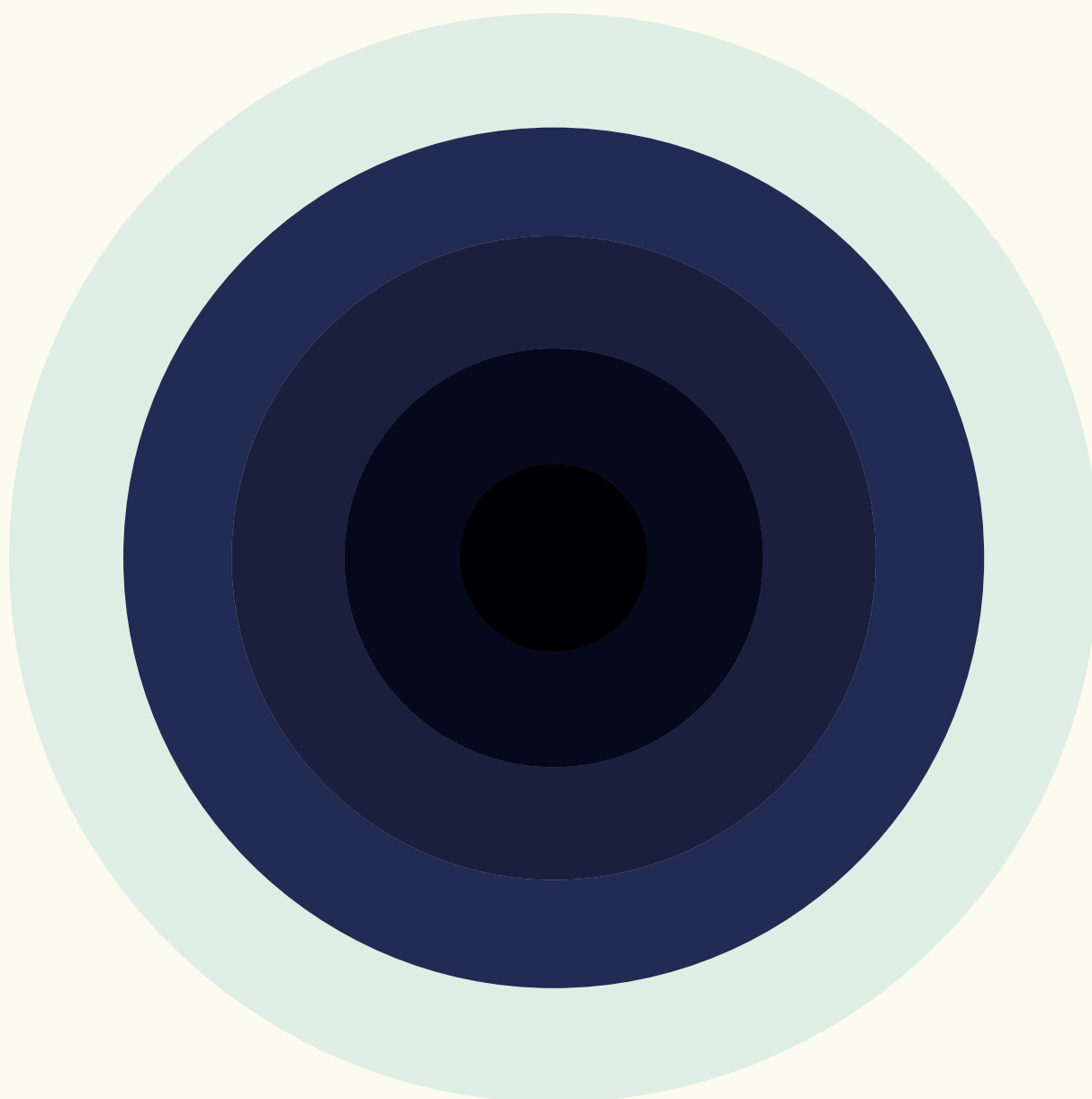


Ending Violence Against Women in Europe: An Exploration of Philanthropic Giving

December 2017

By Karin Heisecke and Karen Weisblatt



Authors

Karin Heisecke, Independent Consultant

Karen Weisblatt, Founder and CEO, Weisblatt et associés

Contributors

Liz Kelly, Director, Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit, London Metropolitan University

Alex Kirchberger, Researcher, Weisblatt et associés

Jo Lovett, Senior Research Fellow, Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit, London Metropolitan University

Advisors

Stephanie Schlitt, former Programme Officer, Sigrid Rausing Trust

Mia Vukojevic, Programme Officer, Oak Foundation

Editor

Elizabeth Brahy, Weisblatt et associés

Acknowledgements

Thank you to all those who participated in the surveys and the in-depth interviews.

This report is an initiative of and was made possible with the financial support of **Barbara Woschek**. We would like to thank her for her inspiration and generosity.

We would like to thank the **Network of European Foundations** for facilitating support for the publication of this report.

About Weisblatt & associés

The Paris-based consulting firm was founded by Karen Weisblatt in 2005 to provide tailor-made strategic advisory services to philanthropists and philanthropic institutions. It specialises in innovative strategic planning, program design, grantmaking, and evaluation. Weisblatt & associés' client base includes individual and family foundations and corporations engaged in philanthropy and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities. Ms. Weisblatt's expertise is in social entrepreneurship, inter-cultural dialogue, human rights, diversity, women's and mission-based issues. Learn more at weisblatt-associates.com

About Ariadne

Ariadne is a European peer-to-peer network of more than 600 individuals from 210 grantmaking organisations in 24 countries which support social change and human rights. Ariadne helps those using private resources for public good achieve more together than they can alone by linking them to other funders and providing practical tools of support.

For more information, please have a look at our website: ariadne-network.eu or contact us: info@ariadne-network.eu

Follow [@AriadneNetwork](https://twitter.com/AriadneNetwork) for tweets on social change, philanthropy, and human rights.

Ariadne is a Programme of Global Dialogue, a registered charity (1122052) and limited company (5775827) which promotes human rights and social change by supporting innovative and collaborative philanthropy.

Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| About | 2 |
| Introduction | 3 |
| Executive Summary | 4 |
| Framing the Issue | 5 |
| Taking Stock | 5 |
| What is Being Done? | 5 |
| Foundations and NGOs Respond | 6 |
| Foundation Survey Results | 6 |
| Geographical Distribution of Funders | 6 |
| Geographical distribution of grantees | 7 |
| Types of grants | 8 |
| Funding focus | 9 |
| Types of VAW activities funded | 10 |
| NGO Survey Results | 12 |
| Number of respondents and geographical distribution | 12 |
| NGO focus and activities | 12 |
| Types of funders and fundraising priorities | 14 |
| Advocacy/lobbying for social change activities | 15 |
| Foundation Center Data on VAW Work in Europe | 18 |
| Key Findings | 19 |
| What Comes Next | 20 |
| Endnotes | 21 |
| Annexes | 22 |
| Annex 1: Types of funders approached and sources of funding | 22 |
| Annex 2: Foundation Interviews – List of Participating Foundations | 23 |
| Annex 3: Foundation Center Data | 24 |
| Join the Conversation | 28 |

Introduction

This report is a response to the need for deeper knowledge about the current state of affairs regarding efforts to end violence against women (VAW) in Europe.¹ As the first exploration of current trends, priorities and levels of funding among philanthropy and civil society organisations working on this issue, this study aims to inform further discussion among stakeholders, in particular donors, on potential strategies for action in this field.

**“This report
is just the
beginning.”**

Two online survey tools were developed specifically for the project, designed by the Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit, London Metropolitan University, so as to gain an overview of the extent and nature of funding for work in this field. One survey addressed foundations and sought to explore their views and experiences. The second survey was targeted at NGOs and addressed their activities, funding priorities and experiences in seeking funding, with a focus on their advocacy-related work. Both surveys were distributed across Europe – the foundation survey primarily via the Ariadne network, and the NGO survey primarily via the Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE) Network.² Further, over a dozen in-depth interviews with foundation representatives were undertaken. In addition, the Foundation Center provided relevant supporting data.

This report, and the data collected for it, complements the work of the Advancing Human Rights project, an initiative to collect and analyse global human rights grantmaking data undertaken by the Foundation Center and the Human Rights Funders Network in partnership with Ariadne and the Prospera network. It builds on an initial strategic conversation on the topic among Ariadne members, which began at the Annual Policy Briefing in 2014 and has continued and expanded since. The report highlights areas where we need to gain a deeper understanding of what is missing in the continuing effort to end VAW and explores avenues for future strategic development of advocacy-related work.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who participated in the surveys, interviews, research and panel discussions, and we look forward to continuing the conversation.

Julie Broome
Director, Ariadne

**“We need to gain
a deeper under-
standing of what
is missing in the
continuing effort
to end VAW.”**

Executive Summary

This report represents the results of the first research into philanthropic funding for work to end violence against women in Europe. It addresses both donors' and recipients' perspectives on current activities and funding priorities in this field. Analysis of the data points to significant gaps between the well-documented extent and gravity of the issue, existing policy responses, and current philanthropic support. The study underscores the pressing need to generate more research and knowledge in this sector in order to fully explore philanthropy's role in helping to end this human rights violation in Europe.

Data for this report was gathered through:

1. An online survey circulated to foundations, mainly through the Ariadne and the Prospera networks, in the summer of 2016 – 27 responses.
2. An online survey circulated to NGOs, primarily members of the Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE) network, in the summer of 2016 – 107 responses.³
3. A dedicated Foundation Center report of their data on funding in this field in Europe.
4. Thirteen in-depth, confidential interviews with senior foundation representatives, which provide a richer nuanced understanding of the challenges in this field. These interviews were undertaken in autumn 2016 and are quoted throughout the report.⁴

Key Findings:

1. Overall, the number of foundations that support work to end violence against women in Europe is small. Funding tends to be at a low level and short-term compared to expressed needs.
2. Foundations indicated that only a minority of their grantees are based in and work in Europe.⁵
3. There are notable regional differences in donor and NGO patterns.

4. The areas of focus most addressed by VAW work are rape/sexual assault and domestic violence. The most favoured target groups are women in prostitution/trafficked women, young women/girls, and migrant/refugee/asylum-seeking women.
5. There is a difference of understanding between donors and grantees with regards to funding needs and priorities.
6. Given additional funding, NGOs across Europe would engage in more advocacy activities, particularly awareness raising, policy advocacy and communications work.

Implications for the Philanthropic Sector:

1. There is a need for more data. A fuller mapping of all funding in this sector, including a combined picture of philanthropic, governmental and international support, needs to be assembled and analysed.
2. There is a lack of monitoring and evaluation in the field. Without investing in generating knowledge, it will remain difficult to measure impact and to identify effective responses and prevention measures.
3. Philanthropy can play a key role in areas such as advocacy, strategic communications and movement building. In these ways, it can help to hold governments accountable, increase awareness, and change societal attitudes.
4. Partnerships should be prioritized both within the philanthropic sector and with other stakeholders, especially civil society organisations.

With violence against women in Europe continuing to be a major human rights challenge, there is significant need for deeper philanthropic engagement on the issue. To develop a vision and lasting plan, more interchange and cooperation needs to develop between and amongst foundations and NGOs. With better data on what is being done, what works, and what could work in the future, philanthropy can serve as an essential component in efforts to eliminate violence against women in Europe.

