

Sources of funding for child marriage work: A brief guide for *Girls Not Brides* members.

As part of its global strategy, the *Girls Not Brides* secretariat advocates for increased funding streams to support effective interventions to address child marriage around the world. Mindful that fundraising can be time-consuming and challenging, we wish to assist you by helping you identify a number of funding mechanisms and funders whose interests could be in line with your organisational and project objectives.

We invite you to explore the sources suggested below and to actively reach out to them. This list is not comprehensive; we have mostly focussed on mechanisms relevant for small and medium civil society organisations (CSOs). Included in this document are:

- Global Foundations
- Foundations with a regional focus
- Newly established Funds
- Crowdfunding
- United Nations agencies
- Foreign embassies
- Online resources
- *Girls Not Brides* webinars
- Useful tips to identify and keep track of call for proposals

We remind you that we highlight current calls for proposals and upcoming funding opportunities in our monthly newsletter.

Global Foundations

The organisations listed in this section have grant-making as a primary purpose, have a global reach, and focus on a variety of issues relevant to child marriage. They vary in their requirements and restrictions, so it is important you make sure you are an appropriate candidate before applying.

The Global Fund for Children	Invests in grassroots organisations that enable the most vulnerable children in their communities to thrive.
The Global Fund for Women	Invests in women's groups that advance the human rights of women and girls.
Oak Foundation	Funds organisations that address issues of global, social and environmental concern, including women's issues and child abuse.
STARS Foundation	Supports organisations working in the provision of health, education, protection and sanitation services for children.
Mama Cash	Provides core funding for women's groups that use a rights-based approach.
Urgent Action Fund	Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights provides rapid response grants to women's groups that enable strategic interventions.

FRIDA	The Young Feminist Fund provides accessible, strategic and responsive funding for young feminist-led initiatives.
VGIF	The Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF) provides small grants to grassroots projects that empower women and girls.
HIVOS	Awards grants throughout the year in all regions for issues including Rights and Citizenship and has funded child marriage initiatives.
National Endowment for Democracy	Makes direct grants to organisations worldwide working to advance democratic goals and strengthen democratic institutions.

Foundations with a regional focus

The organisations listed in this section are similar to the organisations listed above, except they focus on a particular geographical region or set of countries.

Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres	Supports grassroots organisations led and formed by women who work towards the promotion and advocacy of human rights in Latin America.
The Inter-American Foundation	Provides grants directed at improving the quality of life for poor people and strengthening democratic practices in Latin America and the Caribbean.
Commonwealth Foundation	Supports participatory governance across the Commonwealth with gender equality as a cross-cutting issue.
African Women's Development Fund	Supports local, national and regional women's organisations working towards the empowerment of African women and the promotion and realisation of their rights.
Firelight Foundation	Funds promising community organisations that support the health, resilience, and education of children in Africa.
Comic Relief	Funds projects on a variety of issues -including gender equality- in Sub-Saharan Africa and a few outside Africa by invitation only.
The South Asia Women's Fund	Funds small women's organisations and young women's activists working on issues critical to the women's movement in the region.
The Asia Foundation	The Asia Foundation Women's Program develops women's leadership and human rights awareness, and strengthens women's organisations.

Newly established Funds

Two newly established Funds are of interest to the child marriage movement. They will start providing funding in early 2015. While not all details have been made available yet, we invite you to keep track of them.

Amplify Change	Launched in September 2014, it will provide grants for projects on sexual and reproductive health and rights, including on gender-based violence and youth.
The With and For Girls Collective	Announced at the 2014 Girl Summit, it will bring together eight organisations to develop a global awards process that will provide a total of \$1m to strong local girl-led and girl-focused organisations in 2015.

Crowdfunding

Crowdfunding is the practice of funding a project by raising numerous small donations from a large number of people, usually via online platforms. Typically, those seeking funds will pass a due diligence process before being invited to set up a profile of their project on a crowdfunding website.

Girls Not Brides has developed relationships with two major crowdfunding platforms - Catapult and GlobalGiving - with some of our members already successfully featuring their projects and raising funds. Please contact the *Girls Not Brides* team if you wish to explore this possibility for your projects.

Catapult	Platform dedicated exclusively to girls and women's equality and rights, including child marriage. This 2-minute video explains how it works.
GlobalGiving	Gives non-profits around the world a chance to raise money to improve their communities. Their CrowdFundamentals explain how it works.

United Nations (UN) agencies

Some UN agencies fund CSOs. Each of the UN bodies has a specific agenda and set of goals. Research the agencies thoroughly and answer to the calls that best fit the profile of your organisations and match the general intents of the potential donor agency.

