



Advocating for peace, justice & equality



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

MESSAGE FROM OUR LAUREATES

CHALLENGE, CHANGE, AND OPPORTUNITY

2020 was an unprecedented year of challenge, change, and opportunity.

It was a year marked by the COVID-19 global pandemic, mass calls to end anti-Black racism, intensified climate change and climate change activism, to name a few. Under the pretext of curbing Covid-19, many governments increased militarized measures – curfews, roadblocks, and surveillance – and put women at greater risk for repression. The global health crisis further exposed gross social inequalities, put women at increased risk of gender-based violence, and exacerbated conflict and stalled peace talks.

Feminists dedicated to advocating for peace and human rights now had the added challenge of the militarized response to the pandemic, the immediate pandemic-related needs of their communities but also to continue their important work for justice, equity, and peace in a very different landscape. Yet women's human rights defenders and peacebuilders around the globe pivoted and persisted. From Colombia to Yemen, women human rights defenders forged new paths towards human security for all. They reminded us again and again that a feminist approach to human security is essential to achieving a healthy, just and peaceful world.

For Nobel Women's Initiative it was a year that sparked change and deep reflection.

At the Nobel Women's Initiative, we were called upon to examine how we do our work. With the resignation of five staff and two long-term consultants, we were challenged to change. We were challenged to ensure that our feminist values of peace, justice, and equity are as essential to how we work as well as to the work we do.

We are taking this opportunity to chart a new feminist vision for the Nobel Women's Initiative. We are committed to creating a safe, inclusive, and just organization in practice and in programming. It is a journey fraught with challenges, but also filled with opportunities for true transformation. This transformation journey requires time, commitment, and a willingness to learn. We remain deeply committed to all of these things.

After 15 years of supporting grassroots feminist peacebuilding, the Nobel Women's Initiative is heeding the call to build peace inside and out. Together with feminists, peacebuilders and leading thinkers across the globe, NWI is embarking on a creative and values-led reimagining of itself. We, the laureates, look forward to working in solidarity with women's

movements and incredible activists to build a future where collectively we can have an even stronger impact around the world.

What continues to be abundantly clear is that women's voices and solutions must and will lead us through this pandemic and beyond, and must be at the forefront in building a world based on feminist justice, equity, and peace.

Shirin Ebadi, Iran

Leymah Gbowee, Liberia

Tawakkol Karman, Yemen

Rigoberta Menchú Tum, Guatemala

Jody Williams, USA



Shirin Ebadi



Leymah Gbowee



Tawakkol Karman



Rigoberta Menchú Tum



Jody Williams

2020 HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE



CLIMATE CHANGE

- » The Nobel Women's Initiative, with the **Equality Fund**, co-authored **"Supporting Women's Organizations and Movements: A Strategic Approach to Climate Action"**. The report looked at how a more integrated, feminist approach to the climate crisis could actually save the planet.
- » 42 Nobel Laureates called on the Canadian government "to act with the moral clarity required by the state of this crisis" and to put "an immediate end to fossil fuel financing and expansion".

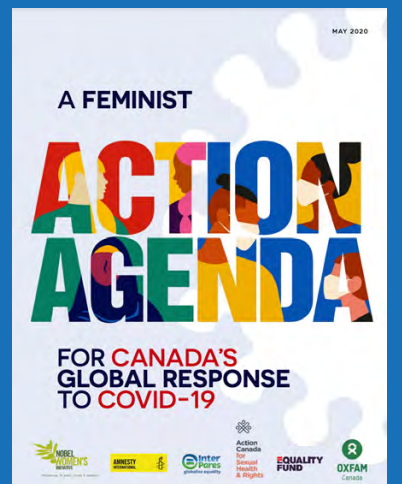
CAMEROON

- » The Nobel Peace laureates called for women's participation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding in Cameroon; for a United Nations' human rights fact-finding mission; and for the international community to stand with people of Cameroon by condemning the displacements, violence, and killings.



COVID-19

- » 2019 marked the start of the COVID-19 global pandemic and the Nobel Women's Initiative, in order to ensure health, lasting peace, and human security for all, called for **women's voices and solutions** to lead us through the pandemic.
- » The **#FeministResponders** campaign put a spotlight on Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) in the Middle East in the context of a global pandemic with a special live episode of **"When Feminists Rule the World... There will be no pandemics"**; an interview with **Outgoing UN Special Representative for Human Rights Defenders Michel Forst**; and **Yemeni peacebuilder Muna Luqman** on the impact of COVID-19 in Yemen.
- » The report **"A Feminist Action Agenda for Canada's Global Response to COVID-19"** looked at how gender inequality holds back progress on governance, human rights, peace, economics, food security, health, and environmental protection. Women's rights and gender justice must be at the heart of the global response to COVID-19.