Framing the Issue

Taking Stock

Violence against women is a key human rights challenge that affects societies worldwide, including in Europe. According to recent data:

- In the European Union (EU), one in three women aged 15 or older has suffered sexual and/or physical violence.
- One in five has suffered violence by her partner, and over half of all women have experienced sexual harassment.⁶
- In Europe, 50 women die every week from male domestic violence.
- Women with disabilities, Roma women, LGBT women and migrant women are at a heightened risk of violence and exploitation.⁷
- Each year, 180,000 girls and women in Europe are estimated to be at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM).⁸

- The cost of violence against women in the EU amounts to 226 billion euros each year, which represents almost 2% of the annual EU budget.⁹

Given these statistics, it is clear that across Europe, current efforts to prevent violence against women are not effective. While the legal framework addressing VAW varies from country to country, the prevalence of violence against women is high even in countries that have a strong legal framework.

“There might also be a misconception that other donors are working on this issue. There is little sense of urgency overall.”

A Foundation leader

“There is a lot more work that needs to be done in Europe. Figures concerning violence against women are still very high. But society seems to think this is not so important because ‘we have equality.’”

A Foundation leader

What is Being Done?

The Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (CETS No. 210, Istanbul Convention), the most comprehensive international treaty on combatting violence against women and domestic violence, entered into force in August 2014. It recognises violence against women as a human rights violation and addresses VAW through measures aimed at preventing violence, protecting victims, and prosecuting the perpetrators. As of November 19, 2017, it had been ratified by 27 Council of Europe member states, and signed but not yet ratified by a further 17. The EU signed the convention on June 13, 2017.¹⁰

While various laws relating to violence against women are in place across Europe, not all are respected. Governments are not fulfilling their commitments and international obligations regarding comprehensive and effective measures to end VAW. In some European countries, such as Russia, the legal framework has even been weakened recently.

Low accountability is also prevalent with regards to governments’ financial commitments; data on public spending on measures to prevent and respond to violence against women is not yet available. Despite rhetoric claiming this issue is a high priority, the European Union’s financial commitments for ending VAW in the EU has decreased in recent years.¹¹

“More and more right-wing organisations are trying to shift the discourse and discredit the legitimacy of this work.”

A Foundation professional

“People think that European governments are funding this individually and that the EU itself is engaged. And to some degree this is true. But I know it is not enough.”

A Foundation leader

Foundations and NGOs Respond

Foundation Survey Results

Geographical distribution of funders

27 foundations responded to the online survey. The overwhelming majority (23) currently fund work on VAW and 14 have funded VAW work in the past. Only one respondent does not fund VAW work.

The geographical distribution of respondents and their total annual grantmaking budgets are as follows:¹²

| Country | Number of respondents | Total annual grantmaking |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| United Kingdom | 5 | 78.669.854 € |
| USA | 4 | 103.673.159 € |
| Netherlands | 3 | 6.026.900 € |
| France | 3 | 1.850.000 € |
| Germany | 3 | 1.390.000 € |
| Switzerland | 2 | 194.470.068 € |
| Belgium | 1 | 350.000.000 € |
| Hungary | 1 | 1.388.911 € |
| Georgia | 1 | 213.000 € |
| Croatia | 1 | 170.149 € |
| Ukraine | 1 | 134.347 € |
| Spain | 1 | 105.000 € |
| Czech Republic / Slovakia | 1 | 71.684 € |

The average annual grantmaking budget of the 27 respondents is €27,339,373. A majority of respondents (52%), however, have an annual grantmaking budget of less than €1 million. Twenty-two percent of respondents have an

annual grantmaking budget between €1 and 5 million. 7 foundations, or 26% of all respondents, have an annual grantmaking budget over €5 million.

“Since 1993, when the Vienna conference officially enshrined a human rights framework, there has been considerable resources in the field and for a time there were considerable resources dedicated to Europe. But over the past 5-10 years the donor world in both Europe and the US has started to intensely internationalise its work. They have discovered other continents – Europe is not so high on the agenda. This is true in all areas, not only VAW.”

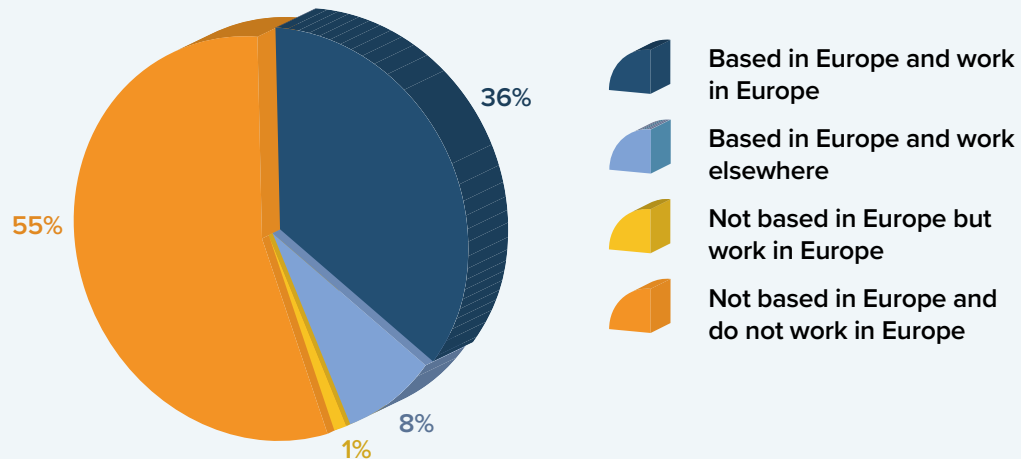
A Foundation professional

Geographical distribution of grantees

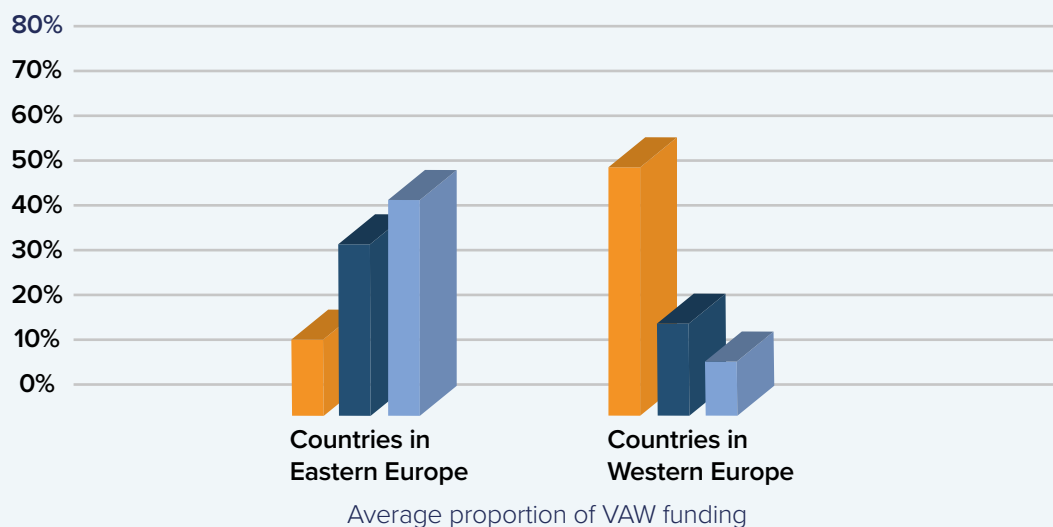
Foundations reported a total of 962 grantees working on VAW. The majority of them (55%) are not based and do not work in Europe. Thirty-six percent of grantees are based and work in

Europe and 8% of grantees are based in Europe and work elsewhere. Only 1% are not based in Europe but work there.

If you fund work on VAW, please indicate how many of the organisations you fund or have funded are:



If you fund or have funded VAW work taking place in Europe, roughly estimate the average proportion of your overall VAW funding going to the following:



Average grantmaking budget:

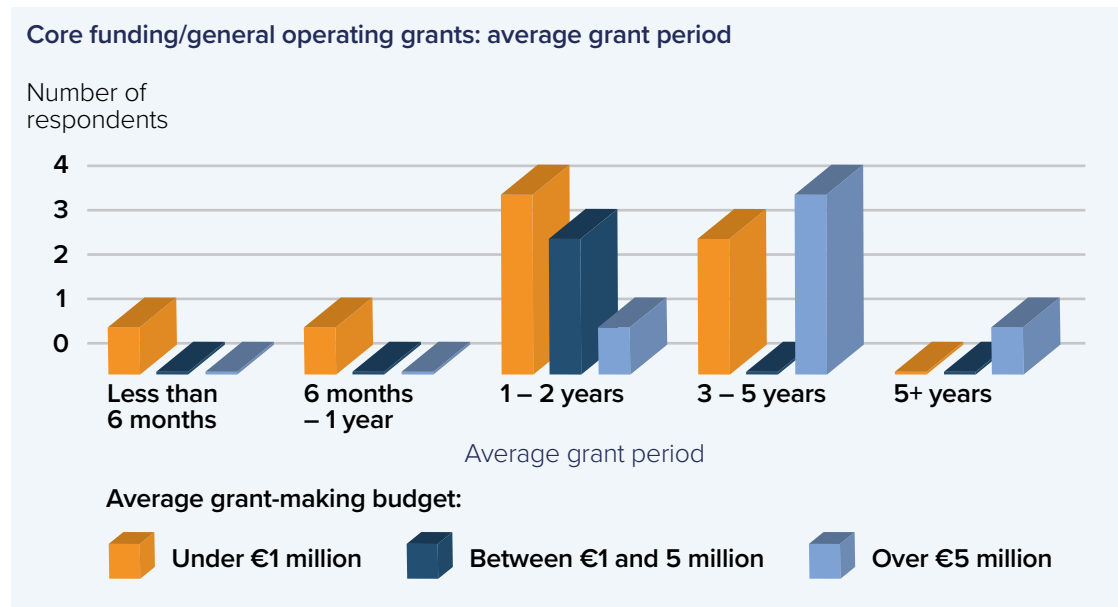


Types of grants

Core funding/operating grants

Differences in the average core support grant period can be noted between foundations of different sizes, although the low number of respondents to this question means caution

should be taken in interpreting results. Nonetheless, it is clear that larger foundations tend to provide core support over a longer period of time – not less than one or two years.



Project grants

In comparison with core support, few foundations with an annual grantmaking budget of over €5 million offer project grants, and these grants only account for 20% of their overall VAW spending. Middle-size foundations also fund relatively few

project grants, although they account for a higher share of their overall VAW funding. In contrast, the vast majority of smaller foundations (86%) offer project grants.

“More funding overall is welcome, of course, but it also depends on how it is distributed as we very much want money to go to organisations in core support and we have other criteria and priorities about how funds should be allocated...It is not always easy to align priorities to work together successfully.”

A Foundation representative

“Despite the fact that the Istanbul Convention clearly obliges governments to work with NGOs and to provide funding, this is not being implemented. This leads to instability in our operations and holds us back from fully fulfilling our remit. Funding tends to be on a project basis and we exhaust a large proportion of our resources applying for grants and trying to secure funding to ensure the sustainability of the organisation.”

