

AWID IN 2014: Strengthening Women's Rights Organizing Around the World

Collaboration is at the heart of all that we do.

In 2014, AWID built knowledge on women's rights issues; helped enhance responses to violence against women human rights defenders (WHRDs); and contributed to strengthening feminist and women's rights movements. We contributed to building the capacity of our members and broader constituency; pushed hard to keep women's rights on the agenda of major international development and human rights processes; and helped increase coverage of women's rights issues and organizing through the media.

awid women's rights

Association for Women's Rights in Development

THE GLOBAL CONTEXT



Violence against women continues to rise

with women human rights defenders, especially those defending their territory, land and natural resources, increasingly targeted by both corporations and states. Increased conflict and severe humanitarian crises in places like Syria and South Sudan are exposing huge numbers of women and girls to human rights violations.



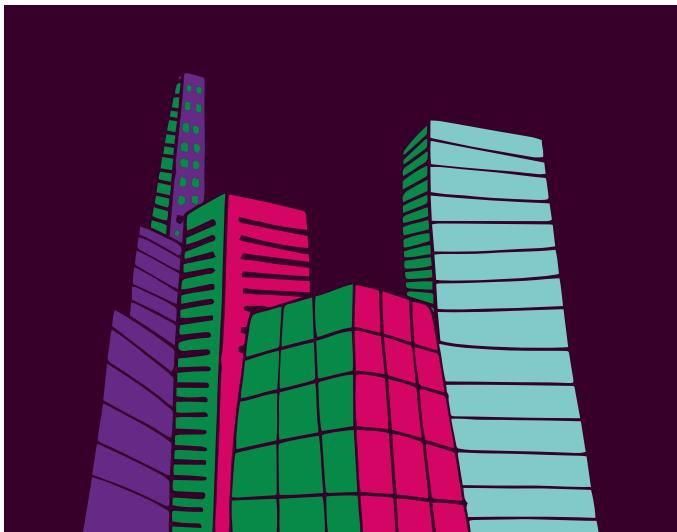
Religious fundamentalisms are more pervasive

with extreme interpretations of religion and reinforcement of patriarchal, cultural and social norms causing a backlash against human rights and a marked rise of violence against women, girls, ethnic and religious minorities, and people expressing diverse gender identities and sexualities.



Inequality, poverty and insecurity continue to grow

with responses to these issues largely failing to address the root causes. The new [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) has important gains for women's rights, but does not provide the necessary structural changes nor financial commitments for sustainable, rights-based development.



The role of the corporate sector in development, global governance and philanthropy is on the rise

with the market put forward as the central solution and transnational corporations gaining privileged access to global decision-making.



Diverse social movements continue to resist and challenge dominant and oppressive systems

but are increasingly subject to surveillance, repression, criminalization and shrinking democratic space to defend rights.

Despite this increasingly challenging panorama, there are **important signs of hope** for advancing women's rights agendas. Women's rights activists remain crucial in creating openings to demand structural change, sustaining their communities, opposing violence and holding the line on key achievements. And there are important opportunities to influence new actors and to mobilize greater resources to support women's rights organizations. In this context, strong collective action and organizing among women's rights activists remains essential.

“ We are delighted to be a member of this renowned Women's Movement in our global village.”

— Association of Disabled Females International, Liberia



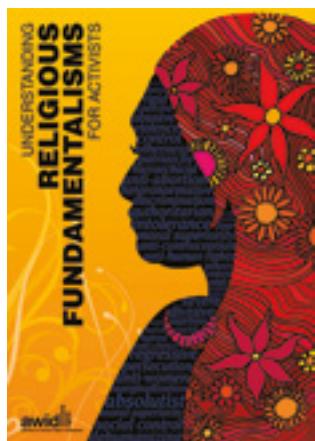
OUR IMPACT



“ I am so proud of being a member of this dynamic and diverse network of women and men to ensure women’s rights and sustainable development.”

— Fabrice BYIRINGIRO, Rwanda

We built knowledge on women's rights issues



Understanding Religious Fundamentalisms for Activists is a toolkit for activists facing opposition to their work by religious fundamentalist actors and brings together in one place



6 yrs

of AWID's innovative research and analysis, drawing on the experiences of

100s

of women's rights activists around the world.

