:** Inform our audiences across Africa about the **Fund** and our activities.
- Access:** Employ the most effective information dissemination means to reach as many women as possible thereby improving access to financial and technical resources.
- Change:** Adopt media and public information methods to influence policies at all levels.
- Mobilise:** Use our resources to strengthen the African women's movement.

**WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Explore our world at [www.urgentactionfund-africa.or.ke](http://www.urgentactionfund-africa.or.ke)  
 Share your proposals with us at [proposals@urgentactionfund-africa.or.ke](mailto:proposals@urgentactionfund-africa.or.ke)  
 Reach out and talk to us at [info@urgentactionfund-africa.or.ke](mailto:info@urgentactionfund-africa.or.ke)  
 Like us on **Facebook**  
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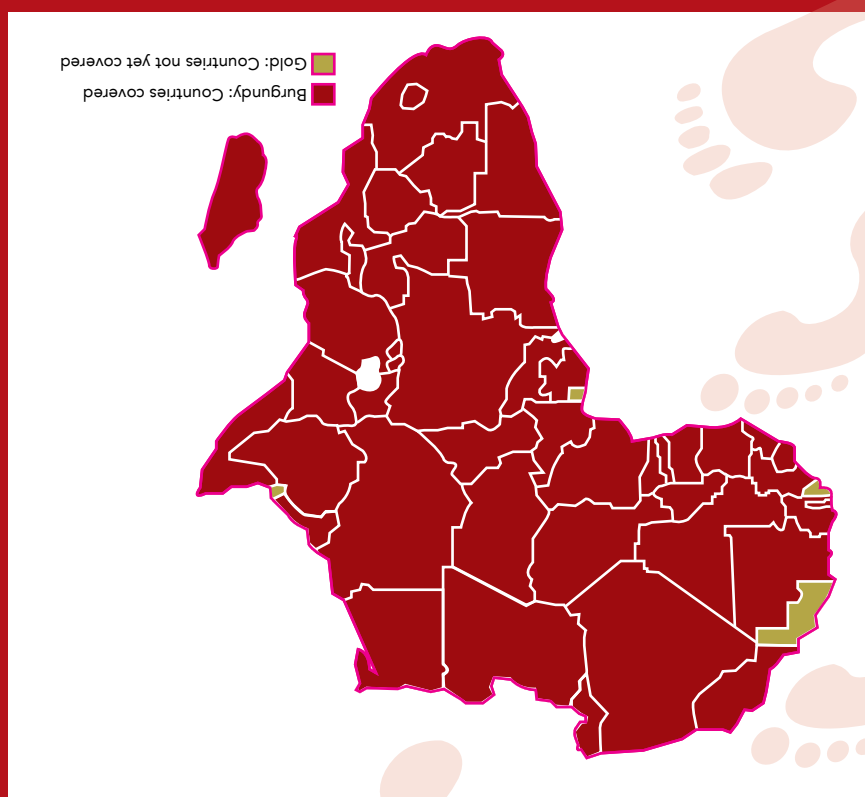
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**DRIVING AND FUNDING WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFRICA!**



FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS



To date Urgent Action Fund-Africa has issued close to 600 grants to women's human rights organisations in 46 African countries. We have catalysed over 50 convenings addressing critical and emergent women's human rights issues across the African continent.

**OUR FOOTPRINTS!**



## DRIVING AND FUNDING WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFRICA!

**Urgent Action Fund-Africa (UAF-Africa)** is a Pan-African and activist women's rights **Fund**, established in 2001 in Nairobi, Kenya. As the first rapid response **Fund** on the continent, UAF-Africa adds value to the work of women's rights activists and civil society organisations through provision of critical financial and technical resources. The **Fund** employs a unique Rapid Response Grant making tool that supports time sensitive, innovative and unique initiatives that advance women's active participation in governance, justice and conflict management processes. Working across Africa, the **Fund** builds broad alliances with partners at national, regional and international levels. To date, the **Fund** has supported women's strategic initiatives in 46 African countries and provides grants in the 5 African Union official languages (English, French, Kiswahili, Portuguese and Arabic). UAF-Africa leverages her convening capacity to catalyze debates on topical and emerging issues while playing a critical role in bringing women at the margins to the centre of debates on women's rights.

## RAPID RESPONSE GRANTMAKING APPLICATION FORM

### ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

1. Name and address of the organisation making the request (physical address/ phone/ fax/ e-mail/Skype ID).
2. Name and title of the contact person.
3. Organization's mission or main focus of work and when it was formed.
4. Number of women working for the organisation and positions held.
5. Names, contact information and roles of other groups involved in your proposed action (if applicable).
6. List your current and previous sources of funding.
7. Provide at least two names and current contact information for organizations or funders who can endorse your work. (Including phone numbers and e-mail address).
8. How did you learn about Urgent Action Fund - Africa?