An NGO representative

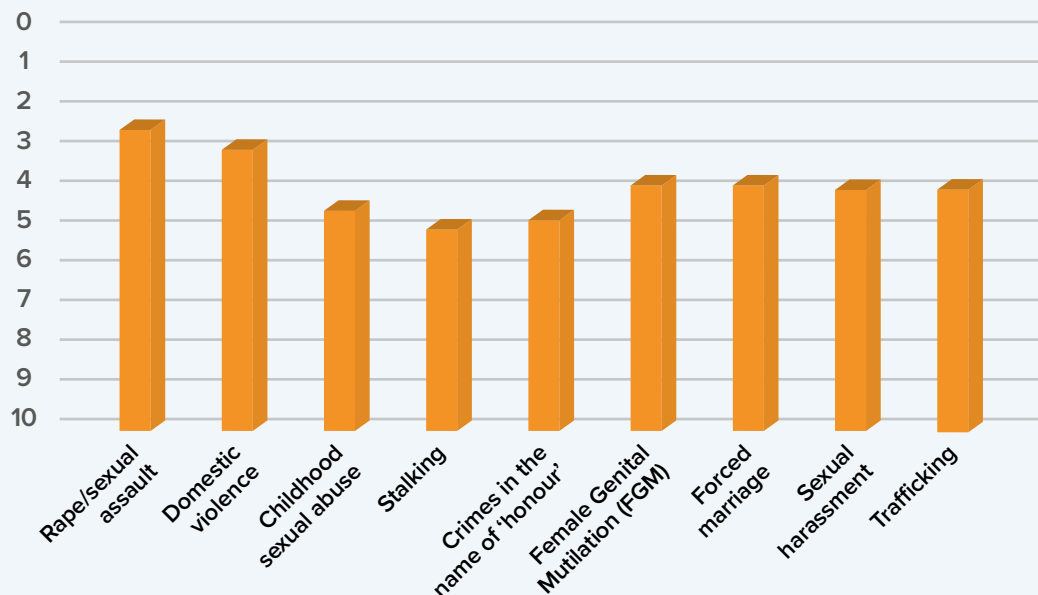
Funding focus

Themes

In terms of funding focus, the areas of VAW that stand out are rape/sexual assault and domestic violence. These are followed by FGM, forced marriage and trafficking, in close range of one

another. Stalking, on average, receives less attention – none of the foundations ranked it as a first priority.

VAW average funding focus (1 = High Priority; 10 = low priority)

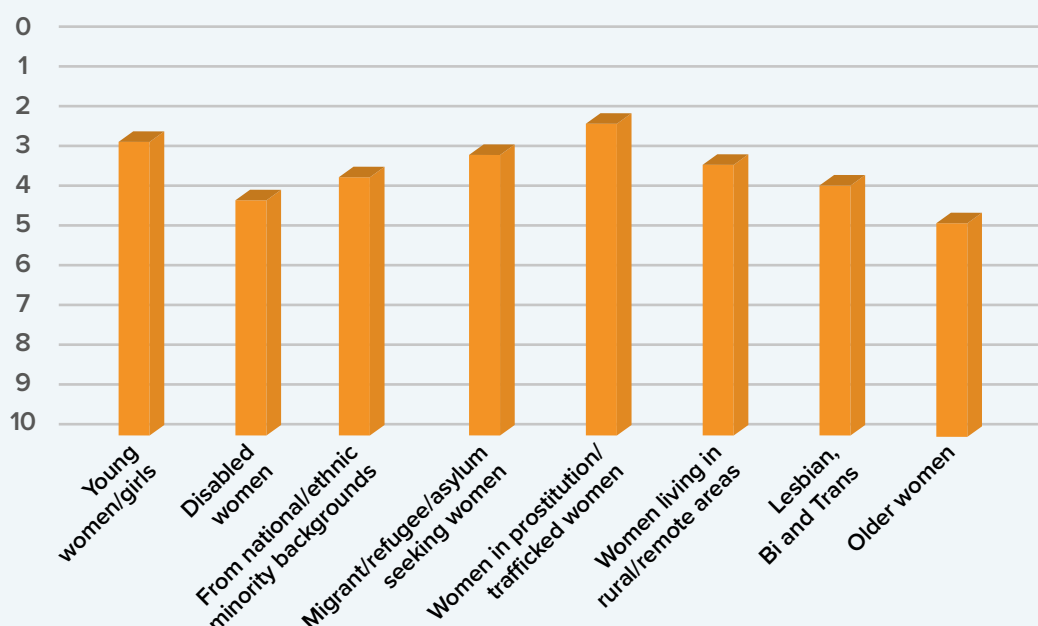


Target groups

Women in prostitution/trafficked women, young women/girls, and migrant/refugee/asylum-seeking women are, by a substantial margin, the most favoured target groups of VAW funding. These are followed by women living in

rural/remote areas and women from national/ethnic minority backgrounds. Older women, comparatively, receive the least amount of attention from funders.

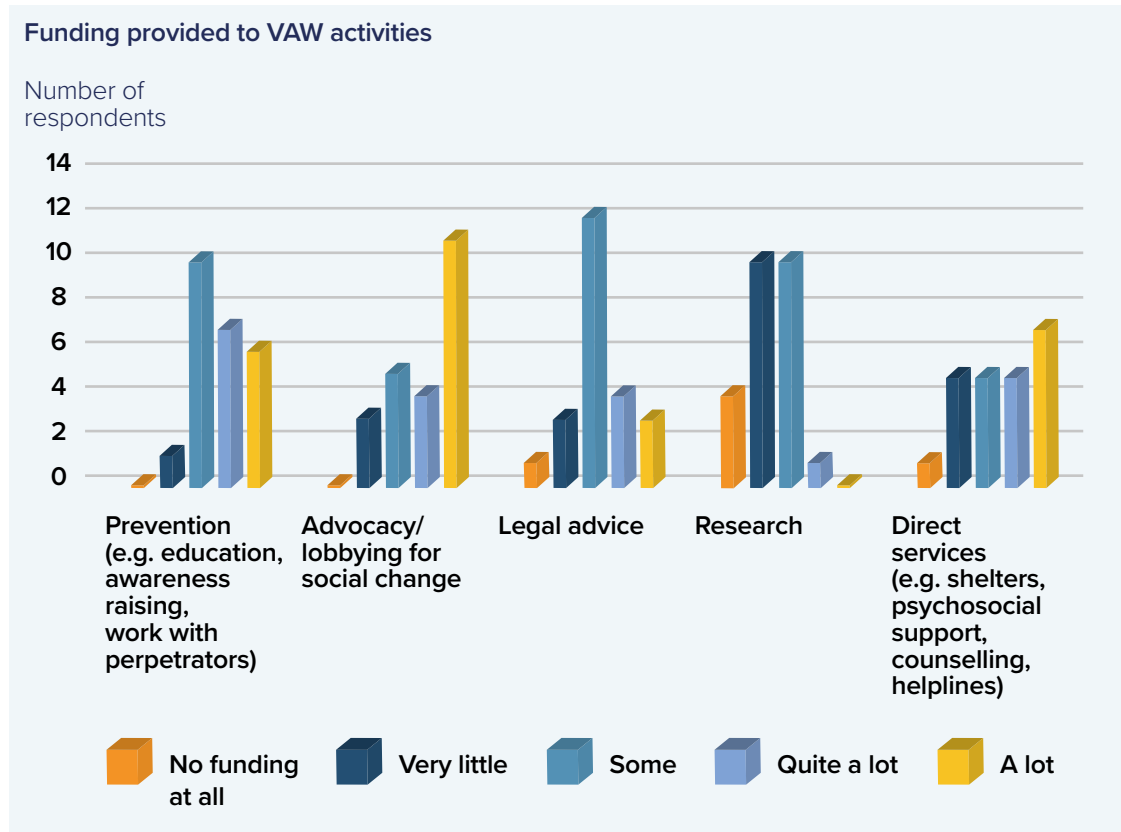
VAW average funding focus (1 = High Priority; 10 = low priority)



Types of VAW activities funded

Looking closer at funding for VAW activities, the survey reveals the greatest amount is directed at advocacy/lobbying for social change, direct services, and prevention. In comparison, legal advice and research receive less funding from foundations. There are no significant differences between foundations of different sizes in terms of activities.

The fact that 41% of funders said they direct a substantial amount to advocacy/lobbying for social change activities contrasts with the difficulties highlighted by NGOs in obtaining funding for activities other than direct support services to victims. While there is no apparent single explanation for this discrepancy, it points to a disconnect between funder and NGO perceptions that could be the subject of further exploration.



“Our grantmaking philosophy is that women-led organisations know what the best strategies are to create change in their own communities. Yet they also need findings and data. The groups we support take a holistic approach. Overall funding is becoming increasingly project-based. Organisations are increasingly starved as there is no money to build an infrastructure.”

A Foundation professional

“All of our grants are at least somewhat focused on advocacy but some also have a service provision component...Some grants might have a stronger coalition-building focus but most grants have several components – we use all of the tools identified here. Our foundation takes a similar approach in the other human rights areas where we work.”

A Foundation leader

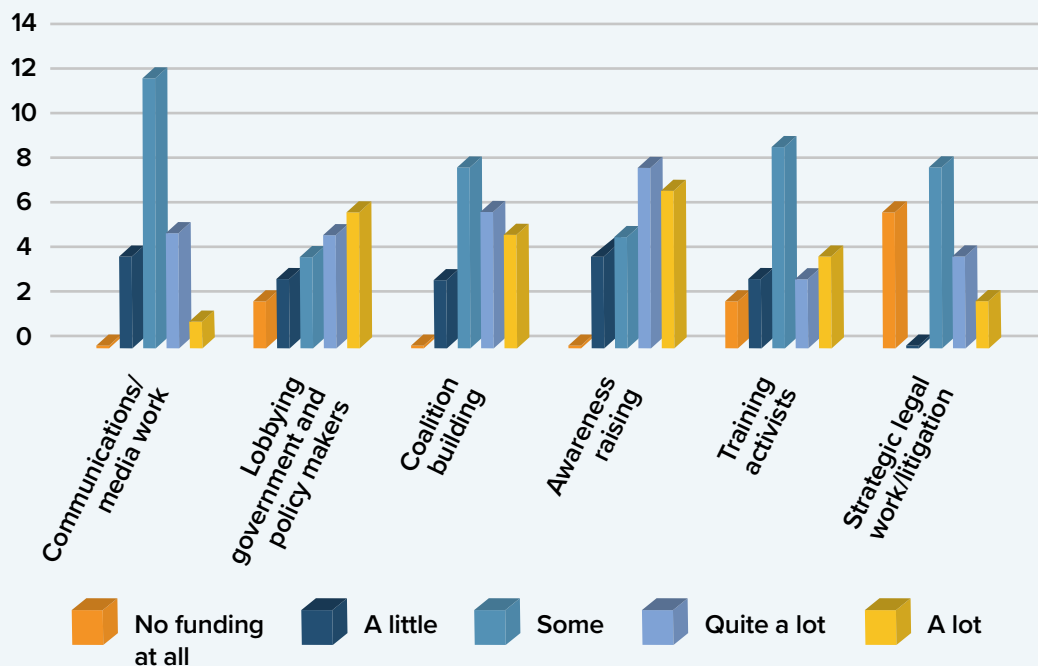
Spotlight on VAW advocacy/lobbying for social change activities

Breaking down advocacy/lobbying for social change activities, the survey indicates that lobbying government and policy makers, and awareness-raising actions receive the most funding. In comparison, strategic legal work/

litigation and communication/media work receive less attention. This low priority given by funders to communications/media work was highlighted by NGOs in their responses.