This [series of infographics](#) raises awareness about the violence women human rights defenders face, and what integrated approaches to their protection look like.

We strengthened our online community

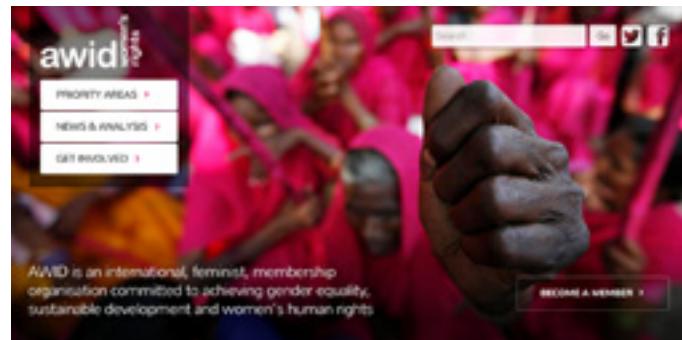
Our [Facebook](#) fans in 2014 grew by over 50% in 2014 to

25,138



Our [Twitter](#) following increased by 62%, reaching

24,288



[**www.awid.org**](http://www.awid.org)

Our website had a total makeover. Launched in May 2015, the new site is a hub of feminist content and provides in-depth information on AWID's program areas.



We redeveloped the [Young Feminist Wire](#), to better respond to the needs of our vibrant online community of young feminists from throughout the world which increased by 57% to

1,636

members in December 2014

3,140

Facebook fans

We helped improve responses to violence against WHRDs

We supported:

160

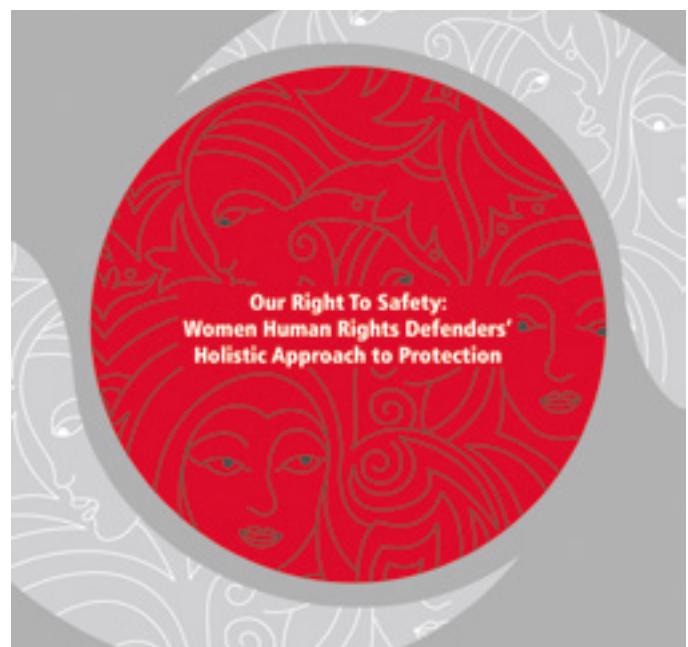
[Urgent Actions on WHRDs at Risk](#) from

47

countries



AWID is often one of many voices encouraging solidarity with WHRDs. These joint solidarity efforts contributed to the 21 September 2014 release of Egyptian human rights lawyer Mahienour el-Massry, charged with participating in an unauthorized protest.

