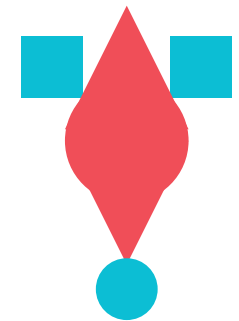


RECONSTRUCTION
Women's Fund



2024

Annual Report

2024 in a Nutshell



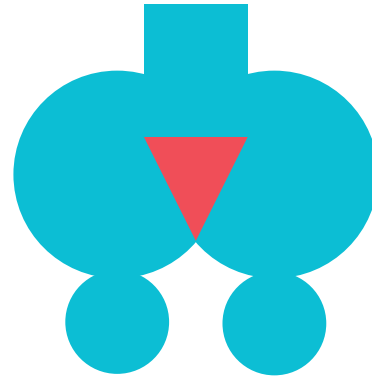
What a great and eventful year! Throughout the year, we traveled to different meetings and conferences, locally and internationally. We thought together, we spoke and shared all the successes but also mistakes we achieved together in the last 20 years. We celebrated our anniversary with the

groups. And we have hosted an important gathering of activists from Latin America and Europe. We are sharing here all the insights of our journey...

Reconstruction remains small, stable, visible, and continues to be a reliable partner.



We are 20!



We have celebrated 20 years since Reconstruction's founding moment. We tried to celebrate our work with humility and concern, so we decided to interview the founding members of RWF. [Staća Zajović](#) spoke about the importance of political education offered by RWF, about small but clear steps that RWF is taking as well as its horizontal ways of working. [Svenka Savić](#) told us about the RWF's role as a clear beacon of democratic, antifascist, antiwar and relentless acting against nationalism as well as antidogmatic approach to humanistic pursuits – for a better world. [Mirjana Mirosavljević Bobić](#) spoke about the trust we have in groups and how RWF should be a gateway between unrealistic and burdensome expectations of funders that do not know our context well. And with Slavica Stojanović it is always best to talk in person!

It was important to us to create a biography of the most important events and actions in the Fund so we created [a timeline](#) of the last 20 years and programs we started, supported, and empowered.

In September, we had an opportunity to meet with more than 60 activists from the whole country. We dedicated the whole gathering to learning and sharing of themes and topics that deeply

transformed the first 20 years. Struggle against nationalism gave us the light, and it always remains our fuel. First session was dedicated to local experiences in this struggle, and it was led by Binasa Džigal from Žene Polimlja (Prijepolje) and Selena Ristić Vitomirović from Children's Center from Zaječar. They mainly spoke about their work in different contexts but also how to overcome nationalists' division with children – through open conversations and art. We then collectively shared and mapped antinationalist practices in our own organizations. The situation of women with disabilities is often neglected topic even in feminist circles, and sometimes we do not even fulfill the minimum of accessibility in its diverse forms. Our comrades Svjetlana Timotić from ...Iz kruga – Vojvodina (Novi Sad) and Marijana Ramić Vulin from KAO Parnas (Novi Sad) led the discussion that sparked self-reflection acknowledging our mistakes and curiosity about how to implement feminist principles of accessibility. We also spoke about [Feminist Accessibility Protocol](#) and other ways we can and should commit to as integral part of our working together. It remains a question to be answered as to why we always go to basics and why even the minimum of protocols is not respected.

Jovana Đorđević, queer activist and Đurđa Trajković, RWF coordinator led the session on anti-racism. Session was both intense, given that as a movement, we often times do not center anti-racism, and it was also a beginning of building sensibility and discomfort. Without a doubt, the movement will say that antiracism is one of its values. The complexity of the topic has led us to think how to create and implement anti-fascist protocols, how to recognize and get rid of hidden forms of racism we perpetuate. Through the pyramid of racial relations, and what

we call white supremacy, we learnt the structural causes of racism as well as everyday racism. What remained as a trace is that non-white women are not obliged to do the emotional work by explaining to white people what racism is, and that it is high time for white people to face their own racist practices and commit to overcoming the racist within. RWF has committed itself publicly to center anti-racism not only as a theme but also as a practice, and it will provide education, support, and workshops and learnings about it.



The most burning topic is, of course and sadly, climate justice. **Bojana Minović**, eco-activist ekoloških and member of **AKC Heroj Maričić (Kraljevo)**, and **Laura Pejak**, activist from **Centar za društveni napredak (Novi Sad)**, spoke about the intermingling of their theory and practice with different forms of oppression, as well as how do consequences of climate injustice affect different marginalized communities.