Funding for advocacy/lobbying for social change activities on VAW

Number of respondents



Foundations were asked what would make them more likely to fund advocacy work on VAW in Europe. Although only 13 foundations chose to answer, their responses underscore the following issues:

- There is a need for more information (“identification of clear advocacy goals”, “better knowledge how it works, what can be done to get impact”, “entry points”).
- There is a call for measuring outcomes and better communications (“results on the ground”, “tangible way to measure direct outcome of advocacy work on survivors”, “evidence of impact: mapping change that comes from investment”).
- There is interest in joint initiatives and longer-term engagement (“sustained funding”, “need for ensuring capacity, strategic partnership, and long-term effective advocacy”, “potential to support strategic coalition work”).

“There has not been enough monitoring and evaluation done in this field.”

A Foundation professional

“Our problem is mostly linked to our communications. We don’t celebrate our victories enough.”

A Foundation leader

“We need to make the case in a different manner. The language we are using is not working. There must be evidence of impact and techniques for convincing people of the importance of this topic. The key issue is looking at the gaps and then trying to be very specific about trying to mobilise funding for advocacy.”

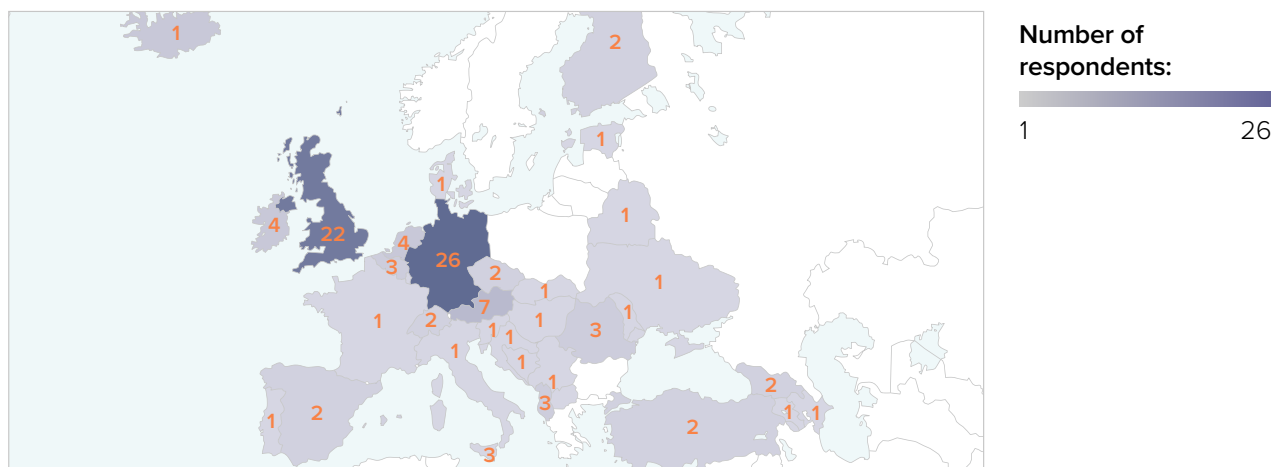
A Foundation leader

NGO Survey Results

Number of respondents and geographical distribution

Out of a total of 107 respondents, 26 (24%) are based in Eastern Europe and 81 (76%) in Western Europe. The majority of respondents are from the

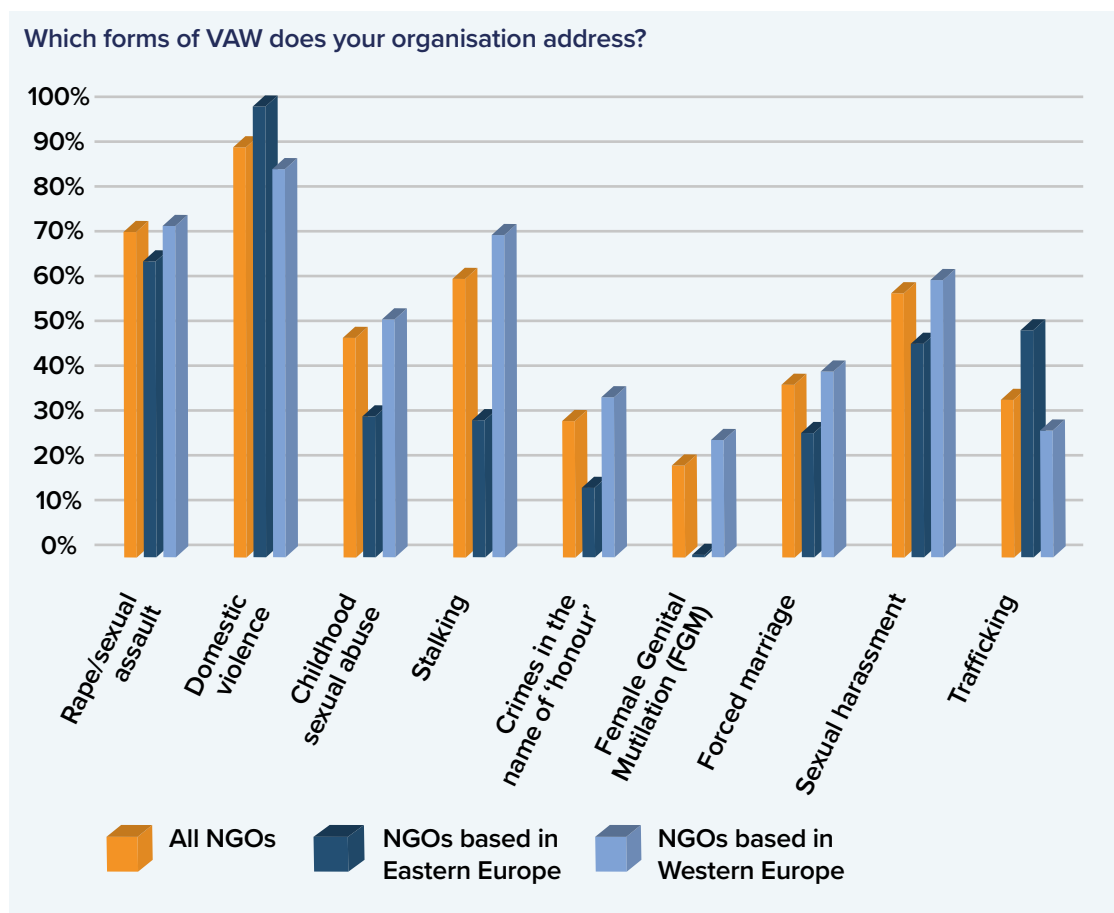
UK and Germany. Specifically, the respondents come from the following countries:



NGO focus and activities

The overwhelming majority of respondents to the survey (75%) are NGOs working on VAW. Notably, NGOs that describe themselves as working on women's equality rather than on VAW are all based in Eastern Europe.

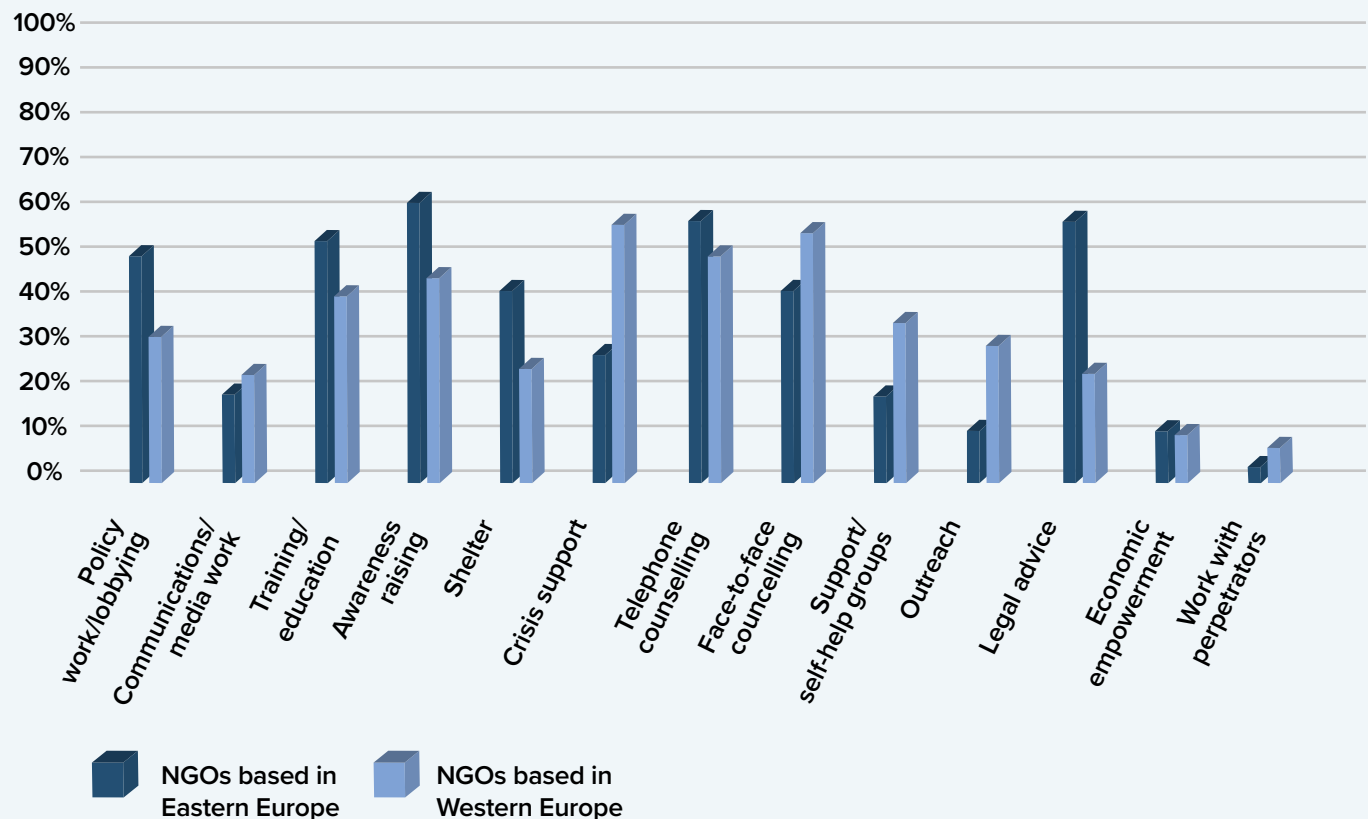
For NGOs from Eastern and Western Europe, domestic violence is the primary area of focus for their VAW work: 86% of respondents from Western Europe and 100% from Eastern Europe say they address this form of VAW.



Examining the breakdown of the types of VAW activities engaged in, there are noticeable differences between Eastern and Western European NGOs. Proportionally, there are more Eastern NGOs working on domestic violence and trafficking, but more Western NGOs working on all other forms of VAW. The difference is particularly noticeable in the areas of stalking, crimes in the name of “honour”, and childhood sexual abuse. Eastern NGOs do not work at all on FGM, which is also the area of focus addressed by the least number of Western NGOs.

For both Eastern and Western NGOs, the types of VAW work most funded are telephone counselling, face-to-face counselling, crisis support, and awareness-raising. There are substantial differences between European regions in other areas, such as legal advice and crisis support. Communications work is among the least funded.

Which type of work are you currently being funded for?



“Domestic abuse has an increasingly high profile but this has not translated to more funds being made available for frontline services. Charities are finding it increasingly difficult to provide quality services when we are effectively seeing a cut to funds year on year.”