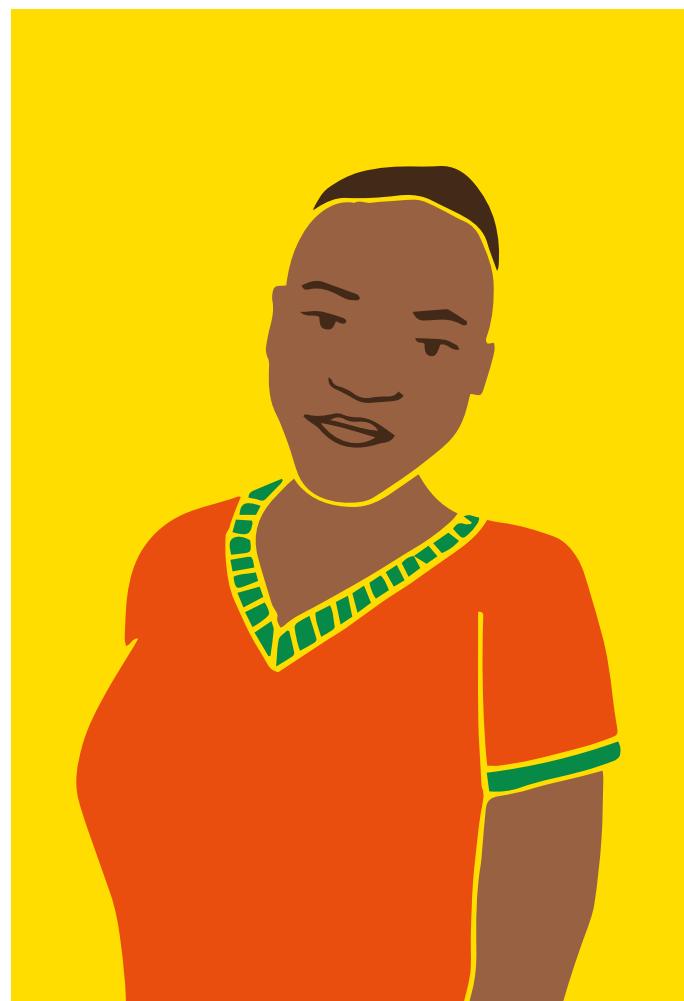


With the [WHRD International Coalition](#), we produced [Our Right to Safety: Women Human Rights Defenders' Holistic Approach to Protection](#) in English, Spanish and French. WHRDs around the world are using the report to advocate for more effective, gender-sensitive protection for WHRDs at risk.

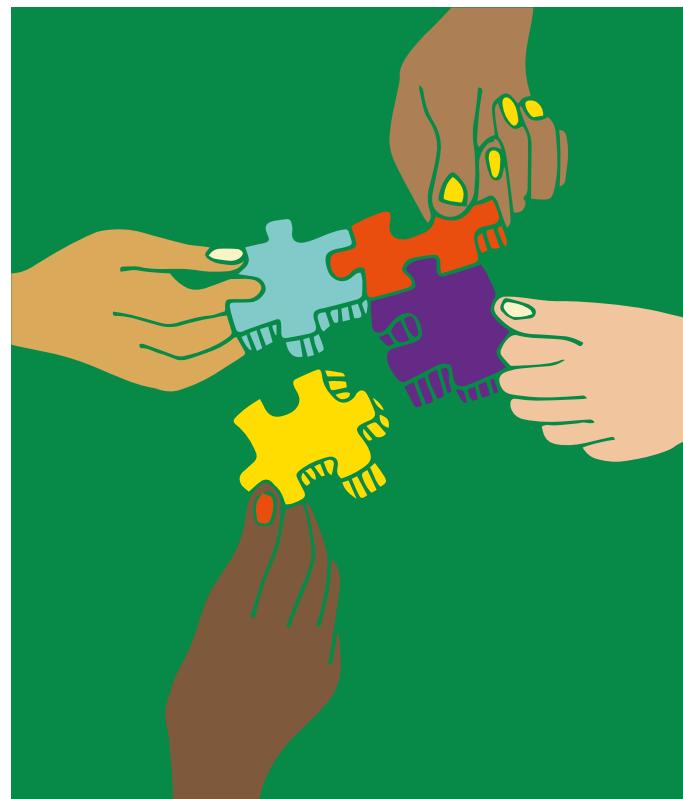
The [Mesoamerican initiative of WHRDs](#) (IMD), of which AWID is a founding member, was awarded the International Human Rights Prize Letelier-Moffit by the [Institute for Policy Studies](#) in June 2014 - an important recognition of the role the initiative has played in improving protection for WHRDs in the region.

“ I am sincerely thrilled by AWID’s accomplishments since 1982 and hope to be able to pay at least a modest contribution to its hard work for the benefit of women and situation of gender equality.”

