

WYDE Women's Leadership Grantees' Cohort - 2025

This brief presents the cohort of grantee partners supported by the WYDE Women's Leadership programme - eight women's rights civil society organizations leading country-level interventions to advance women's political participation and leadership.



*Total amount of WYDE grants in Year 1.

Strengthening Inclusive Feminist Leadership through Collective Action and Social Norms Change

This portfolio brings together women-led civil society and youth organizations committed to expanding women's political participation by challenging the cultural attitudes and structural barriers that exclude them from leadership. Anchored in the **Generation Equality Action Coalition on Feminist Movements** and Leadership (five grantee partners are members of the Action Coalition), these projects are promoting intersectional feminist movements rooted in community, solidarity, and systemic change.

Shifting social norms to strengthen women's leadership

A core focus of this portfolio is shifting social norms pertaining to women's leadership and decision-making. Through public campaigns, media advocacy, training, and youth-led mobilization, grantees are leveraging dialogue and innovation to challenge gender stereotypes, prevent violence against women in politics, and combat disinformation.

The WYDE Women's Leadership programme supports initiatives that are redefining who can lead, how leadership must be shared and promoted, and which diverse voices can shape the political landscape. With feminist movement-building at the center, this cohort is not only promoting inclusive and intersectional leadership—but reshaping it altogether.

Transformative strategies

Grantees are advancing transformative strategies including intergenerational mentoring, coalition building, and capacity strengthening for women and girls from marginalized communities—such as women with disabilities, indigenous and LGBTQI+ women, and those affected by displacement and conflict.

By working across local, national, and regional levels, these initiatives are creating feminist platforms for policy and advocacy engagement, while reshaping perceptions of women in leadership roles.

About WYDE | Women's Leadership

WYDE | Women's Leadership, funded by the European Union, is a collaborative global effort aimed at advancing women's full and effective political participation and decision-making at all levels, especially those most often left furthest behind.

WYDE | Women's Leadership is implemented by UN Women, the International Institute for Democracy and

Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), and is part of the Women and Youth Democratic Engagement initiative (WYDE), powered by the European Union, which seeks to empower and strengthen the rights, and participation in public and political life of women and youth as key actors of development and change.

AFRICA


Liberia | Organization for Women and Children

ORWOCH is promoting women's political leadership by challenging unequal power relations and strengthening feminist coalitions. Through intergenerational mentorship and male engagement, the initiative is increasing women's participation in decision-making and building organizational capacity to influence policy.


Malawi | Mbawemi WOCHRIC

Mbawemi is promoting women's political participation by building the capacities of aspiring leaders and transforming social norms. Through public and grassroots campaigns, media outreach, and a network of feminist organizations, the initiative is confronting violence against women in politics and amplifying youth engagement.

Nigeria | Women, Environment and Youth Development Initiative


WOYODEV is promoting feminist movements through leadership training, media campaigns, and civil society mobilization. The initiative is advocating for gender quotas, building inclusive networks, and supporting women with disabilities to engage in political processes and reshape social norms.


South Sudan | Bridge for Social Services

BRISS is promoting the political participation of internally displaced women by challenging discriminatory norms and strengthening women-led networks. Working in consortium, the initiative is building leadership forums and increasing inclusion of displaced and disabled women in decision-making spaces.

ASIA


India | Gender at Work (G@WI)

This initiative is promoting leadership among young Dalit and Muslim women, and LGBTIQ+ persons through mentorship, skill-building, and policy engagement. By forming informal feminist networks, it is disrupting entrenched power structures and cultivating inclusive, community-rooted leadership for long-term gender justice.


Nepal | Access Planet Organization

APO is promoting inclusive leadership by training young women with disabilities and fostering intergenerational networks. The initiative is engaging local governments, conducting community campaigns, and creating forums for political participation that center the experiences and leadership of underrepresented women.

LATIN AMERICA


Argentina | CISCESA and ANDHES

In collaboration with ANDHES, CISCESA is promoting inclusive feminist movements by training young, LGBTIQ+, and Indigenous women in political leadership. The initiative is strengthening intersectional advocacy, collecting and sharing knowledge and building momentum for public policies that reflect diverse women's rights and participation.

ARAB STATES


Syria | DAR for Peace and Prosperity

DAR is promoting women's political participation in Syria by challenging stigma and reshaping social norms. Through journalist networks, disability inclusion, and grassroots mobilization, the initiative is empowering women to lead in their communities and fostering a broader shift toward gender-equitable leadership.



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