An NGO leader

“While victim support has been relatively well funded for years now...advocacy and primary prevention – anything that rocks the boat and would lead to a profound transformation of gender relations and VAW – gets only lip service. In action plans, it is a little-loved add-on to the established secondary and tertiary prevention sectors.”

An NGO professional

Types of funders and fundraising priorities

Concerning the types of funders approached for funding, it is interesting to note¹³:

- 100% of the Eastern NGOs who responded to the question have approached foreign governments for funding. Only 10% of Western NGOs have done so.
- Almost all Eastern NGOs have applied to intergovernmental organisations (94%), compared to less than half of Western NGOs (44%).
- Western NGOs are prone to ask regional governments for funding, which is not the case for Eastern NGOs: 71% vs 17%.¹⁴
- Turning to the private sector, Eastern NGOs are more inclined to seek funding from local businesses than from corporations (79% vs 57%). For Western NGOs, it is the opposite, although the gap is smaller: 41% vs 53%.

“It is incredibly difficult to get funding for activities that are not for direct services.”

An NGO professional

Looking at who is actually funding this work, some trends emerge:

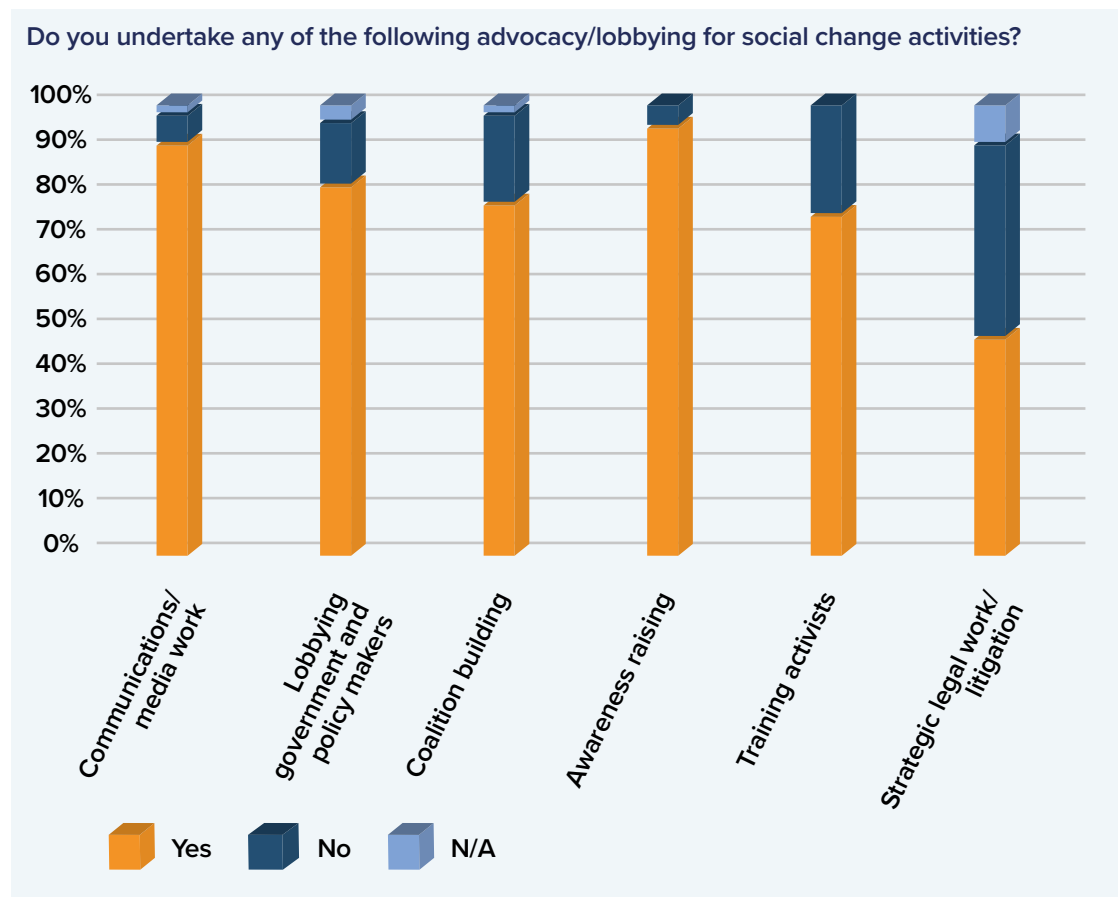
- The current funding of Eastern European NGOs is international, with the largest proportion of funds coming from intergovernmental organisations.
- The current funding of Western European NGOs relies on national funders, with an emphasis on governmental authorities.
- Foundations are not the main source of funding for either Eastern or Western NGOs.
- For all NGOs, reliance on private sector funding (corporations and local businesses) is low.

Fundraising priorities are roughly the same whether NGOs are based in Eastern or in Western Europe. In order of decreasing importance, they are:

- Direct services:
 - Shelters
 - Psychosocial support
 - Counselling
 - Helplines
- Prevention activities:
 - Education
 - Awareness raising
 - Work with perpetrators
- Advocacy/lobbying for social change
- Legal advice
- Research

Advocacy/lobbying for social change activities

NGOs declare undertaking all types of activities pertaining to advocacy/lobbying for social change.



Regarding funding for these activities, the following issues were highlighted in the responses:

- Western NGOs implement specific advocacy/lobbying activities without dedicated funding.
- Eastern NGOs carry out advocacy activities as part of a project grant while Western NGOs consider this part of general core funding.
- Eastern European NGOs tend to receive more dedicated funding for specific advocacy/lobbying activities than Western NGOs.

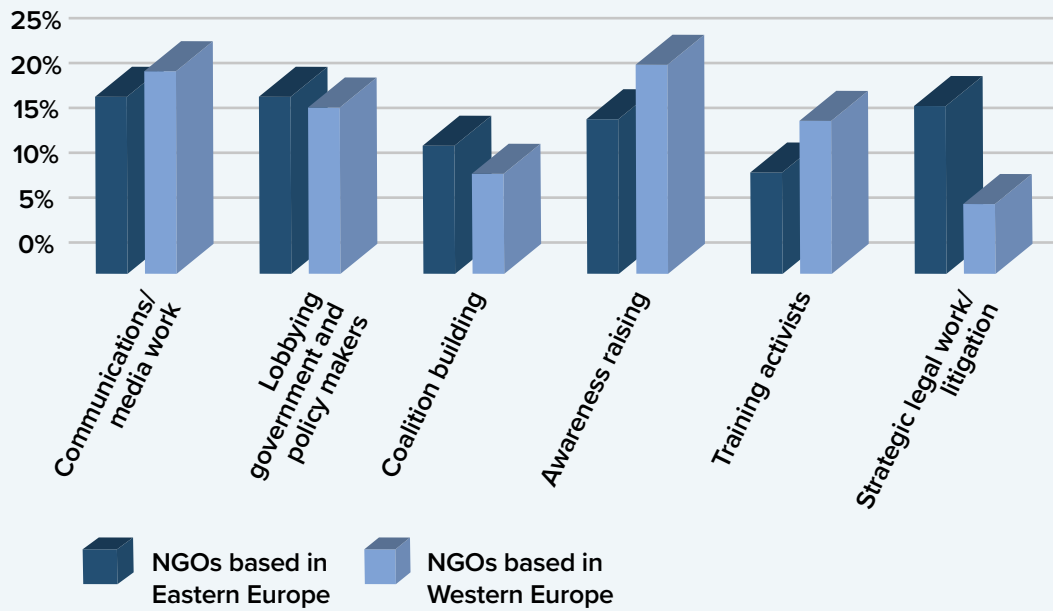
It is interesting to note that lack of funding is cited as the main reason for which Eastern European NGOs do not carry out these activities as much as they would like (62%). Only 29% of these respondents declared that this is due to limited capacities. Lack of funding is also the most cited reason by Western NGOs for not engaging in these activities.

In terms of which activities NGOs would like to undertake if funding were granted, there is no substantial difference between Eastern and Western European NGOs. Awareness-raising, lobbying governments and policy-makers, and communications/media work were the most cited.

“The decision on how much lobbying and advocacy work is done by the NGO depends on the NGO and its capacities – mainly human resources, level of interest and activism.”

An NGO professional

Which advocacy activities would you like to do (or do more of) but do not currently get funding for?

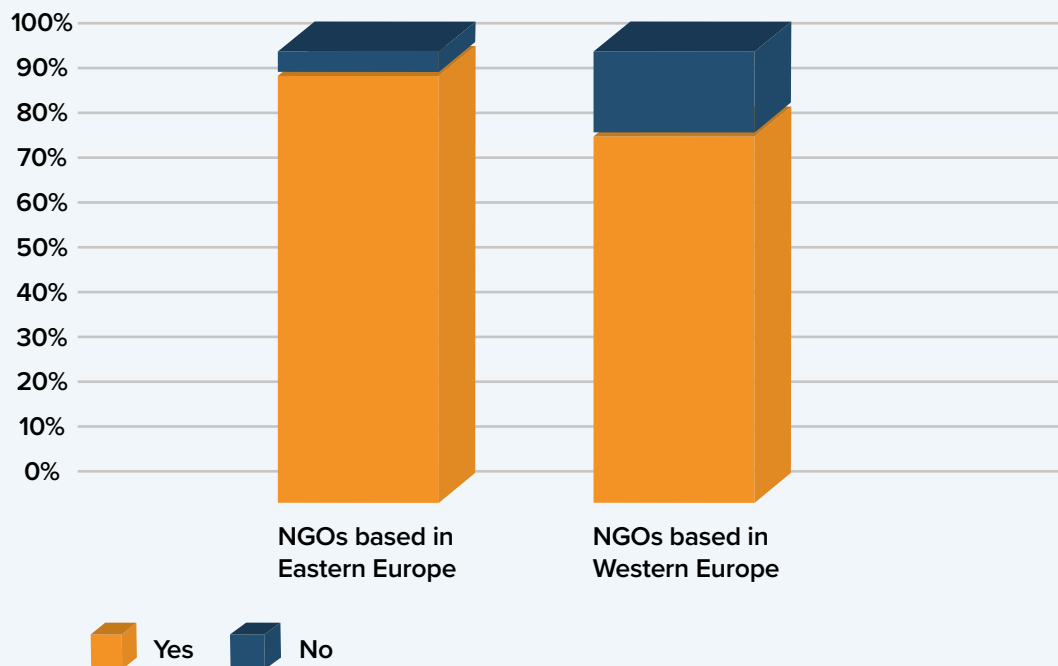


Proportionally, more Eastern European NGOs have tried to get advocacy work funded than their Western counterparts. Funding for advocacy work follows the same pattern of general funding i.e., international funding for Eastern European NGOs, and national funding (particularly from regional and local authorities) for Western European NGOs.