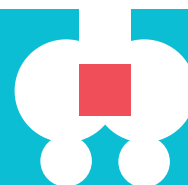
On the last day we spoke about **working rights**, specifically on how they are connected with civil society and position of women in collectives that are at the same time activist but also conditioned by different donor communities so they act as "small companies." In such precarious conditions it was important to reflect on our positionality, the disrespect toward working rights as well as the possibility of unionizing. **Sara Lupšor** from **ROZA Udruženja za radna prava žena (Zrenjanin)** guided us through these difficult conversations.

The crossings of different troubles and problems was at the heart of this meeting. We came with open hearts and minds to reflect on many aspects and how we contribute to the struggle for better society, how do we become more aware of problems in its different dimensions, and how do our practices become richer.

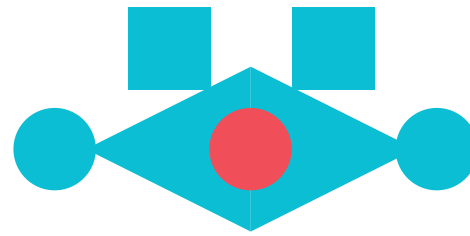
At the conclusion of the meeting, we spoke of plans and actions that RWF is going to take. We will invest, in the next 5 years, resources to buy and maintain the feminist house where the feminist movement can govern and use the space for work and gatherings. We already have a location in Eastern Serbia. We already started workshops on feminist governance because even though RWF will finance the house, the complete use and governance will be led by women's and feminist groups!



A big thank you to **TV Forum (Prijepolje)** who recorded some of our thoughts and events.



Joyfulness Craziness 13



After 20 years + 3 days of committed work, we finished the celebrations with a party. However, before the party, here is some sharing and learning.

Selena Simić, who was an anchor, led us through 20 years in 20 minutes, and it was not enough but we did revisit some of the key moments and people. Our beloved friends from **Bubnjarke sa ulice (Beograd)** sang and drummed the birthday song.

And then **love!** This year we also published a joyful and serious book, **All about Love** by **bell hooks**. The editor of this publication, **Irena Jovanović**, translator **Jana Lazarević** i activist **Jovana Đorđević**, who suggested we translate the book, sat down and spoke about the book. **Kaja Velisavljević**, our youngest collaborator (9 years old), with **Ivana Anđelković**, the illustrator of the book cover, also joined the conversation. We asked everyone to think about how love can be after the revolution.







We then had an **exhibition** made by collective effort. Activists from all over Serbia sent us objects and photos that remind them of our collaboration, of the last 20 years, and concrete successes all over the country. We also had different kinds of posters of RWF and partners, and most of them were done by artist and designer **Katarina Popović**, who was also a curator of the exhibition.

Finally, the party! Toasting, dancing, and a wonderful cake that arrives from Aleksinac thanks to **Mladen Andelković** from **Udruženje Romkinja "Nada"** and his colleague **Nataša Petrović**.



We send a special thank you to all of the founders and previous team for doing such a great work and giving us trust to continue. For the Joyfulness/Craziness concept, we thank **Zoe Gudović**, who could not be with us, this time. Thank you to all new and old people without whose support we would not be able to work, breather, continue.

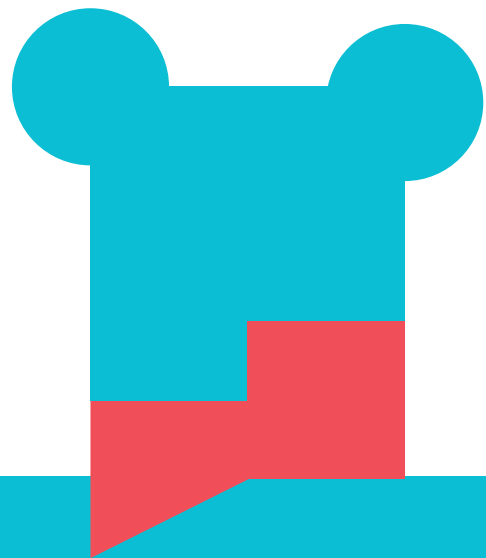




Internationalism!