INTERVIEWHER

- » Our online platform for journalists which aims to connect media with women peace and security experts featured 96 experts from over 50 countries by the end of 2020. Women peacebuilders reported being contacted 49 times by journalists through InterviewHer.

BLACK LIVES MATTER

» In solidarity with protestors against **anti-Black racism** in the United States and around the world and as a global feminist organization working towards peace, justice and equality, we called for justice for Breonna Taylor. For George Floyd. For Tony McDade. And for every Black life lost to racism.



A COURAGEOUS CALL FOR CHANGE

» Five staff and two consultants resigned from Nobel Women's Initiative, challenging the organization to better align our internal practices with our organizational values of peace, justice, and equality.

JUNE/JULY

NASRIN

» NASRIN, a **documentary** about the life and work of Nasrin Sotoudeh, an Iranian human rights defender and political prisoner, was presented as a free online event with a panel discussion with the filmmaker Jeff Kaufman, Iranian activist Maryam Shafipour, and Nobel Peace laureate Shrin Ebadi.



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

» This year's **16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence** profiled extraordinary women activists working to free political prisoners, fight for Indigenous rights, shelter survivors of gender-based violence, ban killer robots, and more.

Sarah Jewell

Yanar Mohammed

Mozn Hassan

Misk Al-Junaid

Muna Luqman

Azza Soliman

Joumana Seif

Nedal Al-Salman

Leila Alikarami

Fahima Hashim

Omaira Al Najjar

Wanda Muñoz

**COURAGE
RESISTANCE
ACTIVIST
FEMINIST**

NOBEL WOMEN'S INITIATIVE
#16Days

NOVEMBER

NASRIN SOTOUDEH

» We called on the international community to press Iran to permanently and unconditionally [release Nasrin Sotoudeh](#). For her work as a human rights lawyer, Sotoudeh was sentenced to 38 years in prison. In August 2020, she began a 46-day hunger strike calling for the release of political prisoners from Iran's Covid-19-ravaged prisons.



Image: IranHumanRights.org

“WHEN FEMINIST RULE THE WORLD” PODCAST

» **Season two** of the “When Feminist Rule the World” podcast featured episodes dedicated Black Lives Matter; killer robots; feminist organizing and resistance; a new nuclear arms race; extremism in the context of a rise in populism, white supremacy and the far right; and class, capitalism, colonial structures and wealth inequality.



Nobel Peace Laureate Betty Williams Dies



Nobel peace laureate, Betty Williams, was a force of nature. She was awarded the Nobel peace prize in 1976, alongside Mairead Maguire, for her work for peace in Northern Ireland. Betty once said, “Fear’s contagious, but so is courage.” A co-founding laureate of the Nobel Women’s Initiative, Betty died on March 18, 2020 in Belfast.

Betty and Mairead met under tragic circumstances. In 1976, Betty witnessed a horrible car crash. A runaway car driven by Irish Republican Army member Danny Lennon, who had been fatally shot while fleeing from British soldiers, crashed into a family who were out for a walk. Three children – Joanne, John, and Andrew – were killed.

Moved by the tragedy, Betty began a life of full-time advocacy. In the process, Betty met the children’s aunt, Mairead Maguire. Together they organized petitions and marches that drew tens of thousands of people calling for an end to the violence. Alongside journalist Ciaran McKeown, the two women co-founded **Peace People**, an organization dedicated to nonviolence in Northern Ireland and throughout the world.

Her **legacy and incredible work for peace** in Northern Ireland, and the rights of children in war everywhere, will never be forgotten. She will be greatly missed.

SUPPORTING OUR WORK FOR PEACE

The Nobel Women's Initiative would like to thank the following individuals and organizations whose generous support allowed us to be a voice for women, peace, and security around the world in 2020:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Carolyn Buck Luce | Lynne Dobson |
| Cynda Collins Arsenault | Marci Shimoff |
| Debbie King | Margaret Paul |
| Dyan Triffo | Mary Byron |
| Elizabeth Fisher | Nancy & Emily Word and family |
| Gloria Joseph | Rebecca Austen |
| Kathy Terry | Sarah Cavanaugh |
| Kimberley Agnew | Sue Shalley |
| Lisa Foley | Susan Byrd |
| | Trea Yip |

Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada
Campaign to Stop Killer Robots

General Donation Fund, hosted by Swiss Philanthropy Foundation

Inner Bonding® Educational Technologies, Inc

KBF Foundation CANADA

Norad, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation

NoVo Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation

Oak Foundation

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Women 2020 Peace Campaign Fund of the Peace Development Fund

ALL OF THE NOBEL PEACE LAUREATES OF THE NOBEL WOMEN'S INITIATIVE:

Jody Williams
Leymah Gbowee
Rigoberta Menchú Tum
Shirin Ebadi
Tawakkol Karman

...and many more generous individuals.

