

Feminist movements' research and advocacy on GBV

The Power Up Programme



February 2023



“

Consult with asylum-seeking and refugee women as experts of their own experience and involve them as meaningful participants in the design and implementation of C19 response and recovery strategies.”

Refugee Women Connect

Contents

1. Why is research and advocacy relevant to power and movements?	4
• Citizens UK, United Kingdom	5
• End Violence Against Women Coalition, UK	6
• HomeNet South Asia	7
• IWGIA, international	8
• Leeds Women’s Aid, UK	9
• Pastoral Women’s Council and Maasai Women Development Organization, Tanzania	10
• Urgent Action Fund-Africa	11
• Sappho for Equality, India	12
• Women for Refugee Women / Refugee Women Connect, UK	12
2. Cross-cutting challenges and lessons learnt	14
3. Resources	20
• Resources on doing research and advocacy on GBV	20
• Resources from the field that we have accessed	20
4. Acknowledgements	21
Interrogating Power and Movements	22

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1. Why is GBV research and advocacy relevant to power and movements?

- Gender-based violence is patriarchy in practice; an expression of structural inequity and lack of recognition and power of women in society, exacerbated for women who face discrimination or are minoritised in any way. Such violence includes early marriages and pregnancies, discrimination against widows and women with disabilities, genital mutilations, domestic violence, sexual harassment, trafficking, very little voice and status in the family, community and workplace.
- Gender-based violence limits women's ability to function safely and confidently in the domestic and public space and to participate in the economy.
- These things and their associated gender norms mean women seldom recognise their own rights and power, and together this context limits women's confidence and safety to participate in movement-building and action for change not only on GBV but on other issues relevant to their lives.
- Building evidence from the lived experience of women and girls is key to accurately naming the nature and impacts of gender based violence.
- Their participation in shaping, conducting and analysing research findings is essential if women's movements' calls for action are to align with women's experience of what is needed.
- The research process itself can build constituents' agency and ability to take on movement leadership.



Building evidence from the lived experience of women and girls is key to accurately naming the nature and impacts of gender based violence."



Citizens UK, United Kingdom

Aims

- Misogyny to become an official category for recording hate crime.
- Intersectionalise and gender our understandings of other hate crime.

Sources:

- Equal Power, Power Up Annual Report to Comic Relief, 2022;
- Charlotte Fischer, Citizens UK.

How we used our power – strategies

- Citizen UK initiated and supported a misogyny hate crime campaign including:
 - building local teams in mosques, students unions and schools.
 - mass community research of 1000 people to do intersectional recording of GBV, for example, a woman who was attacked for being both Muslim and a woman could record it under both islamophobia and misogyny.
- Ran hate crime training for men potential allies to help them understand the gendered difference of what was happening to women in their communities, and how to interrupt it when it happens.
- Pushed police forces to have a restitutive justice option for perpetrators, learning about misogynistic hate crime and its impact The policy has a 90% support rate across both genders in Nottinghamshire.

How we influenced power – achievements

- A diverse alliance of ordinary women from schools, mosques, synagogues, migrant organisations, LGBTQ+ groups and youth groups ran the campaign.
- These groups each planned and took local action – protests and meetings with local officials. For example, in 2018, Tyne & Wear Citizens took action to 'Reclaim the Metro' as a result of Islamophobic and misogynistic abuse. They won a hate crime transport charter.
- In September 2020 the Law Commission preliminary recommendation recognising misogyny or gender as a hate crime.
- In March 2021, Parliament announced all police forces in the UK would record misogyny hate crime.
- As of Dec 2022, over a quarter of all constabularies in England and Wales adopted either misogyny or gender as a hate crime recording category



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End Violence Against Women Coalition, UK

Aims

- Ensure the prevalence, gendered and racialised nature, of sexual abuse and harassment in schools is understood and prioritised by decision-makers;
- The issue is tackled by implementation of the 'Whole-Schools'

Sources:

- Sarah Green, Long-term campaigning to end violence against women and girls: Mixing our methods', Power Up Workshop 24 June 2020;
- End Violence Against Women Coalition, Power Up Annual Report to Comic Relief, September 2022; inputs Deniz Ugur.