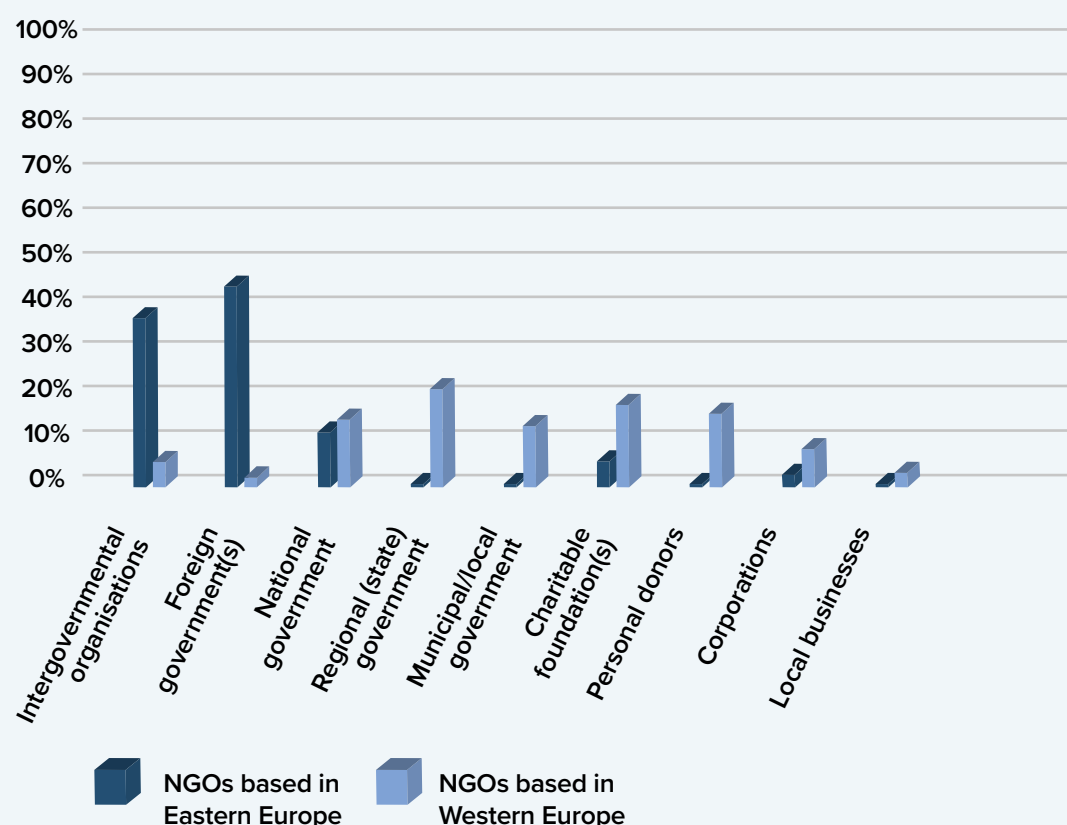
“Specific funding related to VAW is very limited. However, most of the time these foundations do not allocate their budget for advocacy work. They prioritise funding projects specifically working with ‘victims’.”

An NGO professional

Have you ever tried to get this work funded?



If you receive funding for advocacy work, which of your funders provides this?



NGOs were asked what happened when they applied for funding for advocacy/lobbying work. Due to a low rate of reply to this question, responses do not provide significant insight into the reasons behind the success or refusal of their applications. However, some respondents indicated that the work in question is of no interest to funders and others said that such work is considered part of regular activities and therefore does not qualify for specific funding.

When asked the reasons for not engaging in advocacy activities, NGO respondents highlighted the following points:

- Current political climate of the country constrains VAW funding opportunities.
- Funding tends to be on a project basis, making core and/or long-term support difficult to secure.
- Compared to direct victim support, advocacy and prevention work attracts little interest from donors.
- Funding for VAW advocacy work is scarcer than before.

“Charitable foundations often do not see the importance and urgency of this lobbying/campaigning/media work, because it’s not as ‘concrete’ perhaps as direct service provision. We do not want to be in competition with women’s organisations seeking funding for service provision. But we need funders to understand that this work is vital too.”

An NGO leader

“There is a perception that civil society is organised in Europe and that this is not really a major problem there. There might also be a misconception that other donors are working on this. Making the case for support in Europe is quite difficult. Our donors have prioritised activities in Central and Eastern Europe for historic reasons but there is little sense of urgency about Europe overall.”

A Foundation professional

Foundation Center Data on VAW Work in Europe

For this study, research was commissioned from the Foundation Center on donor and recipient activity in the field of VAW in Europe.¹⁵ Data was provided for the years 2012-2016 on the following: the top foundations giving to recipients to address violence against women in Europe; the top recipients of grants addressing violence against women in Europe; and the distribution of grants to address violence against women by support strategy. While there are gaps in this data concerning European donors, it nevertheless provides a broad snapshot of international giving. Despite some limitations, the data serves as a useful benchmark concerning who gives and who receives foundation support in this field. Some key statistics:

- The pool of donors is small – only 85 foundations in the Foundation Center database were indexed as grantmakers for work to end violence against women in Europe.
- A small number of funders set priorities for the entire field (i.e., EEA Norway Grants + Big Lottery = 40% tracked).
- The average grant size is \$100,552; grants are short-term.

- Few organisations are consistently funded – only a handful received more than 5 grants.
- There is little funding available for capital or infrastructure, or for financial sustainability and fundraising.
- NGOs in Eastern Europe receive twice as much funding for policy, advocacy, and systems reform than Western European NGOs.
- The majority of grant recipients are in the UK – 71 out of the top 100 grantees (it should be noted that six out of the top ten grantmakers are UK-based). These recipients receive 35.39% of total funds awarded in Europe.

Our attempt to frame this data within the larger context of human rights giving was inconclusive. Comparisons with other Foundation Center data indicate that it does not appear to be a top priority of those funding in Europe.

Key Findings

Foundation support for VAW work in Europe

Out of the 27 foundations that responded to the survey, 23 indicated that they currently fund work to end VAW. Of these, only a minority – just over a third – stated their grantees are based in and work in Europe. Information from the Foundation Center's global database supports this finding: only a very small proportion of foundations working in this field are active in Europe. Most foundations that fund work on VAW have small grantmaking budgets and tend to provide short-term project grants, rather than longer-term, core funding. Further, Foundation Center data reveals that most grantees receive only one or a small number of grants.

Regional differences

Concerning NGO funding, those in the East get more funding from foreign governments and international sources, while those in the West receive more funding from national and regional governments. In terms of philanthropic giving, the survey suggests that smaller foundations give mainly to recipients in their own country while larger ones give the highest proportion of their funding to organisations in Eastern Europe.

Concerning advocacy, a larger proportion of NGOs in Eastern Europe indicated having dedicated staff members for this purpose. And while lack of funding/capacity was the main reason cited by both Eastern and Western European NGOs for not carrying out more of this work, those in the East were more likely to have sought advocacy funding.

Types of support

Most of the NGOs and foundations surveyed work primarily on domestic violence and rape/sexual assault. It may be that these forms of violence are more recognised as human right violations because they have been spoken about publicly for longer.

The groups receiving the most support are women engaged in prostitution/trafficked women, young women/girls, and migrant/refugee/asylum seeking women. Foundations may see their role as addressing the most vulnerable groups, as they assume that funding for “mainstream” work on VAW is provided by other donors such as governments.

Differences in perception of funding needs and priorities

NGOs stated that in order to do their work in an effective manner, they need sustained, long-term core funding. Yet many expressed difficulty in attracting funding from any type of donor, including foundations, for activities other than direct support services. At the same time, 41% of funders said they provide a substantial amount of funding to advocacy/lobbying for social change activities. This discrepancy may be explained by the fact that the largest share of NGOs' budgets is provided by governments and international organisations that may not fund advocacy.

Funding for social change

Most of the funding that foundations provide goes to advocacy/lobbying for social change, direct services and prevention. In contrast, legal advice and research receive less funding from foundations. This is problematic since without funding for research, it is difficult to generate evidence that could provide the basis for developing robust advocacy activities and policy recommendations. In order to make the case for more and better funding in the future, it would also be useful to regularly monitor and analyse government and private sources.

Both foundations and NGOs underscored the importance of better communications to call attention to the urgency of the issue and demonstrate impact. Given additional funding, NGOs across Europe indicated they would engage in more advocacy activities, such as raising awareness of VAW, lobbying policy-makers, and undertaking communications/media work. Foundations highlighted the need for effective communications strategies to bring in new sources of philanthropic giving.

What Comes Next

This is the first-ever study exploring funding to end violence against women in Europe from both a donor and recipient perspective. It has generated substantive data concerning the current situation and highlights challenges for those seeking to improve resourcing of this field. While violence against women is a widespread human rights abuse in Europe, and much more needs to be done to end it, donor interest overall has been low. This research raises some key questions:

Why aren't more foundations funding in this field?

There appears to be a broad misconception that violence against women is not a substantial problem in Europe itself. While the basic facts are well known, there is nonetheless a lack of understanding over the extent and urgency of the issue. In addition, political backlash over the past several years has had a distinct negative impact on women's rights, and is becoming more acute in some countries. While this trend has been noted within the broader human rights community, it has not been discussed publicly in a significant way with regards to violence against women.

How much do we know about the level of donor engagement on this issue?

Reliable and comprehensive data on funding by governments, intergovernmental organisations as well as private and corporate donors in this sector is lacking. This report is the first ever attempt to map the philanthropic sector's engagement across Europe, yet it remains incomplete. Without a fuller picture of the overall funding landscape, it will be difficult for donors to consider strategic options for engagement in this field.

How could research and analysis contribute to more donor engagement?

There is a dearth of research and analysis, not only regarding the funding situation, but also concerning effective ways to prevent and respond to violence against women. More knowledge on effective and promising practices and ways of measuring progress, as well as methods to ensure government commitment to ending VAW, would provide a solid basis for further philanthropic support. Regular monitoring of government and other funding would help to identify trends and funding gaps.

Why does there seem to be something of a "disconnect" between funder giving and NGOs' hopes and needs?

NGOs report that long-term core funding for their activities is the most important way for them to build sustainable organisations. Yet donors are not giving consistently in this manner, which creates something of a mismatch. Perhaps this indicates that foundations can better position themselves in the broader landscape with an increased sustained effort to engage in policy and advocacy issues. One step towards this could be making better use of their role as conveners to support innovative activities in the field.

What could be the role of philanthropy in ending VAW in Europe?

Civil society organisations play a crucial role in service provision, in advocacy, and in promoting changes in societal attitudes. Foundations, through their support of NGOs, can be particularly effective by supporting advocacy activities, which in turn can leverage increased government funding and accountability. Philanthropy can play an important strategic role by evaluating existing approaches, showing evidence of impact, and piloting projects to explore new initiatives. Further, it can accelerate and catalyse progress by supporting groups and activities that are not supported by government funding, including capacity building, convening spaces for strategic thinking and intersectional movement building.