Our priorities remain focused on building collective international power. We continue to partake in international initiatives with greater desire to contribute to visibility and the model of women's and feminist funds. This year was crucial and we created a greater sense of belonging to the international feminist movement by hosting activist from Latin America and Europe. We also took some crucial steps in corporate philanthropy and we attended AWID conference in Thailand. However, we are bearing witness to the upcoming crises in philanthropy that is taking a conservative turn in terms of work and approach. Donors are continuing to withdraw from the region, and those we thought as eternal allies, are canceling women's rights programs.

Genocide in Gaza and apartheid in Palestine revealed sometime invisible mechanisms in philanthropy where, overnight, some donors withdrew and canceled support to groups and funds that voiced their solidarity with Palestine. The image of philanthropy is now rather sad, but we continue to prepare and build a next wave of support to women's funds and find new ways of acting.



On The Right Track or struggle for democracy

This year was a stormy one when it comes to struggle against anti-gender politics as well as politics against human rights. We are expanding our insights and realizing that anti-gender politics easily fit into climate change denial, that financial industry is closing its eyes in front of this problem. Nevertheless, we are ready to respond and offer alternatives. This was the year of endings and new beginnings. The second phase of our joint initiative with Latin America ended with great and inspiring meeting of over 100 activists from various countries, in Belgrade in March.

We had 3 goals at the meeting: to get to know each other and build the senses of belonging despite language barriers, to share tactics and strategies of responses to authoritarianism, and to plant seeds of future common cooperation.



We have learnt that anti-democratic forces are especially targeting education and public health. The tactic reduction of investment in education aims to weaken public institution of education, and its' role is to be taken by family where more and more children are homeschooled. It's a way to destroy equality measures. On top of it, anti-gender forces are creating an image where human rights are in competition, and not in complementarity and indivisible, creating a public consciousnesses where rights of one group are at expense of the others. Such a creation of unnecessary conflict between groups weakens the struggle for equality and togetherness leaving the question of oppression and exploitation untouched. On top of it, anti-gender forces are well networked, connected, and international.

Our responses are moving from reactive to active acting in all spheres of life. We have created a communication plan



where we open space for counter-narrative, for new allies, as well as joint actions that respond to lies, misinformation and open hatred. Special focus is dedicated to anti-racism. As transversal common denominator, anti-racism must become the foundation of all feminist movements in the world, and especially in Europe. We must admit that anti-racism is not a high priority as a topic nor way of life in Europe. European states remain blind to their colonial pasts, structures of racism that remain entrenched in countries, and Eastern Europe has not even begun to tackle the question of race, including feminist organizations and movements. The question remains the key and if it is not taken up seriously in Europe, there will be no place for progressive feminism either because understating concepts and practices such as whiteness, white privileged and intersectionality remain obscured, and the struggle itself remains silenced. It has become apparent how much white feminists have

contributed to obscuring the struggle and in concrete refusal to support the resistance to the Gaza genocide.

The question of support and resourcing remains the key problem since anti-gender forces are 3 times better resourced than us and are gaining more and more support from bilateral and States.

Even though we had a challenge of language, with a great support from translators, we did manage to create belonging to common spaces. Our favorite moments were during coffee breaks, in conversation at our parties, in the museum of Yugoslavia, and during the public panel in Youth Center.

We are continuing with the initiative and new strategic plan is kicking off 3rd phase where we are working on networking but also on joint actions though responses to political violence, to reproductive health, building antiracism, and affirmation of LGBTQI+ lives. We remain committed to our common struggle!



Fund Her Now or corporate philanthropy



We are entering new and exciting field of philanthropy. We are learning how to fundraise and establish partnerships with corporate philanthropy. We have worked relentlessly on red bricks and lines. We do understand that there is no clean money, that resources for women's human rights are minimal, and there are resistances and ways of working with which we do not agree. However, in order to even address corporate money, we realized we need to give chance to learning and collective work with progressive companies (they exist!) and that the best way is through partnership.

With other 5 funds from Prospera Network, we met in Makarska, Croatia in June to learn, discuss and strategize. We managed to create a narrative where partnership with women's funds is necessary because our work is based on the principles of transparency, mutual respect and knowledge of the context. The principle of choosing companies with which we are collaborating is based on red and yellow lines. For us in RWF, red lines are for those

companies we will never cooperate in any way: military industry, industry that destroy natural environment (mining, tec), gambling industry and any industry connected with corrupted State. Yellow lines are for those companies that we need deeper and further check on the principles of working, values and criteria. Such list includes banks and financial sector, fashion industry, food industry, pharmaceutical industry, telecommunications and construction industry.