How we used our power – strategies

- Convening experts, with a focus on specialist women's orgs and services, especially those working with Black, minoritised and other marginalised women and girls.
- Nimble and responsive political and policy influencing and advocacy.
- Making the case, and making connections across anti-racism, human rights, structural inequalities and violence against women and girls.
- Strategic communications work.
- Ongoing, targeted campaigning.

- Coproduction of campaign materials and policy asks with Black and minoritised girls, young women and non-binary people.
- Policy expertise and development.
- Collating and publishing evidence and research, including public attitudes research.
- Coalition and consensus-building, while mobilising our members and supporters.
- Reinvigorated and grew membership of the Prevention Network of experts whose work relates to VAWG prevention.

How we influenced power – achievements

- Both Special Advisers to the UK Prime Minister, and the UK Department of Education have sought out our expertise on diverse issues.
- The UK's Office of Standards on Education (Ofsted) invited us onto their Reference Group for their review of sexual abuse and harassment in schools in 2021.
- VAWG and prevention significantly shaped London Mayoral election debates & Political Party Conference agendas.
- Media coverage and commentary shifted national conversations away from women and girls' safety towards rights and freedoms as well as the harm of misogyny which in turn influenced how politicians responded.

HomeNet South Asia

Aims

- Build evidence on the nature and impact of physical, sexual, economic and psychological violence linked to Covid 19 lockdowns on home-based workers (HBWs).
- Strengthen HBWs' voices for change.
- Advocate for better laws and their implementation.

Sources:

- Navya D'Souza, HomeNet South Asia, Towards a violence-free world for women home-based workers: building voice and visibility in the fight against the silent pandemic, Power Up Conference 12 October 2022;
- Additional input from Renu Golani.

How we used our power – strategies

- Shaped research by asking workers (through their organisations) what they wanted to address.
- Used findings to develop training tools using PowerPoint, voice messages and posters.
- Built awareness using films.
- Targeted elected representatives and other allies on GBV.
- Developing policy papers. (In process)
- Planning a regional training of trainers (TOT) in May 2023 with participants from Bangladesh, India and Nepal participate. (in process)

How we influenced power – achievements

- The Trainers who were trained on GBV in one of the TOTs, have trained or educated another 240 home-based workers on the topic and as a result the participants have some understanding about the issue of GBV, its consequences and prevention.
- Worker leaders have the resources and knowledge of mechanisms they're now supporting members to use.



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IWGIA, international

Aim

- Empower indigenous women and girls' organisations and movements to raise awareness about GBV and influence policies at local, national & international levels.

Source:

- IWGIA Annual Narrative Report to Comic Relief, September 2022

How we used our power – strategies

- Documented GBV that Indigenous women face and the contributions and inspiration they bring for change.
- Supported Indigenous women in their advocacy efforts through capacity development, awareness raising, campaigning and strategic participation in spaces for their voices to be heard by important decision-makers.
- Supported the empowerment of Indigenous women, their organisations and constituencies by providing the tools they need, including documentation and

advocacy, building their movements and strategies and connecting to other like-minded supporters and networks for joint efforts.

How we influenced power – achievements

- Stronger regional movement in Asia, the Network for Indigenous Women in Asia (NIWA) with revised strategy and urgent funds/training for its members.
- Inclusion of indigenous women & GBV in documents and events of international human rights mechanisms based on IWGIA inputs. For example, CEDAW's General Comment on Indigenous Women and Girls.
- In Kenya, establishment of an Indigenous women fund (NAAPU) helping women CBOs at community level to address GBV (stronger indigenous women at community level). Data gathered on status of GBV in different pastoral communities. Strengthening of a national platform, the Indigenous Women Council (IWC), with a common national strategy on GBV (stronger national movement).



Leeds Women's Aid, UK

Aims

- Leeds to be the first UK Women Friendly City (a UN initiative) and women and girls to participate in all areas of life on an equitable basis.
- Local government to consider women's & girls when planning & making decisions.
- Hear about women's experiences & feelings of safety and how to tackle it & use that to influence strategy in Leeds.

Women's Lives Leeds comprises:

- ASHA Neighbourhood Centre Basis Yorkshire, Behind Closed Doors Getaway Girls, Joanna Project, Nari Ekta, SARSVL Support After Rape Sexual Violence Leeds, Shantona Women's Centre, Together Women, Women's Counselling Therapy Service, Women's Health Matters

Sources:

- WLL Annual Report Year 3 to Comic Relief, Sept 2022;
- Emily Turner, Women's Safety Survey Report: Findings, recommendations and influence, Power Up Conference 12 October 2022.