— Aleksandra Miletic-Santic, Bosnia-Herzegovina



We strengthened movement building through collaborative working processes



The Observatory on the Universality of Rights (OURS) is a ground-breaking collaborative effort to track, analyze and share information on the role of religious fundamentalisms in undermining the universality of rights in the international human rights system. The OURS initiative is led by a working group of 11 partners¹ from human rights, development, women's rights and faith-based organizations.

AWID, in partnership with [Instituto del Tercer Mundo \(ITEM\)](#) [Social Watch](#), and with allies from different funding sectors, collaboratively developed the Fundher Scorecard to hold donors accountable on financing for gender equality and women's rights, including support for women's rights organizing. This is the first civil society-led global tool that specifically focuses on assessing the quantity and quality of resources mobilized for women's rights and gender equality.

¹ OURS working group: ARC International, Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), AWID, CDD-Mexico, Coalition for African Lesbians (CAL), -Cynthia Rothschild, -Global Rights Watch (GRW), -International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN), Musawah global movement for justice and equality in the Muslim family, Women for Women's Human Rights-New Ways (WWHR) and the World Council of Churches (WCC)

We pushed hard to keep women's human rights on the agendas of major international development processes



We focused our energies on keeping women's rights on the agenda of the [post-2015 process](#), the new development agenda to succeed the [Millennium Development Goals](#) (MDGs). We also pushed for the restructuring of the global financial system during the [Financing for Development process](#) as one of the three co-coordinators of the Women's Working Group (WWG).



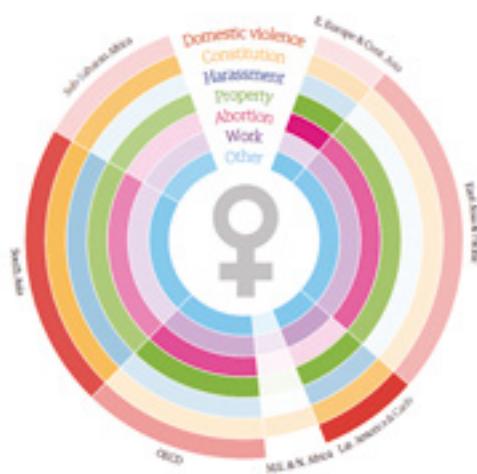
At the 58th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW58), AWID collaborated with the [Women's Major Group](#), the [Post-2015 Women's Coalition](#) and other allies to influence the Agreed Conclusions. Important inclusions were direct reference to gender-responsive budgeting, and a section on maximizing investments in gender equality and the empowerment of women.

We helped women's rights organizations better influence donors and increased visibility and understanding of women's rights organizations among the donor community



Our research on funding trends and actors impacting women's rights organizing, made up of [Watering the Leaves, Starving the Roots](#); [New Actors, New Money, New Conversations](#); and [Women Moving Mountains](#), is being used to influence funder agendas, enrich global debates on financing trends; and support funders and women's rights organizations in responding to these trends.

We contributed towards increased and improved coverage of women's rights issues and organizing in mainstream media



We launched the [women's rights and gender equality in focus](#) section of the Guardian's global development portal in February 2014 – part of a new partnership with AWID, [Mama Cash](#) and [The Guardian Online](#). The hub provides a specific focus on the issues affecting women, girls and transgender people around the world, as well as the critical work being carried out by women's rights movements and within a year had over 1.9 million visits, 340,000 shares and 5,664 comments.