The main principles of cooperation have to be based on responsibility, transparency, respect for working rights, common design of partnership, no pinkwashing nor greenwashing, resources must be flexible with respect to our autonomy and autonomy of groups!

We are certain that we can find partners who will respect our principles, and we will let you know who are our new partners as soon as possible.

Meetings and Conferences:

Human Rights Funders Network has held its conference in Tbilisi in Georgia in April under the name of **Funding Futures festival**. More than 350 philanthropic organizations who support human rights in times of wide crises such as wars, genocide, colonialism, growing authoritarianisms and climate change crises. In the conference we gave strong support to Georgian activists and organization and their resistance to the repressive laws of foreign agents that obstructs the work of progressive activists and civil society, limiting the work of women's organizations and targeting LGBTQI+ organizations. We are all aware that we need joint and concerted actions

to many crises and challenges. We also underlined the connection between movements that are fighting the many faces of oppression in Palestine, Ukraine and Sudan. For us, it was especially important to attend the coordination meeting of Global Philanthropy Project where we discussed the common response to anti-gender ideologies in the world. We shared knowledge and strategies. Even though we fully comprehend that we cannot respond only with money (anti-gender movements receive 3 times more money than us), we agreed that we need to outsmart them by investing time, knowledge and resources in overcoming destructive forces.

Annual Prospera European Women's Funds meeting

Our colleagues from German filia die frauenstiftung hosted us in Hamburg at our annual meeting of European women's funds. By cultivating continuity, we shared news and worked on our common strategy of our joint initiatives. Aside from On the Right Track, Knocking on the EU doors remains our goal, and we have achieved significant breakthroughs with EU funding despite the common bureaucratic challenges. Women's funds are recognized as stable partners, so we not only knocked on the doors, but we opened them and we are continuing to work on it!

We also did a lot of self-reflection where we continue to think about the roles of women's funds, our collective efforts, and what does it mean to work in precarious times when philanthropy is facing growing uncertainty, and where we seek new and unusual allies, as well as how can we maintain stability and sustainability in times of crises. Our common denominator is solidarity and not as a word but as a constant practice. We agreed to create a solidarity to fung where we are going to channel funds where they are needed the most and where it is difficult to reach it.

We also spoke of anti-racism as an opportunity to acknowledge our resistances and previous mistakes, and we committed to actively pursue anti-racist protocols and practices, to translate what we have learnt into practice.

We are grateful to our sisters in Germany for hosting us and also on opportunity to be inspired by our joint actions and strategies.



AWID in Thailand

After 8 years and after pandemic years, in December, The Association of Women's Rights in Development (AWID) hosted its gathering in Bangkok! The forum was an opportunity to see and meet activist from all over the world since it is an event dedicated to feminist movements. It is a huge event with more than 4000 participants and as many venues, but we did manage to gather some impressions and precious moments at this meeting.

AWID is important to us since this kind of **internationalism** informs our work. Even though we know groups and field well in Zrenjanin and Vlasotince, we are always curious to hear what is happening in Fiji or India – and how to share it locally. The event had a huge **anti-war thread** – we had a chance to see and hear all kinds of feminist perspectives on genocide, war, and conflicts throughout the plane, from Palestine to Lebanon, Syria, Ethiopia, Sudan and Haiti. Every session we attended had a grain of healthy **complexity** reminding us that no struggle is one and isolated.

We listed carefully about **donor politics** without illusion of crisis but also with hope and examples of resilience – that best support is flexible, without paper load, long term and trust based. We are aware that we are moving toward results oriented philanthropy. And all feminist movements are correct to respond that as movements we have results and wins, but that we need new processes for long term results.

Next to talks, plenary session, workshops and presentations, we had a chance to catch an artistic program understating it as a feminist tool. We also had a space to celebrate – our wins, our bodies and sensibilities – and we hope that in 4 years, to the next forum, we will be able to support feminist activists as our partners to attend the forum. We also hope to hear more about **CLASS JUSTICE** since the lack of conversation on class is astonishing!





A map of events held for March 8th

8.03.
2024.

For the longest time we have been documenting the heterogeneity of feminist struggles and celebration of the holiday of rebellion, friendship, festivals and activist expression.