How we used our power – strategies

- May 2021, research producing Women's Safety Report – 1371 respondents – unique evidence.
- Women and girls hubs.
- Ambassador network.
- Social media and community engagements.
- "Switch on to Women's Safety" training for men, piloted, adapted & run as trainer-training.

- Visible messaging women's safety on Leeds bin trucks.
- "Active Upstander" training.
- Women's Night Safe Space pilot.
- 'Ask for Angela' initiative.
- Invited onto and actively engaging City Centre Ending VAWG thematic group.
- Contracted external evaluators to support us grow and adapt based on our learning.

How we influenced power – achievements

- Out of the March 2022 Women's Night Safe Space pilot, the city included this approach in its successful bid to West Yorkshire Combined Authority "Safer Streets Round 4" and will continue the Night Safe provision for 13 months and appoint a Women's Night Safe Coordinator.
- 600 venues have taken up the Ask for Angela system that allows women who feel threatened in bars to get immediate support; city reports show women are using it.
- Hundreds of men across the city have attended "Switch on to Women's Safety" trainings run by the trained trainers.
- The West Yorkshire Combined Authority won 3 bids using safety survey findings, bringing in £215,000 for initiatives recommended by the report.
- City is focusing on safety and being women friendly.

Pastoral Women's Council and Maasai Women Development Organization, Tanzania

Aims

- Build women's voice on their rights in relation to national and international instruments on GBV.
- Shift social norms on women's rights and GBV.

Sources:

- Nalemuta Moisan, Pastoral Women's Council, 'Gender-based Violence – How to Take Action?', Power Up Workshop, 24 June 2020;
- Pastoral Women's Council Annual Report to Comic Relief, October 2022.

How we used our power – strategies

- Established 34 Women Rights and Leadership Forums (WRLFs) 25 women and five men. Trained them in GBV among other things, including physical violence, reproductive rights, FGM and property-related violence.
- The men act like ambassadors supporting women, who are excluded from speaking, to talk about their rights in community meetings.
- WRLF participants teach other women.
- 'Secure your family future' classes for men perpetrators.
- Cooperate with social welfare officers and police as first responders, so they help women.
- 64 paralegals provide services for survivors of violence including representing in courts.
- Rescued girls from forced marriage or FGM to a vocational training centre (biogas, sewing).

How we influenced power – achievements

- Last three years, WRLFs and paralegals reported and resolved about 500 cases of GBV.
- Police now respond proactively on GBV as first responders, including rescuing girls being forced into marriage.
- Dept Community Development and Dept Social and Welfare at local/district levels collaborate with the WRLFs.
- Rescued girls leaving the centre have a way of building their income.
- Reduced incidence of child marriage.
- The perception/mindset of 40% of the men and community towards women rights have changed including changed mindset of men perpetrators – that what they do is violence not love.
- Traditional leaders in Longido district signed the declaration on women's rights and others declared their support for equal education for boys and girls; village councils/ governments have allotted land to over 300 women.



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Urgent Action Fund–Africa

Aims

- Respond to unanticipated time sensitive urgent and strategic opportunities to address women's rights with Rapid Response Grantmaking.
- Amplify women's voices, enhance their visibility and support them to change discourses and influence law and policy.

Sources:

- Jean Kemitare, Urgent Action Fund for Women's Rights – Africa, 'Gender-based Violence – How to Take Action?', Power Up Workshop, 24 June 2020;
- Additional information Jean Kemitare.

How we used our power – strategies

- Conducted rapid assessment with 108 partners and advisors to understand impact of Covid 19 response on physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence.
- Feb–June 2020 did 260 grants in response to 1500 applications (triple the usual no), half of which were on GBV and 100 linked to Covid support. Strategies ranged from social norm change to community mobilisation and skills building to address practical needs as well as policy advocacy, spanning the ecological model across different drivers of violence.
- Sensemaking and capacity building for addressing GBV in emergencies – conversations and webinars for grantees with IRC.

How we influenced power – achievements

- Documenting for evidence-based advocacy spiralled during the pandemic. For example, the Coalition of Eastern NGOs in Nigeria initiated and grew their data bases on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Rivers State and used this to influence national SGBV prevention and response structures, especially for the establishment and utilisation of a single gender desk within the State.
- Grantees provided services – hotlines, medical care, safe houses and shelters, legal aid, tele-counseling, alternative healing and psychosocial care, cash transfer, strengthening referral pathways.