UNWomen	Provides grants through two funds—the Fund for Gender Equality (exclusively for economic and political empowerment) and the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women .
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	Administers The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery , supporting projects delivering direct assistance to victims of modern slavery, including forced and early marriage.
The United Nations Democracy Fund	Annually invites CSOs to apply for funding for projects that strengthen the voice of civil society, promote human rights, and advance and support democracy.
UNICEF and UNFPA	While these agencies have taken leadership on child marriage work in many countries, they do not have established Funds. Country offices may consider supporting your child marriage related activities. Do not hesitate to contact your UNFPA or UNICEF local office to familiarise yourself with their work and get to know the key officials working on the practise. If they are unable to provide funding, they may be able to support you by inviting you to relevant meetings and training, providing you with statistics and other data, sharing their media contacts, etc.

Foreign embassies

Foreign embassies sometimes provide small grants to organisations based in the host country. Many of these embassies also host development cooperation programmes that are implemented through bilateral agencies such as the USAID, AUSAID, DFID etc. If they are not

able to provide direct funding, it is worth exploring other ways in which they could support your activities.

Governments that have taken a public stand on the issue of child marriage and have provided funding for programmes on the issue include Canada, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Australia	Embassies have a number of schemes working with local organisations, including The Direct Aid Program - a flexible small grants programme.
Belgium	The Consolidation of Society scheme allows for direct financing of NGOs from selected countries. Requests should be submitted through the local Belgian embassies (attaché for development cooperation).
Canada	Canada has funded modest-scale development assistance projects in over 120 countries through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI).
Finland	The Fund for Local Cooperation is a development instrument administered by Finnish embassies in Finland's partnership countries.
Germany	Most German missions in developing countries are provided with funds to finance small-scale technical co-operation projects for which local NGOs can also apply.
The Netherlands	While most of their funding is channelled through their Grants Programme , Dutch embassies may also work with local CSOs and NGOs.
United Kingdom	Official aid is managed through the UK Department for International Development (DFID) , not via embassies.
United States of America	The embassies of the USA have small grants to support NGOs. Each funding stream is referred to under different names such as The Development Grants Program .

As the list of embassies is vast, it is difficult to cover all of them here. We encourage you to explore the embassy websites of governments from developed countries in your own country and to contact them to learn about opportunities. One of the best sources to find embassy websites is [embassyworld.com](#).

Online resources

Other online resources include databases of donors and websites either specialising in funding or on women and girls' issues.

Funds for NGOs	Sends alerts with new calls for proposals, donor deadlines and other useful resources for NGOs.
Grantmakers online	Is a free, interactive, global funding database for grantmakers and grantseekers, allowing you to search by country.
Association for Women's Rights in Development	AWID is an international, feminist, membership organisation committed to achieving gender equality, sustainable development and women's human rights. Their Calls for Participation include funding opportunities.
Directory of Human Rights Funders	Is a tool designed to enable both grantmakers and grantseekers to search for human rights funders by several key criteria.

Women's Funding Network	Is the largest philanthropic network in the world devoted to women and girls. You can read about their members in their directory .
International Network of Women's Funds	Is a membership association linking Women's Funds to promote philanthropy with a feminist perspective. You can read about their members in their directory .
European Foundation Centre	Is an international membership association of foundations and corporate funders. You can read about their members in their directory .

***Girls Not Brides* Webinars**

In September and October 2014, *Girls Not Brides* hosted two webinars designed specifically for our members. These were delivered by GlobalGiving.

The "Good Fundraising – Practical Skills Webinar" provided members with fundraising essentials using concrete examples, checking lists, and best practises. A recording of the webinar is available here: <http://www.instantpresenter.com/globalgivinguk/EB53DA808149>

The webinar on "Core Case for Support to Boost Your Fundraising" focused on how to build a strong reference document – including the problem you aim to address, your work and your impact - to help members in their grant writing efforts. You can view the recording of the webinar here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/4391370638898774529>

Useful tips to identify and keep track of call for proposals

- Fundraising and resource mobilisation is a key part of your work and sustainability; make sure you dedicate time to it.
- Sign up for the newsletters of the organisations listed above to receive valuable information and to be notified of calls for proposals.
- Get connected to them via Facebook, Twitter, etc. and stay updated.
- Before beginning a grant proposal, make sure that you and the potential donor are a good match. Thoroughly review a funder's website. Do not try and fit into their interests if you cannot as you will be wasting valuable time.
- Conduct in-depth research about previously sponsored NGOs whose aims and goals are most similar to your own.
- Create a database to keep track of the names and links of those organisations that match your work. Visit their websites regularly to learn about new opportunities.
- Try to connect with people at the funding organisation so you can discuss how your work is in alignment with their funding opportunities. It is always good to expand your network.
- Before asking for a meeting, make sure you have a good presentation of your work, can speak confidently about it, and have specific questions to ask.
- In any new proposal, consider including a budget line for your fundraising activities and the resources it will require as it takes a considerable amount of time!

We wish you every success with your fundraising! Do not hesitate to contact us at info@GirlsNotBrides.org if you need material on child marriage to support your fundraising.