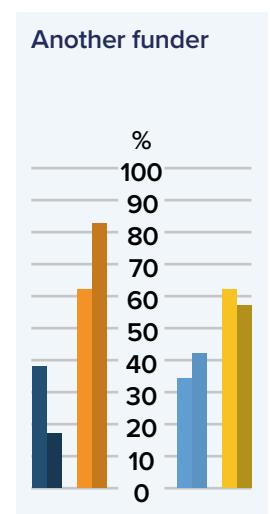
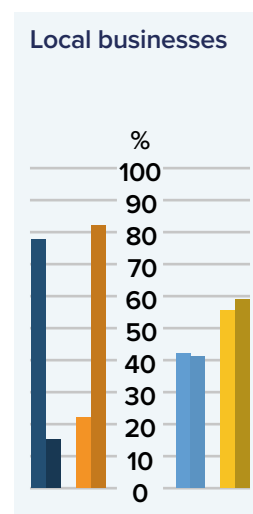
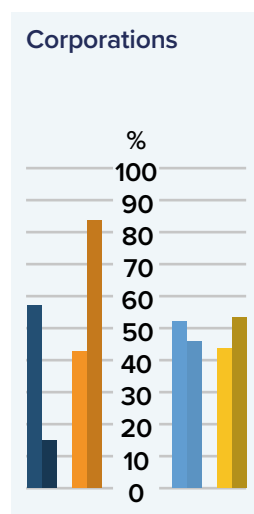
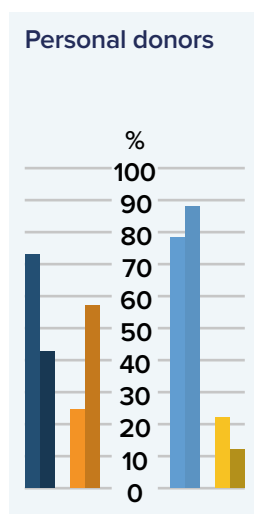
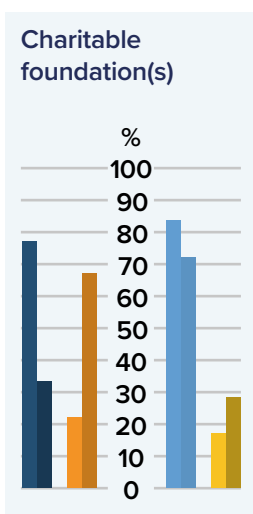
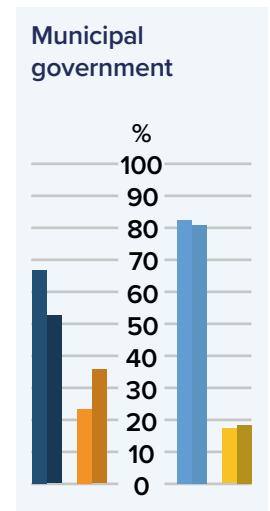
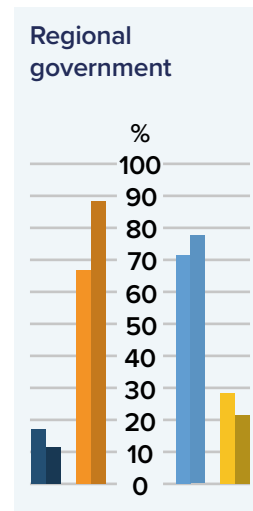
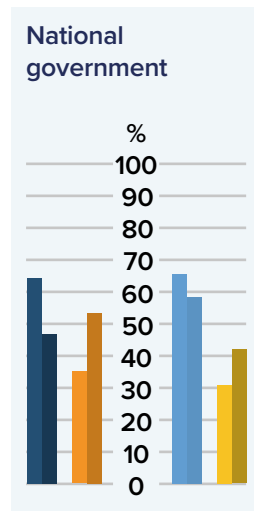
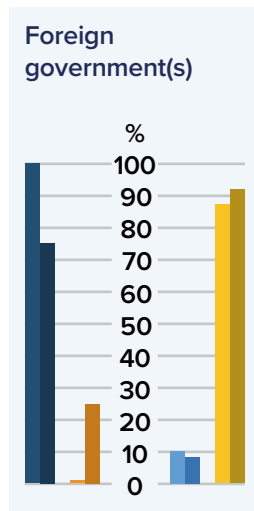
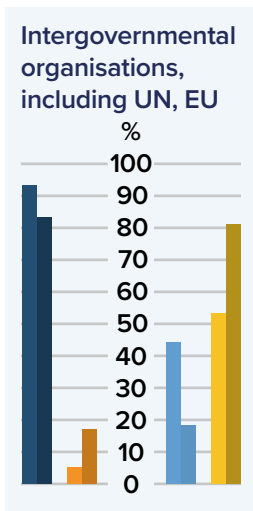
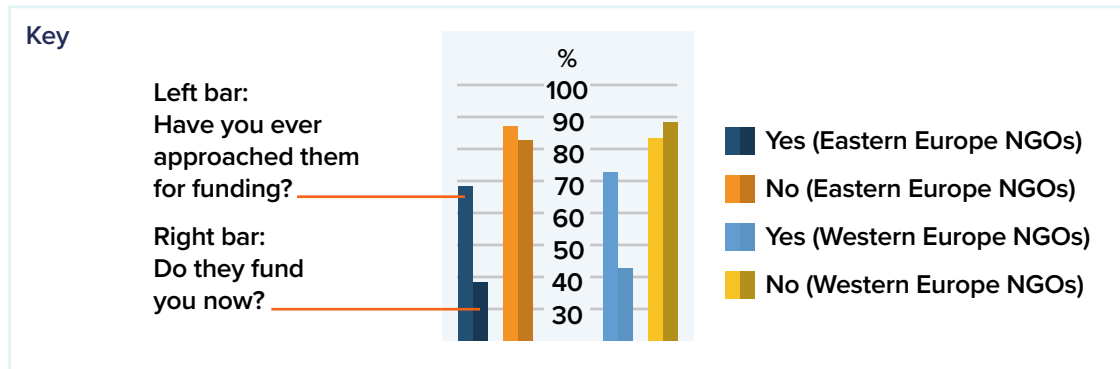
What can be done to engage more donors in this field?

Funders highlighted the need for both more data and clearer strategic communications. There is an interest in doing more, but a lack of a clear vision as to how to advance positive approaches and strategies to tackle the issue. A model that could serve as inspiration might be *Move to End Violence*, a programme initiated by NoVo Foundation, which was developed based on the outcomes of interviews with over 100 stakeholders. Partnerships and donor-led joint advocacy activities should be explored further to encourage discussion and engagement.

Endnotes

- ¹ In 2011, the findings of the report *Untapped Potential: European Foundation Funding for Women and Girls* (Lawrence T. McGill, Seema Shah, and Karen Weisblatt, Foundation Center, 2011) indicated that three-quarters of European Foundations that expressed interest in funding for women and girls prioritise funding for VAW work.
- ² Additional supporting materials from this study are available at www.weisblatt-associates.com and at <https://portal.ariadne-network.eu/communities/violence-against-women-in-europe-towards-a-new-strategy/view.html> (login required)
- ³ Quotes from NGO sources throughout the report are taken from written responses to the online survey. For reasons of confidentiality, they are anonymous.
- ⁴ Quotes from foundation sources throughout the report are taken from the in-depth interviews. For reasons of confidentiality, they are anonymous.
- ⁵ According to survey results, only 36% of organisations funded which address violence against women are based in and work in Europe.
- ⁶ Source: FRA – European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights: *Violence against women: an EU-wide survey. Results at a glance* Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2014.
- ⁷ Source: European Coalition to End Violence against Women and Girls factsheet: *The Istanbul Convention: A Vital Opportunity to End Violence Against Women!*
- ⁸ Source: End FGM European Network: <http://www.endfgm.eu/female-genital-mutilation/fgm-in-europe/>
- ⁹ Source: *European Institute for Gender Equality: Estimating the costs of gender-based violence in the European Union. Report* (prepared by Sylvia Walby and Philippa Olive from Lancaster University and coordinated by the European Institute for Gender Equality's gender-based violence team) Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2014.
- ¹⁰ For more information, see: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/210/signatures>
- ¹¹ A recent European Parliament report has deplored the decrease in commitments under Daphne (the only dedicated budget line for ending violence against women and girls) from more than €20 million in 2011, to just over €14 million in 2016. Source: European Parliament resolution of 14 March 2017 on EU funds for gender equality (2016/2144(INI)) <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P8-TA-2017-0075&language=EN&ring=A8-2017-0033>
- ¹² Total annual grant-making figures are approximate and were converted from their original currencies using XE Currency Converter with mid-market rates dated 2016-09-19 11:48 UTC.
- ¹³ For a full breakdown, see Annex 1.
- ¹⁴ It should be noted that many respondents to the survey are from Germany, where the responsibility of funding VAW NGOs is mainly at the regional government level.
- ¹⁵ See Annex 3, Foundation Center Data.

Types of funders approached and sources of funding



Annex 2

Foundation Interviews – List of Participating Foundations

All interviews were conducted with senior staff members who requested anonymity.

| Foundation | Website |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Calala Women's Fund | www.calala.org |
| Czech and Slovak Women's Fund | www.zenskyfond.sk |
| EEA + Norway Grants | www.eeagrants.org |
| Esmée Fairbairn Foundation | www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk |
| Filia Foundation | www.filia-frauenstiftung.de/en/ |
| Global Fund for Women | www.globalfundforwomen.org |
| Kering Foundation | www.keringfoundation.org |
| Lankelly Chase Foundation UK | www.lankellychase.org.uk |
| Mama Cash | www.mamacash.org |
| Oak Foundation | www.oakfnd.org |
| Open Society Foundations | www.opensocietyfoundations.org |
| Raja Foundation Danièle Marcovici | www.fondation-raja-marcovici.com |
| Sigrid Rausing Trust | www.sigrid-rausing-trust.org |

Annex 3

Foundation Center Data

Top 30 Foundations giving to recipients to address violence against women in Europe, 2012-2016

| Grantmaker Name | | Foundation Location | Type* | Overall | | Western Europe | | Eastern Europe | |
|-----------------|---|---------------------|-------|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| | | | | Total Dollars Awarded | No. of Grants | No. of Grants | Total Dollars Awarded | No. of Grants | Total Dollars Awarded |
| 1 | Big Lottery Fund | United Kingdom | IN | \$34 502 553 | 117 | 117 | \$34 502 553 | . | . |
| 2 | EEA and Norway Grants | Belgium | IN | \$23 263 734 | 240 | 49 | \$5 061 343 | 191 | \$18 202 391 |
| 3 | Comic Relief UK | United Kingdom | IN | \$18 257 917 | 93 | 93 | \$18 257 917 | . | . |
| 4 | The Oak Foundation | Switzerland | IN | \$9 240 900 | 31 | 15 | \$4 776 587 | 16 | \$4 464 313 |
| 5 | Esmée Fairbairn Foundation | United Kingdom | IN | \$7 247 625 | 49 | 49 | \$7 247 625 | . | . |
| 6 | The Henry Smith Charity | United Kingdom | PC | \$5 795 646 | 52 | 52 | \$5 795 646 | . | . |
| 7 | Open Society Foundations | United States | IN | \$3 914 018 | 51 | 5 | \$1 049 811 | 47 | \$3 694 207 |
| 8 | Human Dignity Foundation | Switzerland | IN | \$3 700 000 | 2 | 1 | \$1 000 000 | . | . |
| 9 | Trust for London | United Kingdom | IN | \$3 325 083 | 37 | 37 | \$3 325 083 | . | . |
| 10 | The Northern Rock Foundation | United Kingdom | IN | \$3 143 539 | 57 | 57 | \$3 143 539 | . | . |
| 11 | Open Society Fund Prague | Czech Republic | IN | \$3 136 528 | 15 | . | . | 15 | \$3 136 528 |
| 12 | The City Bridge Trust | United Kingdom | IN | \$2 832 791 | 15 | 15 | \$2 832 791 | . | . |
| 13 | The UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women | United States | PC | \$2 553 017 | 8 | . | . | 8 | \$2 553 017 |
| 14 | The Sigrid Rausing Trust | United Kingdom | IN | \$1 638 878 | 19 | 7 | \$829 486 | 11 | \$715 534 |
| 15 | American Jewish World Service - Donor Advised Funds | United States | PC | \$1 160 500 | 3 | 3 | \$1 160 500 | . | . |
| 16 | The Global Fund for Women | United States | PC | \$1 011 087 | 70 | 2 | \$35 000 | 68 | \$976 087 |
| 17 | Mama Cash | Netherlands | PC | \$708 977 | 18 | 3 | \$144 808 | 15 | \$564 169 |
| 18 | Foundation for a Just Society | United States | IN | \$700 000 | 3 | 3 | \$700 000 | . | . |