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- Many grantees capitalised on the 'trigger' moment of the pandemic to engage in awareness raising to influence retrogressive social norms, using diverse creative types. For example, The Pada Platform in Zimbabwe utilised digital tools; Impepho Press in South Africa produced and used a chap book.
- They advocated for community-based responses by local leaders.
- Movement building activities included mobilisation and setting up spaces to share analysis on SGBV.

Sappho for Equality, India

Aim

- Achieve rights and social justice of individuals with non-normative gender-sexual orientations, identities and expressions including on GBV.

Sources:

- Shreosi Ray and Koyel Ghosh, Sappho for Equality;
- Shreosi Ray, 'Sappho: the trajectory over two decades of our use of terminologies in the collective and organisational space', Power Up Workshop: Use of gender terms – which and why', 2 June, 2021.

How we used our power – strategies

- Network to identify cases of GBV.
- Extend mental health support services and peer support to survivors.
- Offer temporary shelter to protect the survivor from impending danger while engaging in deep listening and offering capacity support to enhance confidence and hope.
- Facilitate channels to free legal aid services.
- Provide career counselling and explore livelihood options.

- Draw on the lesson learning from individual cases to engage in deep reflection on intersections of gender and sexuality based violence on gender nonconforming persons assigned female at birth and use this to inform our service and advocacy strategies.
- Build relationships with and capacity of police and other relevant bureaucracies.

How we influenced power – achievements

- Queer and trans affirmative mental health professionals in the public health system are now part of a referral network.
- Strengthened regional referral networks with police, bureaucrats and administrators.
- Individual survivors receive the support they need.
- Establishment of regional informal queer support groups.
- Visits to family members of persons who have experienced violence have helped create a space for dialogue to address the stigma regarding queer and trans lives that they feel and perpetuate because it is prevalent in the social fabric.

Women for Refugee Women / Refugee Women Connect, UK

Aims

- Refugee and asylum seeking women becoming more informed about their rights and the context of their experiences, and enabled to speak out about the issues that concern them and shape WRW/WRC's work.
- More recognition of refugee women's experiences in wider social movements.

- More positive responses from media and politicians to refugee women's advocacy, for example in relation to the impacts of Covid 19, and the Domestic Abuse Bill.

Sources:

- Women for Refugee Women and Refugee Women Connect, Annual Reports to Comic Relief, 2020 and 2021;
- Pip McKnight, RWC, presentation during Power Up workshop 18 Nov 2020.

How we used our power – strategies

- Built WRW London Grassroots Network, London Forum, RWC Advocacy group of refugee women (Liverpool) and Sisters-not-Strangers (SNS) coalition of 8 orgs of refugee women.
- Trained groups in three cities on empowerment and advocacy.
- Undertook participatory research with over 100 women in seven areas across England and Wales on the impact of C19 on Migrant Survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) with partners at University of Birmingham.
- Produced Will I Ever Be Safe? (Feb 2020) and as part of Sisters Not Strangers, Hear Us: the experiences of asylum-seeking women in the pandemic (July 2020).
- Used journey mapping with GBV service users, drawing out themes and making recommendations.
- Peer-led trainer training and one-on-one advocacy coaching.
- Supported asylum-seeking women to campaign with us against the Nationality and Borders Bill, creating a variety of actions to encourage a diversity of women to be involved.
- Advocacy group members submitted evidence to parliamentary committees.
- With refugee women, created a toolkit and policy to safeguard displaced women involved with advocacy and campaigning.
- Partnered with the VAWG sector to create a more unified feminist movement in the UK that speaks out against harmful policies affecting asylum-seeking women.
- Refugee women used own stories in advocacy, campaigning and movement-building.

