



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – COLLECTIVE CARE AND HEALING

As a Women's Fund, Urgent Action Fund-Africa (UAF-Africa) is committed to supporting the resilience and wellbeing of African women's human rights defenders (AWHRDS) to think through and implement collective care and healing practices. The Fund is prioritizing collective care and healing as a direct and structured response to the collective distress that women and gender non-conforming communities face, which are caused by persistent forms of exclusion, violence and marginalization. The Fund's support will go towards responding to the moment of crisis created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The impact of the pandemic on Africa is uncertain as it has created an unprecedented situation that constantly evolves. What is clear, however, is that state-sanctioned measures to curb the spread of the disease have had a disproportionate impact on the health and wellbeing of women and gender non-conforming communities. The pandemic is a multidimensional crisis that has had adverse effects on prevailing economic, health and social care systems.

The crisis has further resulted in the widening and deepening of existing socio-economic fault lines and inequalities for disadvantaged communities along the lines of gender, ethnicity, sexuality, class and other social divisions in society. Furthermore, it is in these gaps that communities face considerable lack of opportunities to access care as well as wellbeing support for themselves as individuals and communities.

UAF-AFRICA IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING SUPPORT TOWARDS COLLECTIVE CARE AND HEALING IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- Mental health, counselling and provision of emergency kits with a priority to women, transgender and gender non-conforming people and their families.
- Responses that promote the wellness, healing and community care initiatives in times of social distancing.
- Small scale studies/research, information gathering, and documentation (through film, art, reports, etc.) of the approaches of the African women's movement to collective care, healing and resilience building work.
- Feminist, intersectional and virtual-based responses to the challenges facing women and gender non-conforming people as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- COVID-19 collective care and healing campaigns.
- COVID-19 awareness initiatives in local languages through community radio and other relevant platforms.

We will provide Rapid Response Grants of up to \$ 8,000 to support the above-mentioned work.

HOW TO APPLY:

The call for proposals is open from **8 May 2020** and applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.

Rapid Response application forms are available at www.uaf-africa.org/apply-for-a-grant. Once completed, email your application to proposals@uaf-africa.org.

If you need further information on the Collective Care and Healing grant, please contact UAF-Africa by sending an email to proposals@uaf-africa.org with the subject line: **Collective Care and Healing questions**.