Financial Summary

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Cash | \$ 558,480 | \$ 934,401 |
| Temporary investments | 460,000 | - |
| Accounts Receivable | 411,285 | 65,916 |
| Prepaid Expenses & Deposits | 1,926 | 2,399 |
| | <u>\$ 1,431,691</u> | <u>\$ 1,002,716</u> |
| LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities | \$ 92,157 | \$ 70,480 |
| DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS | 758,444 | 470,479 |
| UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS BEGINNING | 461,757 | 295,129 |
| Net Revenue (Expenditures) | 119,333 | 166,628 |
| UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS ENDING | <u>581,090</u> | <u>461,757</u> |
| | <u>\$ 1,431,691</u> | <u>\$ 1,002,716</u> |
| STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS | | |
| REVENUE | | |
| Donations | \$ 611,159 | \$ 747,765 |
| Foundations | 338,956 | 748,041 |
| Grants | 375,215 | 435,548 |
| In Kind Contributions | - | - |
| Interest & Other Income | 7,366 | 47,016 |
| | <u>\$ 1,332,696</u> | <u>\$ 1,978,370</u> |
| EXPENDITURES | | |
| Administration & Program Support | 250,292 | 353,652 |
| Communications | 374,996 | 398,572 |
| Women's Movement Building | 118,012 | 173,830 |
| Women's Influence over Public Policy | 166,427 | 157,154 |
| Women's Voices in the Media | 239,514 | 344,816 |
| Young Women's Power & Leadership | 64,120 | 383,717 |
| | <u>\$ 1,213,363</u> | <u>\$ 1,811,742</u> |
| NET REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES | <u>\$ 119,333</u> | <u>\$ 166,628</u> |

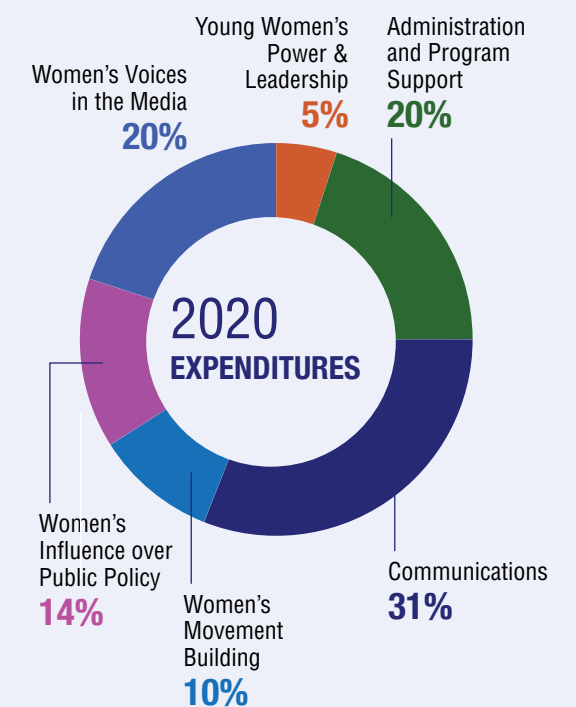
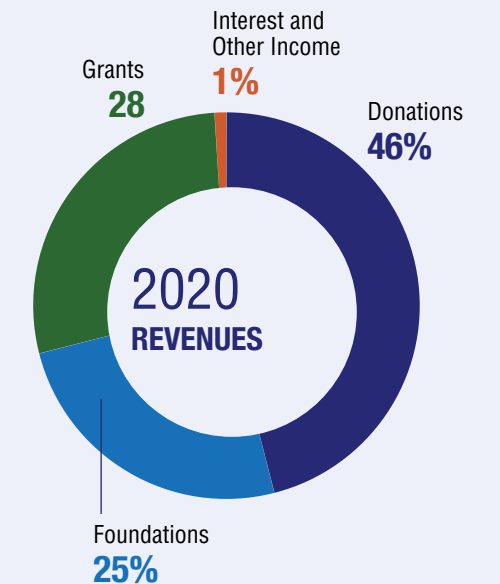




Photo: Susanne Ure

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