How we influenced power – achievements

- Members of WRW's Rainbow Sisters Group coordinated WRW's first research on the experiences of LB women seeking asylum.
- 15 refugee women carried out the research on the impact of C19 and workshopped the messages and framing of findings.
- They used findings to train mainstream refugee groups, share info in communities and advocate to decision-makers.
- Huffington Post, The Telegraph, The Guardian, The Independent and interview on BBC Radio 4 and Women's Hour all carried refugee women's inputs.
- One was invited to be a member of a City Council Housing Committee, and to join the Sheffield TV and radio board.
- Refugee women gave speeches at the Refugees Welcome rally outside Westminster and sent postcards to parliamentarians during the passage of the Nationality and Borders Bill.
- Refugee women generated social media using WRW/RWC media pack during hearings on the Bill.
- Mainstream women's sector groups are including refugee women's issues and using WRW/RWC evidence in submissions on Domestic Abuse Bill.
- Various MPs & Greater London Authority met with RWC refugee advocates on the research findings.
- Government used the findings including a report, Home Office Preparedness for Covid 19 and Liverpool's Action Plan on NRP (No Recourse to Public Funds).
- Widely adopted guideline on gender considerations in mainstream refugee services.

2. Cross-cutting challenges and lessons learnt

Challenges

- Women are often unaware of the spectrum of violence, thinking it is acceptable to be subject to it.
- Society invisibilises the contributions that marginalised women make in their communities and society so women may not experience themselves as being in a position to speak out on GBV.
- Women often don't know their rights, the laws and mechanisms they can access.

Lessons learnt

- Women's movements need to make visible the contributions of their constituents, in order to build their confidence and ability to speak out and challenge GBV.
- It is easier for women who are in supportive organisations to speak out on GBV as compared to those who are alone.
- When women feel they have a strong network of solidarity and support, they are empowered to speak up and stand up for their rights, hence the importance of facilitating networking, exchange and solidarity, including at local level.

Challenges

- Survivors may lack any sense of hope which undermines their ability to move forward.
- Survivors may avoid accessing services for fear of further stigmatisation and abuse.

Lessons learnt

- Involve survivors in capacity building and peer support workshops to enhance their confidence and hope and enable them to both experience and provide solidarity to others in similar situations.
- Engaging survivors before seeking external supports is paramount as is prioritising the needs that they articulate.

Challenges

- Attempts to divide women's groups from within.
- In some contexts, women's groups resist conversation about racism, ethnic divides, class divides or issues of bodily autonomy and integrity, or refugee women's experience. Their understanding of women's rights lacks an intersectional analysis of women's realities as workers, religious people, people with disabilities, refugees, people with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. Hence their responses to GBV are not resonant with that of most women.

Lessons learnt

- Importance of mainstream women's organisations building their appetite to work with women in all their diversity rather than – in some of our contexts – predominantly white or middle class women; and to be able to put inequity at the centre of their analyses and claims.
- Women coming together across differences in identity and experience fosters their power and energy for action. Bringing the margins to the centre is critical in all campaign planning and outputs.

Challenges

- The mainstream women's sector has built linking power with key decision-making individuals and institutions, and can gate-keep, stopping representatives of marginalised women's groups from accessing and engaging those with power.
- GBV is often relegated to women's groups to address when it needs not just women's voices but political and social leadership.

Lessons learnt

- GBV initiatives of marginalised women may find value in engaging the mainstream women's sector to build their understanding of, and willingness to collaborate, ensuring that they frame their demands in ways that are appropriate to excluded women. It's essential to leverage mainstream groups' greater visibility and access to parliamentarians and other decision-makers.
- Working on women's rights and human rights requires relationship-building to bring in multi-stakeholder involvement such as local women's forums, community paralegals, traditional and religious leaders, local leaders, youth.

Challenges

- There is still backlash from men who cling to negative and harmful social norms and tradition and are not willing to change their mindsets about women's and girls' rights, even while there are also men in communities who are supportive.

Lessons learnt

- Men need to be included in discussion around GBV. There are supportive men in the communities that are willing to support indigenous or otherwise marginalised women and take an active part in the change process.
- In contexts where women have little voice in public space, we can amplify our voices by including influential men and giving them specific roles of raising the issues in spaces where women have less voice.
- Focused and intentional training of men can enable them to speak and take action in support of the issue. This is a strategy for addressing gender based violence, rather than centring men.

Challenges

- It is hard to produce data as fast as government wants it if one is pushing government to resource work on GBV.

Lessons learnt

- Movements need to work on what counts as evidence and to get as much evidence as possible on the experience of violence and of support services through stories from members, building a reputation for expertise.
- Research brings women's private experience into the public sphere hence the critical role of research and consultations within women's groups, through surveys, through one-on-one outreach and events to provide the learning needed to shape campaigns that are driven by what women and girls have said they want from their lives.
- Effective monitoring and solving gender-based violence and sharing that information, encourages more people to report, seek justice and redress for violations.

