

WYDE Women's Leadership Grantees' Cohorts - 2025-2026

This brief presents the first and second cohorts of civil society partners supported by the WYDE Women's Leadership programme - sixteen women's rights organizations leading country-level interventions to advance women's political participation, representation and leadership.



*Total amount of WYDE grants (as of July 2026)

Strengthening Inclusive Feminist Leadership through Collective Action and Social Norms Change

This portfolio supports women-led civil society organizations committed to expanding women's political participation by challenging the cultural attitudes and structural barriers that exclude them from leadership. Anchored in achieving the goals of the **Generation Equality Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership**, 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 affecting 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 countering 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, these organizations not only promote inclusive and intersectional leadership—but reshape it altogether.

Transformative strategies

Grantees are advancing transformative strategies including **intergenerational mentoring**, **coalition building**, and **capacity strengthening** for women and young women 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 and young 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

Ghana | EWEF (03/2026 - 12/2027)

This project is building pathways for young women's political leadership through mentorship, advocacy, and feminist movement-building. By connecting emerging leaders with experienced women advocates and mobilising communities to challenge harmful gender norms, EWEF is strengthening local ecosystems that support women's participation in public and political life.

Lesotho | BAM Group Foundation (03/2026 - 10/2027)

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.

Malawi | Mbawemi WOCHRIC (02/2025 - 01/2027)

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.

South Sudan | Bridge for Social Services (02/2025 - 02/2027)

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 women in decision-making spaces.

Zanzibar, Tanzania | TAMWA (03/2026 - 12/2027)

This project is strengthening women's participation in democratic processes by addressing structural and social barriers that limit their leadership opportunities. Combining mentorship, advocacy, institutional reform, and action against violence targeting women in politics, TAMWA is supporting a more inclusive governance landscape where women, particularly young women and women with disabilities, can participate safely and meaningfully.

Ethiopia | EWDNA (03/2026 - 08/2027)

This project is tackling the multiple barriers faced by women with disabilities in public life by strengthening their leadership skills and amplifying their voices in political and decision-making spaces. Alongside awareness campaigns and accessible information materials, EWDNA is working with institutions and civil society coalitions to advance disability-inclusive governance and evidence-based policy reform.

Kenya | WETEC (03/2026 - 12/2027)

Working with young women in indigenous and rural communities, this project combines leadership development with digital resilience and peacebuilding. By addressing online violence, expanding digital literacy, and establishing mentorship hubs, WETEC is enabling young women to engage more confidently in governance, civic action, and community decision-making while challenging exclusionary social norms.

Liberia | Organization for Women and Children (02/2025 - 02/2026; project closed)

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

Nigeria | Women, Environment and Youth Development Initiative (02/2025 - 03/2027)

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.

ASIA



India | Gender at Work (G@WI) (03/2025 - 02/2027)

This initiative is promoting leadership among young Dalit and Muslim women, and gender-diverse people 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.

Timor-Leste | Ba Futuru (03/2026 - 12/2027)



This project is strengthening women's leadership in local governance, where women remain largely excluded from village-level decision-making. Through leadership development, civic education, disability inclusion, and community dialogue, Ba Futuru is equipping emerging women leaders with the skills, networks, and confidence to shape more inclusive governance and challenge discriminatory social norms.



Bolivia | Centro Juana Azurduy (04/2026 - 08/2027)

The project supports inclusive women's political leadership and challenges discriminatory practices that restrict women's equal access to decision-making and executive roles. By strengthening the leadership, collective action, and public voice of Indigenous, urban-migrant, youth, and LGBTQ+ women, Centro Juana Azurduy aims to transform patriarchal social norms limiting women's political participation in Sucre.

Nepal | Access Planet Organization (02/2025 - 02/2027)



APO is promoting inclusive leadership by training young marginalized women, including those living 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 (02/2025 - 08/2026)



In collaboration with ANDHES, CISCESA is promoting inclusive feminist movements by training young, LBTIQ+, 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



Tunisia | IBSAR (03/2026 - 11/2027)

Focusing on young women with disabilities, this project is promoting greater political representation and civic leadership in Tunisia. Through advocacy for more inclusive electoral frameworks, peer-led leadership models, research on governance barriers, and public awareness efforts, IBSAR is working to ensure women with disabilities are recognised as active political actors and decision-makers.



Syria | DAR for Peace and Prosperity (02/2025 - 02/2026; *project closed*)

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.



Funded by
the European Union



www.unwomen.org