| Grantmaker Name | | Foundation Location | Type* | Overall | | Western Europe | | Eastern Europe | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|-------|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| | | | | Total Dollars Awarded | No. of Grants | No. of Grants | Total Dollars Awarded | No. of Grants | Total Dollars Awarded |
| 19 | Trag Fondacija | Serbia | CM | \$688 463 | 19 | . | . | 19 | \$688 463 |
| 20 | Nationale Postcode Loterij | Netherlands | PC | \$664 000 | 1 | 1 | \$664 000 | . | . |
| 21 | King Baudouin Foundation | Belgium | IN | \$523 967 | 13 | 3 | \$32 115 | 10 | \$491 852 |
| 22 | Tides Foundation | United States | PC | \$481 200 | 9 | 4 | \$404 700 | 4 | \$26 500 |
| 23 | American Jewish World Service | United States | PC | \$400 000 | 2 | 2 | \$400 000 | . | . |
| 24 | Ukrainian Women's Fund | Ukraine | PC | \$381 200 | 82 | . | . | 82 | \$381 200 |
| 25 | Fundacja Batorego | Poland | IN | \$359 728 | 7 | . | . | 7 | \$359 728 |
| 26 | Filia die Frauenstiftung | Germany | PC | \$325 914 | 30 | 13 | \$82 184 | 17 | \$243 730 |
| 27 | Avon Foundation for Women | United States | PC | \$300 000 | 5 | 2 | \$120 000 | 3 | \$180 000 |
| 28 | Charles Stewart Mott Foundation | United States | IN | \$300 000 | 2 | . | . | 2 | \$300 000 |
| 29 | The Bromley Trust | United Kingdom | IN | \$298 547 | 12 | 12 | \$298 547 | . | . |
| 30 | NoVo Foundation | United States | IN | \$280 500 | 4 | 3 | \$230 500 | 1 | \$50 000 |

* **IN**=Independent Foundation; **CM**=Community Foundation; **CS**=Corporate Foundation; **OP**=Operating Foundation. **PC**=Public Charity

Source: Foundation Center, 2016. Copyright © 2016 Foundation Center.

The table reflects grantmaking meeting search criteria for violence against women intended to benefit populations in Europe, as defined by membership in the Council of Europe. For the purposes of this analysis, definitions of Western Europe and Eastern Europe are consistent with those used for Advancing Human Rights, a joint initiative with Foundation Center and IHRFG – with the exception of Turkey, which is included here as part of Eastern Europe. Where grants specified a geographic area of focus for both Eastern and Western Europe, the full total of the grant is reflected in each category. Where indicated that the grant was intended to benefit the continent as a whole, full amounts are included under the column for overall dollars, only. Grants may be coded for multiple strategies, in which case the full value will be reflected in all applicable categories.

Additional Foundation Center materials are available at www.weisblatt-associates.com and at <https://portal.ariadne-network.eu/communities/violence-against-women-in-europe-towards-a-new-strategy/view.html> (login required)

Top 30 recipients of grants addressing violence against women in Europe, 2012-2016

| Recipient | | Recipient Location | Total Dollars Awarded | % | No. of Grants | % |
|-----------|---|--------------------|-----------------------|-----|---------------|-----|
| 1 | Barnardo's | United Kingdom | \$3 038 173 | 2,2 | 3 | 0,2 |
| 2 | Amnesty International Ireland Foundation | Ireland | \$2 700 000 | 2,0 | 1 | 0,1 |
| 3 | Catch 22 | United Kingdom | \$1 426 103 | 1,1 | 1 | 0,1 |
| 4 | End Violence Against Women | United Kingdom | \$1 120 480 | 0,8 | 8 | 0,6 |
| 5 | Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development | United Kingdom | \$1 059 098 | 0,8 | 6 | 0,4 |
| 6 | NGO Estonian Women's Shelters Union | Estonia | \$1 025 525 | 0,8 | 1 | 0,1 |
| 7 | Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse | United Kingdom | \$1 022 303 | 0,8 | 4 | 0,3 |
| 8 | Against Violence and Abuse | United Kingdom | \$1 020 951 | 0,8 | 8 | 0,6 |
| 9 | My Sisters Place | United Kingdom | \$1 001 924 | 0,7 | 11 | 0,8 |
| 10 | Guardian News and Media | United Kingdom | \$1 000 000 | 0,7 | 1 | 0,1 |
| 11 | Splitz Support Service | United Kingdom | \$952 894 | 0,7 | 3 | 0,2 |
| 12 | Malley Prairie Centre | Switzerland | \$952 688 | 0,7 | 1 | 0,1 |
| 13 | Anonymous Recipient | United Kingdom | \$950 500 | 0,7 | 2 | 0,1 |
| 14 | Nia Project | United Kingdom | \$943 037 | 0,7 | 3 | 0,2 |
| 15 | First Step Community Project | United Kingdom | \$866 995 | 0,6 | 1 | 0,1 |
| 16 | Eaves Housing for Women | United Kingdom | \$846 874 | 0,6 | 6 | 0,4 |
| 17 | Womens Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre, Dundee | United Kingdom | \$834 316 | 0,6 | 2 | 0,1 |
| 18 | European Roma Rights Center | Hungary | \$830 000 | 0,6 | 1 | 0,1 |
| 19 | New Pathways Family Friendly Therapeutic Centre of Excellence | United Kingdom | \$815 680 | 0,6 | 2 | 0,1 |
| 20 | Nottinghamshire Independent Domestic Abuse Services | United Kingdom | \$815 238 | 0,6 | 3 | 0,2 |
| 21 | Mother Child Education Foundation | Turkey | \$800 000 | 0,6 | 1 | 0,1 |
| 22 | Asian Womens Resource Centre | United Kingdom | \$782 150 | 0,6 | 1 | 0,1 |
| 23 | Derby Women's Centre | United Kingdom | \$782 148 | 0,6 | 1 | 0,1 |
| 24 | Sutton Women's Aid Limited | United Kingdom | \$781 473 | 0,6 | 1 | 0,1 |
| 25 | Sante Sexuelle Suisse | Switzerland | \$779 140 | 0,6 | 1 | 0,1 |
| 26 | ActionAid | United Kingdom | \$777 448 | 0,6 | 2 | 0,1 |
| 27 | Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid | United Kingdom | \$777 319 | 0,6 | 3 | 0,2 |
| 28 | Central Board of Prison Service | Poland | \$772 916 | 0,6 | 1 | 0,1 |
| 29 | Ministry of Justice | Poland | \$772 916 | 0,6 | 1 | 0,1 |
| 30 | SixtyEightyThirty | United Kingdom | \$751 168 | 0,6 | 5 | 0,4 |

Source: Foundation Center, 2016. Copyright © 2016 Foundation Center.

The table reflects grantmaking meeting search criteria for violence against women intended to benefit populations in Europe, as defined by membership in the Council of Europe. For the purposes of this analysis, definitions of Western Europe and Eastern Europe are consistent with those used for Advancing Human Rights, a joint initiative with Foundation Center and IHRFG -- with the exception of Turkey, which is included here as part of Eastern Europe. Where grants specified a geographic area of focus for both Eastern and Western Europe, the full total of the grant is reflected in each category. Where indicated that the grant was intended to benefit the continent as a whole, full amounts are included under the column for overall dollars, only. Grants may be coded for multiple strategies, in which case the full value will be reflected in all applicable categories.

Additional Foundation Center materials are available at www.weisblatt-associates.com and at <https://portal.ariadne-network.eu/communities/violence-against-women-in-europe-towards-a-new-strategy/view.html> (login required)

Distribution of grants to address violence against women by support strategy, 2012-2016

| Support Strategy | Overall | | Western Europe | | Eastern Europe | |
|--|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| | Dollar Amount | No. of Grants | Dollar Amount | No. of Grants | Dollar Amount | No. of Grants |
| Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance | \$14 741 113 | 186 | \$6 721 518 | 61 | \$8 019 595 | 125 |
| Capital and Infrastructure | \$4 992 846 | 37 | \$4 642 250 | 20 | \$350 596 | 17 |
| Financial Sustainability | \$446 840 | 11 | \$383 188 | 5 | \$63 652 | 6 |
| General Support | \$15 852 836 | 267 | \$6 806 055 | 81 | \$9 046 781 | 186 |
| Individual Development and Student Aid | \$463 712 | 12 | \$414 851 | 3 | \$48 861 | 9 |
| Leadership and Professional Development | \$15 750 369 | 178 | \$7 815 572 | 73 | \$7 934 797 | 105 |
| Network-building and Collaboration | \$10 089 402 | 137 | \$5 378 344 | 47 | \$4 711 058 | 90 |
| Policy, Advocacy, and Systems Reform | \$23 146 022 | 274 | \$8 973 755 | 78 | \$14 066 092 | 194 |
| Publishing and Productions | \$1 831 896 | 50 | \$802 448 | 18 | \$1 029 448 | 32 |
| Product and Service Development | \$8 011 704 | 76 | \$1 428 141 | 13 | \$6 583 563 | 63 |
| Program Development | \$74 208 301 | 568 | \$59 946 934 | 335 | \$12 247 509 | 231 |
| Public Engagement and Marketing | \$24 653 578 | 295 | \$6 788 833 | 57 | \$17 864 745 | 238 |
| Research and Evaluation | \$10 580 018 | 81 | \$5 498 821 | 31 | \$5 081 197 | 50 |
| Other Specified Strategies | \$1 133 370 | 18 | \$692 176 | 7 | \$441 194 | 11 |
| Not Specified | \$4 559 865 | 38 | \$4 232 420 | 28 | \$327 445 | 10 |

Source: Foundation Center, 2016. Copyright © 2016 Foundation Center.

The table reflects grantmaking meeting search criteria for violence against women intended to benefit populations in Europe, as defined by membership in the Council of Europe. For the purposes of this analysis, definitions of Western Europe and Eastern Europe are consistent with those used for Advancing Human Rights, a joint initiative with Foundation Center and IHRFG – with the exception of Turkey, which is included here as part of Eastern Europe. Where grants specified a geographic area of focus for both Eastern and Western Europe, the full total of the grant is reflected in each category. Where indicated that the grant was intended to benefit the continent as a whole, full amounts are included under the column for overall dollars, only. Grants may be coded for multiple strategies, in which case the full value will be reflected in all applicable categories.

Additional Foundation Center materials are available at www.weisblatt-associates.com and at <https://portal.ariadne-network.eu/communities/violence-against-women-in-europe-towards-a-new-strategy/view.html> (login required)

Join the Conversation

If you would like to learn more about how Ariadne members are working to end violence against women contact:

Lori Klos at lori.klos@ariadne-network.eu

Ariadne hosts an online community that enables funders to maintain regular contact on the topic (login required):

<https://portal.ariadne-network.eu/communities/violence-against-women-in-europe-towards-a-new-strategy/view.html>

If you are a funder but not yet a member of the Ariadne network we invite you to learn about the benefit of membership and how to join.

For more information about this report, please visit www.ariadne-network.eu and www.weisblatt-associates.com

We invite donors and NGOs to keep this conversation going. A deeper level of exchange is needed among NGOs, among philanthropy and between them in order to make significant progress in the effort to end violence against women in Europe.