Challenges

- Building a global movement is very difficult given the importance of women themselves shaping context-specific demands and strategies on GBV.

Lessons learnt

- Starting at local and national levels is more likely to yield results than starting by bringing together groups across regions.

Challenges

Doing research studies on GBV can produce disparities in power between university-based researchers and the NGOs and community members working on the issue.

Lessons learnt

- All participants need clear roles to play that recognise and draw on their expertise and complement each other
- Need to ensure transparency in budgeting, that those affected shape the problem definition, design, piloting and implementing and that all partners have appropriate spaces to talk publicly about findings.
- Essential to build the confidence of those with lived experience to participate in framing, conducting and sense-making of the findings.
- Have counsellors on hand in case anyone feels retraumatised by telling their stories – but do not approach people who are too vulnerable.



Challenges

- The mindset is that violence is normal, part of the way of life – men's entitlement to exert power over and be violent towards women.
- Members of the public may not take women speaking out seriously – for example laughing and framing women's rights claims as criminalising wolf whistling.
- Media and campaigns tend not to focus on the experience of women on the margins or in rural or local areas.

Lessons learnt

- Data helps give legitimacy to our claims and is key to persuading media and other stakeholders to take the issue seriously and speak out. That in turn can put pressure on decision-makers.
- Don't assume the world understands GBV. Some basic story telling about domestic violence and different forms of VAWG still needs doing.
- Invest in educating journalists and exposing them to how widely GBV is experienced so that media don't write about it only in relation to people or groups they're comfortable covering. In many of our contexts media and politicians are keen to hear evidence on GBV.

Challenges

- Lack of favourable laws and policies.
- Push back from government; resistance to resourcing public engagement about GBV and to resourcing GBV services.

Lessons learnt

- When women's groups litigate this seems to give us more power in our other engagements with government – they sit up and listen when threatened with legal action.
- Importance of focusing on government budgets to ensure they allocate funds and officers dedicated to GBV prevention and response.
- The chance of success is enhanced when women are well organised to protest and engage decision-makers around local demands.
- In some contexts, a strong relationship with police has made a big difference in responding to violence.

Challenges

- Covid brought to the fore structural gender inequalities and intersected with the silent epidemic of GBV.
- There is a strong co-relation between state-sanctioned violence and interpersonal violence. Many human rights defenders faced both intimate partner violence and state violence.
- Access to services, including SRHR services, during Covid was worse for structurally excluded groups – LBT, sex workers, women with disabilities, domestic workers, refugees

Lessons learnt

- The escalation of GBV during lockdowns helped put on the agenda a longstanding crisis and enabled groups to build momentum and partnerships and influence decision-makers in ways they'd not been able to do before, including in relation to service provision.
- Women's rights organisation led from the front, as first responders on GBV during Covid, and remained when emergency providers had left despite having very small budgets
- As long as GBV affects excluded communities, no-one in society is safe.

Challenges

- Violence takes many forms and includes exclusion from income generating opportunities.

Lessons learnt

- Support in identifying livelihood options is as critical a GBV intervention as the more usual physical and mental health dimensions.

Challenges

- Many funders, including women's rights funders, focus either on development / humanitarian support or on movement-building and advocacy for social justice. Covid made clear the desperate need for funding to address practical needs of women facing or experiencing GBV, as well as for evidence-gathering and action against GBV.

Lessons learnt

- Small grants to women's community-based groups can go a long way in both helping women feel recognised and enabling them to take action.
- Funders can shift their funding criteria to cover immediate needs and strategic action, rather than having to be either about influencing local development or about social change. Alternatively they can partner with funders with expertise and resources to address practical, development issues.

