



WOMEN OF CONSCIENCE

**“WE ARE VOLCANOES. WHEN WE WOMEN OFFER OUR EXPERIENCE AS OUR TRUTH, AS HUMAN TRUTH, ALL THE MAPS CHANGE. THERE ARE NEW MOUNTAINS.”
- URSULA LE GUIN**

All women, everywhere, recognize violence. Not only are women disproportionately affected by war, but they are routinely harmed physically and emotionally by assault and discrimination in what should be the safest spaces: their schools, workplaces, homes. As the writer Rebecca Solnit has said, “Violence doesn't have a race, a class, a religion, or a nationality, but it does have a gender.” It is our common bond.

But it doesn't have to be this way. The International Coalition of Sites of Conscience is a network of over 250 museums, historic sites and memorials in 65 countries dedicated to using the past to advocate for human rights today. At this critical time – when the silence surrounding violence against women is finally being shattered – **we are working with women in every region of the world on the issues that affect them most: amplifying their voices, scaffolding their projects and bringing them together across boundaries** to ensure that this moment in history is not just a blip, but a global, grassroots movement for lasting change.

“Our partnership with the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience is the best thing that's happened to the Gage Center. It's given us focus, an identity group and the resources to live our mission.”

-Sally Roesch Wagner, Executive Director of The Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation

WHAT WE DO

As our Founder Ruth Abram says, "The history of women organizing is a bottom-up history. If it doesn't start on the ground, it doesn't work." To ensure success, the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience partners directly with women in communities across the globe who are affected by human rights abuses, providing them funding, training, networking opportunities and psychosocial support.



Our twenty-year history has taught us that **lasting change comes only when victims' stories are heard**. Sites of Conscience provide safe spaces for this testimony, opportunities to reflect on what led to these experiences, and avenues for action to ensure those events never recur. Here is a selection of programs supported in the past year:

We awarded a grant to Museo Sitio de Memoria ESMA in Argentina to support an initiative on the history of violence against detained women during the country's dictatorship. **By shining a light on systemic violence, we are creating a movement to never let it happen again.**

We led an art-based workshop for 20 female survivors of the civil war in Sri Lanka - providing them a platform to share their experiences, acknowledge those of others and break the cycle of violence. **"The workshop brought me calm,"** one participant explained. **"If whole communities did this, reconciliation would follow."**

To **shatter the silence around sexual violence** under the Khmer Rouge, we awarded a Cambodian member a grant to collect and share oral histories of victims of that era's forced marriages. The histories led to the development of a play performed at a former site of detention, now a memorial.

The 2017 women's marches brought 4,500,000 people onto the streets. To harness this energy, we **provided members with multiple avenues for action** - from a rapid response guide to spark dialogue on women's rights to a Pop-Up on #MeToo and Museums held at the 2018 AASLH annual conference, reaching 20,000 history professionals and organizations.

The International Coalition of Sites of Conscience receives support from the Ford Foundation; Institute of Museum and Library Services; National Endowment for Democracy; Open Society Foundations; Robert Bosch Stiftung; United States Department of State; and individual donors.





WOMEN OF CONSCIENCE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Around the world, women are breaking the rules. They are banding together to speak about their experiences with violence - regardless of cultural taboos, how much time has passed or who they offend. There has never been a more urgent need to support women as they use their voices for lasting change.

In the coming months, the Women of Conscience Initiative at the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience will build on our unparalleled work with women across the globe. Significant new investment in our programs will allow us to dramatically expand the number of participants and countries served, expansion plans that will be launched at the Inaugural Global Summit on Women and Transitional Justice in Chennai, India in May 2019.

PERFECTLY POSITIONED

Women are uniquely positioned to be effective community leaders. An International Peace Institute study found that when women participate in peace processes, there is a 35 percent greater chance a peace agreement will last 15 years or more.

Founded in 1999, the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience is the only global learning and advocacy organization working on the ground in over 65 countries to support women in such leadership roles by:

Leading international learning exchanges to foster a global movement built on the stories of Women of Conscience to prevent recurrence of violence and promote respect for human rights;

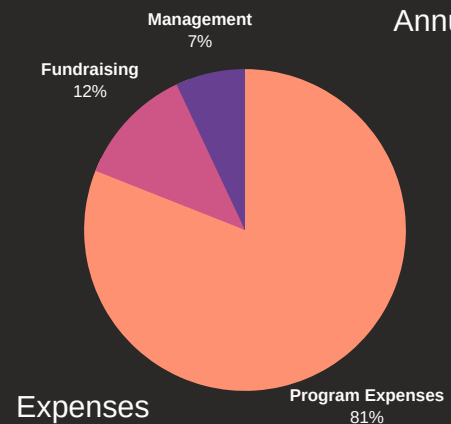
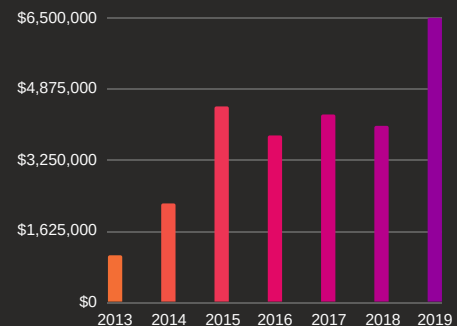
Offering technical support and training to amplify the voices of Women of Conscience across borders and contexts through traditional and digital platforms;

Facilitating mentoring programs to give women the skills to advocate to governments and engage communities in post-conflict rebuilding;

Providing holistic support through regranting to help Women of Conscience develop effective local public programs.

OUR GROWTH AT A GLANCE

With the rise of extremist rhetoric around the globe, women are leading the movements for change. Nearly 70% of women worldwide say young girls need to be encouraged to speak up more. We have never been more ready to support them.





NEW VOICES, NEW INVESTMENT, NEW IMPACT

Women leaders committed to catalyzing change are invited to join the **Women of Conscience Leadership Council**, to participate in the 2019 Global Summit on Women in Chennai, India, and ensure that the goal of \$500,000 is raised for Women of Conscience. Through participation in the Summit, Leadership Council members will have the opportunity to hear firsthand from women survivors around the world and to contribute your own reflections to a publication developed after the Summit. Following the Summit, Leadership Council members will continue to support Women of Conscience by exchanging experiences through one on one mentoring programs, by providing guidance to emerging women advocates around the globe, and by forging connections to other women in your circle of influence who might join you in supporting Women of Conscience to ensure lasting change.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

	Cross-Regional Peer to Peer Exchanges	Direct Grants for Community-Based Programs	Virtual Trainings on Advocacy, Dialogue, Documentation and Youth Engagement	Funding of Global Summit Participants
\$250,000	5 Exchanges Serving 50 Women	10 Direct Grants for Local Programs	5 Trainings Serving 100 Women	10 Participants
\$150,000	2 Exchanges Serving 20 Women	5 Direct Grants for Local Programs	3 Trainings Serving 60 Women	6 Participants
\$100,000	2 Exchanges Serving 20 Women	4 Direct Grants for Local Programs	2 Trainings Serving 40 Women	
\$50,000	1 Exchange Serving 10 Women	2 Direct Grants for Local Programs	1 Training Serving 20 Women	