### THE SITUATION

9. Briefly describe the situation of women's rights in your country.
10. Provide a detailed description of the event that has led to your proposed action. When did this event occur?

11. What makes this situation an opportunity for advancing women's human rights?
12. Was this situation unanticipated? Explain.

### THE URGENT ACTION

13. Describe the proposed response to the situation. What is the intended result?
14. Why is the proposed action time-urgent (Why are the funds needed at this time)?
15. How many people will benefit from this action? (Directly and indirectly).
16. How will this grant help support a broader strategy for advancing the rights of women in your country and the region?
17. How can you demonstrate that the groups involved have the capacity to conduct the proposed action and build on this opportunity in future work?
18. What is the amount being requested? Please provide a detailed/itemised budget.
19. What other sources of support are available for this effort?
20. Should the information about this request be kept confidential? If yes, please indicate why, to what extent and for how long.

## OUR CALLING!

UAF-Africa recognizes money as a fundamental tool in protecting, advancing women's rights and enabling their participation in crucial processes that contribute to shifting of power relations. The **Fund** is committed to enhancing African women's leadership to bring about social justice, equality, equity and peace. UAF-Africa ardently believes in the power of women to activate social change and transform their lives and that of their communities. The **Fund** is alive to the importance of arming women with facts and figures to enable them challenge issues from an informed perspective. It has been imperative that the **Fund** position herself strategically to bolster women's efforts, support them as agents of change and work with them to ensure deep and lasting transformation to an equal world for all.

*'We Invest in Women's Power to Change the Status Quo'*

## OUR WORK!

We **Fund**, We Catalyse, We Convene, We Collaborate, We Communicate...

**Rapid Response Grant-Making (RRGM):** Is the core work of UAF-Africa. Financial resources are made available to women's rights organisations to facilitate strategic and time urgent interventions to advance women's rights or to protect the lives of women human rights defenders who often find themselves targeted for their activism. Responses to grant requests are effected by the grant making team within 48 hours of application. Requests for funding are received 365 days a year.

## ADVOCACY & ALLIANCE BUILDING PROGRAMME

This programme supports women in Africa to lead transformation through collaboration, building alliances and advocacy for women's human rights. The work of the AAB programme emerges from the lessons learned in UAF-Africa's rapid response grant making work across Africa. Since its inception, UAF-Africa has focused on supporting women activists' work to advance women's rights in Africa particularly in conflict, politically volatile situations, and in contexts where the guarantee of women's rights is precarious. The AAB Programme supports women, beyond financial resources, in participating effectively in governance, democracy, sexual reproductive health and rights, transitional justice, peace-building and conflict transformation processes which too often proceed without women's input.

UAF-Africa recognized the importance of spaces for women's human rights actors to get together, brainstorm on problems and solutions, strategize on actions, gain new knowledge and be reinvigorated in their activism. The programme prioritizes partnerships for transformation and women's leadership for change. Within this context, the programme's work is built around 3 core themes: **Governance, Women as change agents and Body politics (sexual reproductive health and rights; bodily integrity).**

The programme supports the building of a strong African movement for women's human rights and ultimately for democratic, equitable and just societies in Africa. The AAB programme has catalyzed key convenings across the African continent in countries such as Tunisia, Sierra Leone, Malawi, Burundi and Kenya addressing critical issues affecting African women. We actively seek to support initiatives that ensure women are equal actors in various sectors that shape society.

## RAPID RESPONSE GRANT-MAKING

UAF-Africa's grants focus on three categories:

1. Advancement of women's human rights in conflict and post-conflict settings (escalating violence, political volatility, civil unrest among other precarious situations).
2. Precedent setting-legal and legislative interventions (e.g. instituting court action or lobbying to challenge retrogressive laws).
3. Protection of women's human rights defenders who are persecuted as a direct result of their work.

**Regardless of category, grant proposals must demonstrate all of the following criteria:**

- **Strategic** - the action is related to a pre-determined plan to create structural change that will advance women's human rights.
- **Unanticipated & Time Urgent** - the situation or opportunity is unanticipated and action must happen quickly to be effective.
- **Sustainable** - the group is able to carry out the proposed action effectively, and can secure funding for future work related to the strategy.
- **Supported** - the group has the support of others involved in women's human rights or related fields, locally or globally.

Our general grant application is comprised of 20 simple yet strategic questions to enable us to swiftly evaluate requests.