| 3. Resources

| Resources on doing research and advocacy on GBV

- [Violence against Home-Based Workers in South Asia, HomeNet South Asia, 2022.](#)
- [Research on Violence Against Women in the context of home-based work, Nepal, HomeNet South Asia, 2020.](#)
- [Mapping Laws Relevant to Online Violence in Nepal, Body and Data 2021](#)
- [Forced Migration, SGBV and Covid-19 Refugee Women Connect, University of Birmingham, Institute for Research into Superdiversity, May 2020.](#)
- [Citizen UK: Overcoming everyday hate in the UK: Hate crime, oppression and the law.](#)
- [Law Commission Hate Crime Laws Consultation Paper, UK.](#)
- [Guidance for organisations supporting asylum seeking and refugee women Refugee Women Connect, June 2020.](#)
- [Report done by IWGIA partner AIPP: https://aippnet.org/report-violence-against-indigenous-women-girls-context-climate-crisis-including-environmental-degradation-related-disaster-risk-mitigation-response/.](https://aippnet.org/report-violence-against-indigenous-women-girls-context-climate-crisis-including-environmental-degradation-related-disaster-risk-mitigation-response/)
- [UAF-A, Fire in the Rain: UAF-Africa's Feminist Response to Covid-19.](#)

| Resources from the field that we have accessed

- [Jessica Horn, The Power of Feminist Civil Society. Lessons from multidisciplinary praxis to prevent violence against women and girls, 2021.](#)
- [Preventing VAW – A primer for women's organisations, African Women's Development Fund and Raising Voices.](#)
- [Generating knowledge and evidence on prevention of VAW – An introductory guide for African Women's Organisations, AWDF.](#)

| 4. Acknowledgements

This Learning Brief was collated by Barbara Klugman based on the expertise and thinking of members of all Power Up groups who have participated in the Power Up learning process since March 2020, drawing on notes of Power Up workshops on GBV in June and November 2021, March, May, July and the Power Up Conference 12 October 2022; the 2022 Annual Reports to Comic Relief of the groups featured in this Learning Brief; plus the specific inputs of the following people in consolidating this Learning Brief's opening rationale on why GBV is relevant to power and movements, and the 'Challenges and Lessons Learnt':

- Charlotte Fischer, Citizens UK
- Comfort Etim, Refugee Women Connect
- Isabel Young and Sophie Radice, Women for Refugee Women
- Emily Turner, Women's Lives Leeds
- Jean Kemitare and Hiwot Tedla, Urgent Action Fund – Africa
- Julie Marion, IWGIA
- Shreosi Ray and Koyel Ghosh, Sappho for Equality
- Katia Araujo, WIEGO
- Nalemuta Moisan, Pastoral Women's Council

Interrogating Power and Movements

These Learning Briefs form part of a series on diverse topics developed by participants in Comic Relief's Power Up Initiative. The initiative comprises 16 grantees with 34 partners, and aims to support work that builds power for women and girls. The initiative included contracting a learning facilitator, Barbara Klugman, to enable connections and learning between organisations to build their strength as movement constituents. Groups funded through Power Up are addressing a wide diversity of issues, and are themselves very different – from community-based organisations to funders to international NGOs and networks. Yet through conversations that began with lockdown in March 2020, they have found common cause in bringing a feminist analysis of power to movement-building and influence.

The Learning Briefs pick up some of the cross-cutting issues they have addressed. Each topic includes participants' understanding of how the issue is relevant to power and

movements followed by examples from a few groups of how they have both built and used their power – their strategies, and how they have influenced power – their achievements. They end with challenges and lessons learnt in addressing these, based on the collective experiences and insights of participants.

The Learning Briefs form Power Up's Year 3 Report to Comic Relief, and build on the previous reports each of which unpacked questions of power in movement-building and influence:

- [How has work funded by Comic Relief's Power Up programme contributed to shifts in women and girls' power?](#) 30 June 2021
- [Feminist Resilience and Innovation in a Pandemic.pdf](#), February 2022
- [Reporting back: How one funder succeeded in doing better, and realised they'd never get it completely right](#), February 2022