We walked again...and we will walk soon. We gathered, spoke and talked about our challenges of being in the front lines.

We mapped over 20 events in Serbia, more than a dozen in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia... festivals, conferences, seminars, walks, protests...we are proud of our region and tradition of regional cooperation.

ALWAYS ON FIRST LINES OF DEFENSE!

Grantmaking

**GENERAL SUPPORT:
18 GRANTS**

**AMOUNT AWARDED
316.718 USD**

**SPECIAL FOCUS:
57 GRANTS**

**AMOUNT AWARDED
213.633 USD**

TOTAL GRANTS: 101

TOTAL AWARDED:

555.416 USD

Location of groups: Belgrade, Bor, Čičevac, Gornji Milanovac, Kostolac, Kruševac, Kučevo, Leskovac, Markovac, Mošorin, Novi Sad, Niš, Pirot, Subotica, Trstenik, Užice, Vlasotince, Zaječar, Zrenjanin (19)

Location of activities: Belgrade, Bor, Bosilegrad, Dimitrovgrad, Divljane, Čičevac, Gornji Milanovac, Ivanjica, Knjaževac, Kostolac, Kruševac, Kučevo, Leskovac, Markovac, Mošorin, Novi Pazar, Novi Sad, Niš, Pirot, Prijepolje, Radmilovac, Sjenica, Subotica, Trstenik, Užice, Veliki Crljeni, Vlasotince, Vranje, Zaječar, Zrenjanin (30)

**URGENT GRANTS:
12 GRANTS**

**AMOUNT AWARDED
14.196 USD**

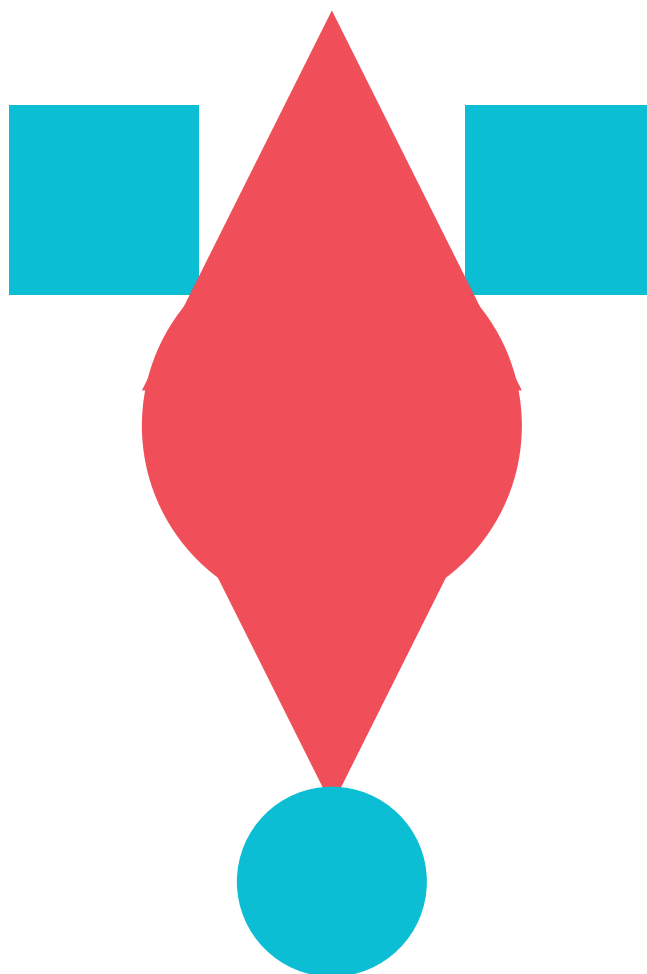
**STIPENDS
„ŽARANA PAPIĆ“:
14 STIPENDS**

**AMOUNT AWARDED
10.868 USD**

Archive and Library

We started working on Online Archive and Library that soon will be on our website. We have over 200 publications at the moment. Once the Online Archive and Library are finished, they will be connected with a map of organizations that RWF has supported in the last 20 years.

We are continuing the work on our regular Library. We have over 230 publications. We are working closely with our ally-libraries, Beopolis in Belgrade and independent space CK13 in Novi Sad, where one can find out publications.



Next steps?

This year has been amazing! And even though we are tired of celebrating, we are working relentlessly but with ease in the upcoming year.

