Strategic planning and learning

In 2014, the Red Umbrella Fund successfully completed its first strategic planning process, clarifying key strategies and outcomes for the coming years. The Fund also conducted an analysis of closed grants which showed promising results: grantees successfully expanded their membership and reached over 26,000 sex workers. Most groups used their grants to strengthen organisational structures, such as convening membership or board meetings to agree on priorities and strategies, or building the skills and expertise of sex workers involved in the organisation. Many grantees interacted with government officials to influence policies and practices. Press conferences and personal outreach to journalists combined with public demonstrations proved effective strategies to get their messages into the public domain. All grantees strengthened partnerships with other sex worker and allied organisations and networks.

Grantmaking in 2014

The Red Umbrella Fund made its first multi-year grants in 2014. Of these, fourteen were to groups working at the local or national level. Grantees included a diversity of sex workers including Indigenous and migrant sex workers, sex workers in prison, and those living with HIV. Three grants were to regional sex worker networks in Asia and the Pacific, the Caribbean, and Europe.

Grantees included Kenyan Sex Workers Alliance (KESWA) and Sisonke, a network of sex workers in South Africa. KESWA and Sisonke both foster solidarity and peer capacity building on key issues like decriminalisation of sex work, addressing violence against sex workers, and securing access to quality health services. Together with the regional network African Sex Worker Alliance (ASWA) and many local groups they are strengthening the sex worker movement across Africa.

Leadership in participatory grantmaking

The Red Umbrella Fund shared its experience of peer-led and participatory grantmaking in philanthropic spaces including the International Human Rights Funders Group (IHRFG) and Ariadne, the European human rights funders network. The Fund initiated the Working Group on Participatory Grantmaking which brings together participatory grantmakers and funders interested in learning from existing models. The Fund also reached a broader audience with a series of media articles.


Members of sex workers’ organisation Sisonke march in the streets on International Sex Worker Rights Day in Cape Town, South Africa. Photo: Robert Hamblin
## Grantees of the Red Umbrella Fund

### AFRICA (SUB SAHARAN)

**Kenya**  
Kenya Sex Workers Alliance (KESWA)  
€40,000

**Nigeria**  
Women of Power Initiative (WOPI)  
€15,000

**South Africa**  
Sisonke - National Sex Worker Movement of South Africa  
€39,000

### ASIA

**Burma**  
Aye Myanmar Association (AMA)  
€27,000

**China**  
Anonymous group  
€20,000

**India**  
Adarsha  
€18,000

**Thailand**  
Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW)  
€45,000

### EUROPE & COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

**Germany**  
Berufsverband erotische und sexuelle Dienstleistungen e.V (BDS)  
€10,000

**Russia**  
Silver Rose  
€27,000

**Turkey**  
Red Umbrella Sexual Health and Human Rights Association (Kırımızi emsiye)  
€15,000

### LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

**Argentina**  
Asociación Mujeres Meretrices Córdoba (AMMAR Córdoba)  
€20,000

**Brazil**  
Associação Mulheres Guerreira  
€20,000

**Chile**  
Fundación Margen de Apoyo y Promoción de la Mujer  
€20,000

**Guyana**  
Caribbean Sex Work Coalition (CSWC)  
€20,000

### NORTH AMERICA

**Canada**  
Maggie’s - Toronto Sex Workers Action Project  
€20,000

**United States**  
Best Practices Policy Project (BPPP)  
€20,000

---

Activists carry signs in support of sex workers’ rights (such as “end poverty, not sex work” and “no more police brutality against sex workers”) at the International Women’s Rights Day protests in Turkey in 2014.

Please find descriptions of all Red Umbrella Fund grantees on [www.redumbrella-fund.org/grantees](http://www.redumbrella-fund.org/grantees)