Barbara Klugman, February 2023

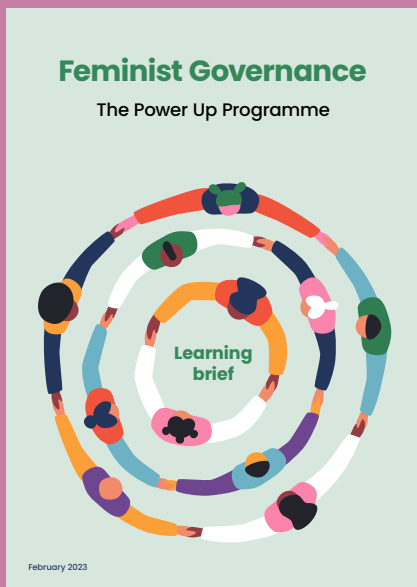


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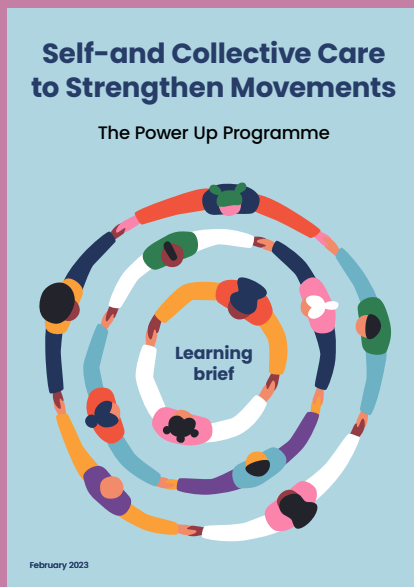
“Men’s involvement is important because men are the ones who deny women’s rights so by dealing with men we’re helping in transformation of the community.”

Pastoral Women’s Council

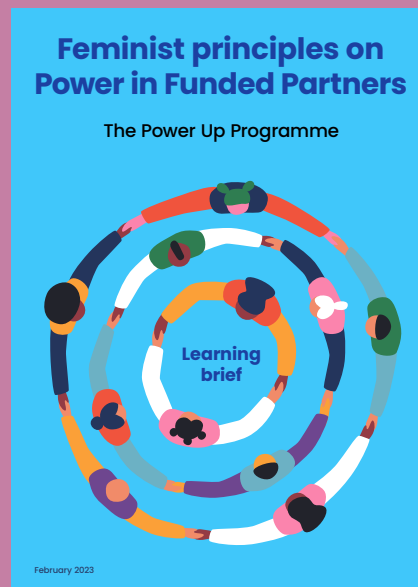
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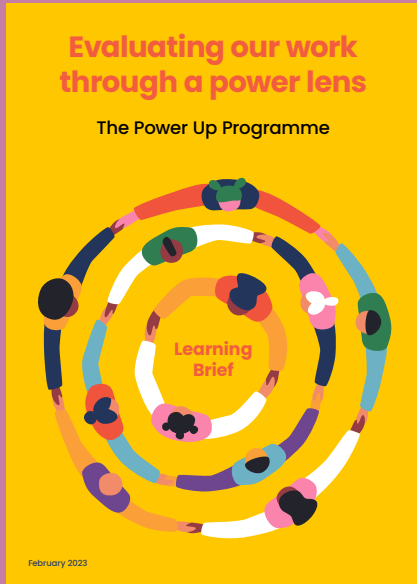
Feminist Governance



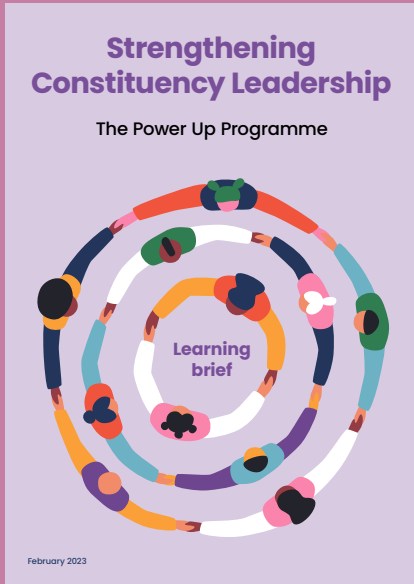
Self- and Collective Care to Strengthen Movements



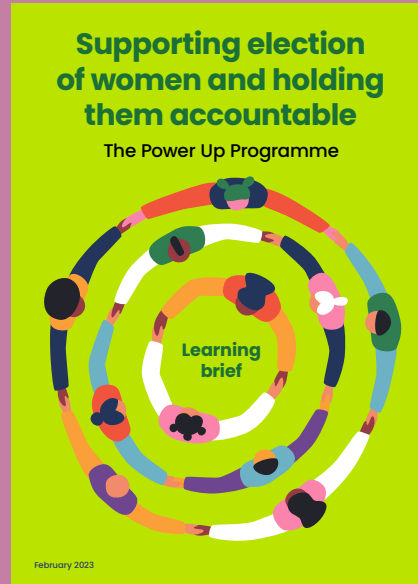
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Evaluating our work through a power lens



Strengthening Constituency Leadership



Supporting election of women and holding them accountable

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