In 2025 we are more focused on local acting. We are developing a new strategic plan 2025-2029 and centering racism and anti-racism in Serbia, we are diversifying resources including new bilateral donors, corporative philanthropy and more work in the local context. We are especially looking forward to investing in a feminist house. We will fundraise for this event and together with feminist movement, we will create a space of encounter, work and joy in upcoming years.

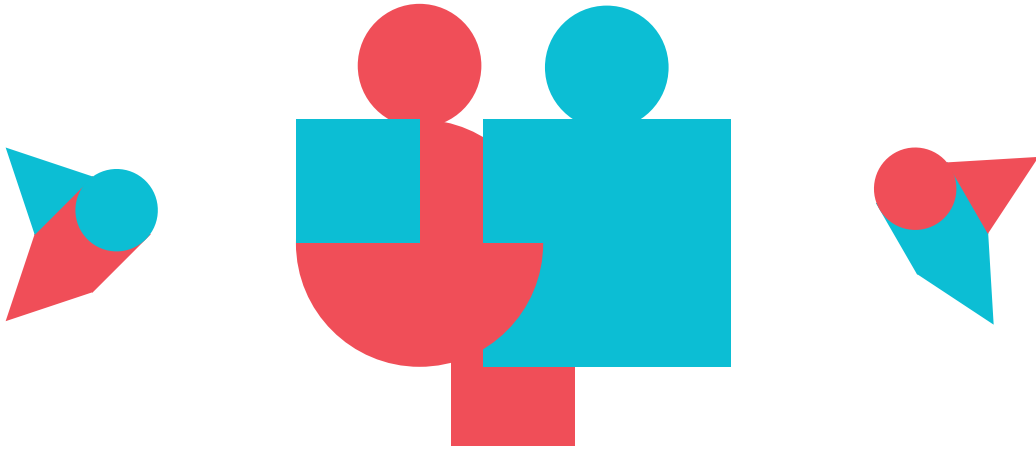
Mark important dates and events:

We are gathering groups and partners again. The whole week after Easter, we will reunite in Bar, Montenegro. With Trag foundation, kvinna till kvinna, and Ecumenical Women's Initiative we are planning a first regional meeting after a long time!

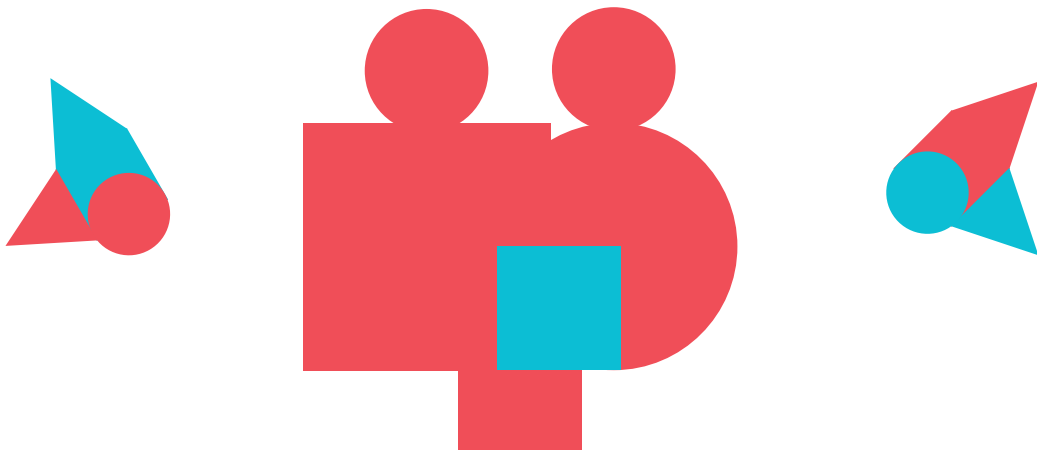
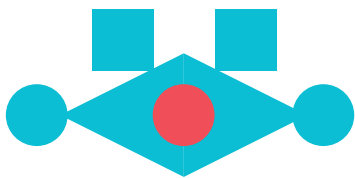
We will work on empowering the idea of feminist house. We will have 2 campaigns for fundraising for the house.

We are working on publishing different texts about racism and anti-racism

Many many travels in the world and in the countries, more reading, learning and discussing... [stop by our archive](#) and [get your copy of bell hooks *All about love*](#).



**There is no stopping,
only breathing
together and being
joyous despite of it all!**



**Reconstruction
Women's Fund**

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