

SPECIAL FOCUS: Supporting Women's Movements and Women Human Rights Defenders



Lifeline is a consortium of 7 international NGOs that provides grants to at-risk civil society organizations (CSOs). Since women human rights defenders (WHRDs) and women-led groups face additional layers of vulnerability and restrictions in the course of their human rights work, Lifeline prioritizes outreach and support to women's movements and communities. Lifeline intervenes at critical moments, providing emergency financial support and short-term advocacy and resiliency projects that enable women's rights and women-led groups to push back against restrictions and proactively prevent and mitigate threats. Lifeline can also support unregistered groups, coalitions, and networks.



Emergency Assistance

Lifeline supports women-led and women's rights CSOs threatened or attacked because of their human rights and social justice work.

Grants can provide for:

- Office or home security
- Medical and psychosocial support
- Legal representation
- Prison visits
- Temporary relocation, including for family members
- Secure transportation

Lifeline supported a women's peacebuilding organization in **Cameroon** to replace stolen equipment, hire unarmed office security guards, and reinforce their doors after experiencing multiple armed attacks and break-ins. The CSO has since been able to continue its work pushing for an inclusive peace process.

Advocacy Grants

Lifeline assists local women-led and women's rights CSOs to protect and expand their rights to organize, associate, and assemble safely.

Projects can:

- Encourage traditional and religious community leaders to support women-led CSOs
- Pursue strategic litigation against prohibitions on women's marches
- Document evidence on gender-based restrictions on the ability to associate and assemble
- Raise awareness about the closures or attacks on women's rights organizations with stakeholders

Lifeline supported a CSO in **Pakistan** to conduct research on the restrictions that WHRDs face, including online harassment and restrictions on protests. Through interviews and data collection, they created an evidence-based strategy to push to improve the enabling environment for WHRDs, building on new national Guidelines on the Protection of HRDs.

Resiliency Grants

Lifeline enables at-risk women's rights and women-led CSOs to proactively take steps to enhance their ability to prevent or mitigate risks.

Projects can:

- Organize holistic (physical, digital, and psycho-social) security training for CSOs at risk
- Develop an early warning system among WHRDs who face online harassment
- Connect CSOs to share best practices regarding safety and security with a gender lens
- Create campaigns to counter the stigmatization that WHRDs face

Lifeline assisted a CSO to train 27 grassroots organizations from five **Greater Mekong** countries on holistic security with a gendered lens, including digital, physical, and psycho-social modules. Attendees created security plans for their organizations, with specific consideration of the risks that WHRDs face.

To apply for support, contact: info@csolifeline.org

csolifeline.org

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