



GLOBAL FEMINISM  
IN SOLIDARITY  
AND ACTION.

## The Circle Programme 2023:

### Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

#### Background

The Circle is a global feminist organisation using the collective power of women to support the world's most vulnerable women and girls.

*'We are thrilled to be a women-led organisation showing solidarity with women-led projects around the world'*

Our mission: To support the economic empowerment and the ending of violence for marginalised and vulnerable women around the world by building a global feminist network of changemakers who fund, advocate and amplify.

As we enter a new, ambitious phase, we are refocusing our support on the fight for equality and safety for women and girls, by partnering with extraordinary women-led organisations who are undertaking extraordinary work at the grassroots level to make change. We aim to centre these organisations who are on the front-line, alongside women with lived experience and activists to provide insight and our strategies be accountable to them.

We are focussing on two key areas that are core to the equality and safety of women and girls:

- Economic Empowerment
- Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

To this end, The Circle is delighted to be adding to its current partner portfolio, The Circle Programme, a three-year programme that aims to fund and support under-resourced women-led grassroots organizations around the world, predominantly in the Global South (the regions of Latin America, Asia, Africa, Middle East, Oceania) and the UK.

We welcome applications from organisations that economically empower and/or work towards ending violence against women and girls. In particular, but not exclusively, we would welcome applications from organisations from South Sudan, DRC and Afghanistan.

For this round of applications, The Circle will be looking to partner with up to five organisations with an annual income of £GBP equivalent £10,000-£250,000.

#### Funding

For each year of the partnership, The Circle will fund each organisation with minimum grants of £5,000 each and up to 50% of their total mean annual income.

## **Non-financial capacity building and visibility**

**Capacity-Building:** The Circle shall also provide non-financial capacity-building support to maximise the impact of the partnership through the skills and resources of our **supporters**. The global Circle network is made up of skilled professional women, including lawyers, creatives, and others. Previous support has included legal advice, social media training and visibility through a range of platforms.

**Visibility and amplification:** The Circle will showcase the work of each grantee on a regular basis on its platforms and you will be invited to join our events and panel discussions.

### **Partners' Circle**

All successful partner organisations will be invited to join other Circle grantees in a Partner Circle consisting of twice-yearly virtual calls to meet other extraordinary women-led grassroots partners for peer support and skills sharing.

## **FAQs**

### **When can I apply?**

Applications have been extended and will close at 23:59 GMT on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2023

### **We are a small organisation. Our last year's annual income is £75,000. Can we apply?**

No, for this round of applications we are seeking organisations with an annual income of £100,000-£250,000.

### **Can individuals apply or do they need to be part of an organisation?**

All applications must be through an organisation. We will not provide funding to individuals.

### **Is funding for projects or flexible funding?**

The Circle's would love to hear about projects you would like to develop, grow or require seed-funding for. We are also open to flexible funding for core costs but would need to understand the objectives and activities of your organisation which will be enabled by core funding.

### **We are based in a non-English speaking country. Is support provided for completing applications?**

Applications must be submitted in English, however, you can also use free online translation services (for example, <https://translate.google.co.uk/> or [https://www.reverso.net/text\\_translation.aspx?lang=EN](https://www.reverso.net/text_translation.aspx?lang=EN)). Please note that applications **will not** be penalised on language skills.

### **We are not based in the Global South (the regions of Latin America, Asia, Africa, Middle East and Oceania), are we eligible?**

Please, bear in mind that we will prioritise applications from the Global South, however, you can apply regardless of your geographical location.

### **What do you mean by women-led?**

As a minimum, a women-led organisation has a female CEO/Founder/Manager. Ideally, it would also have predominantly female staff.

### **Can organisations apply for costs that have already taken place?**

No, expenditure must take place after the grant is awarded.

### **We are not a charity. Can we apply?**

As long as your organisation is registered in your country as having a charitable purpose, you can apply.

What are your timelines for shortlisting and approving partnerships?

- Deadline for applications 23:59 GMT, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2023
- Shortlisting by mid Feb 2022
- All organisations will be contacted by beginning of March 2023 with a decision of whether their application has been successful or not, with feedback if you have not.
- All verification documents will be required by early-March 2023 and verification to be completed by mid-March 2023
- The Circle will announce the new partnerships in mid- March 2023
- Initial £5,000+ grants will be expected to be made by the end of March 2023.

### **Which currency will the grants be paid out in?**

Organisations must request funding in Pound Sterling (GBP£). It is then possible to request payment in your local currency; however, this will be calculated using the exchange rate from GBP on the date of payment.

### **Currency fluctuation**

To counter potential currency fluctuation, please incorporate any anticipated currency fluctuation risk (which can be up to 10% of the total budget if needed) as a line in the budget breakdown, along with an explanation as to why currency fluctuation would negatively affect the final amount received. If this amount results in the total grant amount exceeding the funding limit within the tier that you are applying, please round down the total figure requested to the lesser amount.

### **What documents that will be required for verification?**

- **Proof of charitable status** – a copy of your organisation’s certificate of registration or other evidence of your not-for-profit status
- **Governing document** – a copy of your organisation’s governing document, which must include the charitable aims and objectives, and a charitable dissolution clause
- **Proof of bank account** – a recent copy, no older than three months of a legible bank statement showing the transactions, and which includes: the name of your organisation; name of the bank; IBAN number and bank account number, with no redactions. Please note that CAF are unable to accept signed letters from the bank confirming bank details or typed up bank details. Your bank account must also be able to accept international donations.

In line with UK requirements, you may also be asked to provide:

- your organisation’s controller’s names, home addresses & dates of birth
- a copy of your most recent accounts and annual report

There may be other legal requirements in your country to be able to accept international donations. Please ensure that you have met any necessary local requirements, and are able to provide supporting documentation for this, if requested by our due diligence partner, The Charities Aid Foundation (CAF)

Once you are shortlisted, these will need to be provided within 14 days. Please note that you have these documents before applying or you are able to contact [TheCircle@cafonline.org](mailto:TheCircle@cafonline.org) with any questions.

**What is a governing document?**

This is likely to vary by country. A governing document is the document that sets out the rules of an organisation. It could be the constitution, articles of association, bylaws, statutes, trust deed, articles of incorporation or other legal document, explaining the purpose of the organisation and how it works. It must include a charitable dissolution clause (i.e. what would happen to its assets if the organisation closes down).

**If I have additional, specific questions, who should I contact?**

Please, email us at [TheCircle@cafonline.org](mailto:TheCircle@cafonline.org) and our grant-making team will be able to answer your questions.

**How do you collect and store my data?**

We take data protection and privacy very seriously. [CAF's privacy notice](#), [the Circle's privacy notice](#) and the grant-making portal [Blackbaud's privacy notice](#) govern the way in which we collect, retain and use personal data. We shall ensure that we only hold personal data for as long as it is needed, and that it is held securely.