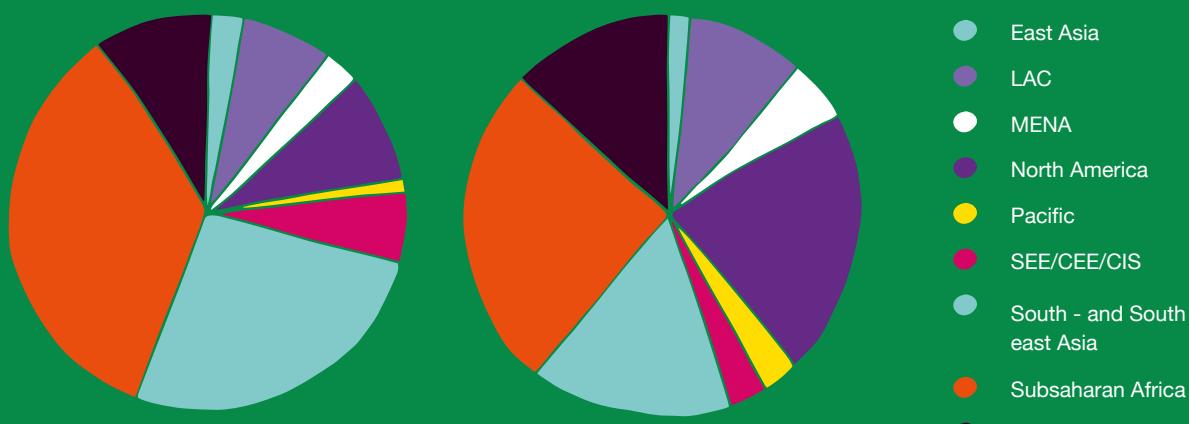
OUR MEMBERS



AWID members are activists, women human rights defenders, researchers, academics, women's and human rights organizations, policy makers, trainers and educators from all over the world.

Our members were the most diverse ever with increasing numbers of indigenous women, sex worker activists, women with disabilities and young women.

Regional breakdown of members



481

Institutional members

4182

Individual members

4663

Total members

When we surveyed over 1600 of our members and subscribers, they told us that:

It's the agenda that matters

83%

of members join AWID to be part of women's rights movements

72%

of members join AWID to connect with others

79%

of members join AWID to strengthen their work

Our information is useful

78%

For 78% of respondents, AWID's biggest contribution is helping them understand current or emerging women's rights issues

70%

of members use our information for personal learning

49%

of members use our information for raising awareness

53%

of members frequently share our information with colleagues

Our work is relevant

89%

For 89% of respondents, at least one of AWID's program areas is very relevant to their work

60%

60% said that four or more of the areas are very relevant to their work

Our work is relevant

Members are interested in more opportunities to engage with AWID

81%

are particularly interested in networking with AWID members

81%

are particularly interested in participating in training

70%

of respondents want to engage with other members through an [online platform](#)

FINANCIALS

Contributions

USD

Donors

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)	1,521,781
Ford Foundation	675,000
Norway Ministry of Foreign Affairs	305,477
Oak Foundation	250,000
Tides Foundation	240,434
Anonymous	220,000
HIVOS	193,912
Foundation for a Just Society	150,000
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs	114,871
El Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres (Central American Women's Fund)	74,216
IBON International	39,030
Global Fund for Women	35,000
Oxfam Canada	25,335
Wallace Global Fund	20,000
Levi Strauss Foundation	20,000
Channel Foundation	10,500
UN Women	10,412
Donations	8,485
Guardian Foundation	7,200
Just Associates	5,700
Mama Cash	3,000

Other Revenue

Contributed services (pro bono legal services)	107,917
Membership, sales and services	15,760
Interest	12,179

Total Contributions

4,066,209

Expenses	USD
Advancing Women's Rights in and through Media	384,541
Bridging Knowledge and Practice (BKaP)	718,836
Challenging Religious Fundamentalisms (CF)	377,821
Economic Justice and Financing for Women's Rights (EJFWR)	512,326
AWID International Forum	204,212
Women's Human Rights Defenders (WHRD)	531,368
Women's Rights Information (WRI)	314,522
Young Feminist Activism (YFA)	346,135
Management and General	461,689
Fundraising	189,319
Total Expenses	4,040,769
Foreign Exchange (Loss/Gain)	787,562
Total Expenses with Foreign Exchange	4,828,331

“ I am looking forward to a very fruitful engagement with the team. Feeling great. Thanks for accepting me as a member.”

- Runu Chakraborty, India



The Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) is an international feminist, membership organization committed to achieving gender equality, sustainable development, and women's human rights. AWID's mission is to be a driving force within the global community of feminist and women's rights activists, organizations and movements, strengthening our collective voice, influencing and transforming structures of power and decision-making and advancing human rights, gender justice and environmental sustainability worldwide.

www.awid.org



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