The Dympna Meaney Women’s Leadership Development Fund is a micro philanthropic initiative offering small bursaries to women leaders in the Global South to strengthen their contribution to human rights. Established in 2015, our aim is to support women, leadership, human rights, equality and grassroots work in order to strengthen our collective effort for a just world.

The Fund is inspired by the late Dympna Meaney an Irish global solidarity activist.

**Bursaries Making a Difference:**

Two Fund Themes: *Human Rights with Young People and Gender Based Violence (GBV) impacting Refugees & Displaced People* have been the focus of the fund.

**Nineteen bursaries of between €800 to €3,000 each have been awarded to individuals and groups across 10 countries – Angola, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Liberia, Nicaragua, South Africa, Sudan and Uganda.**

The 17 women and 2 groups who received support have undertaken training, field trips and attended seminars/conferences covering a range of topics related to human rights, gender equality and community driven development. This is a small, focused and effective fund.

**The Impact – The Story from some Bursary Recipients:**

In Uganda, Hellen Aguti, a volunteer working with HIV/Aids survivors displaced by the Lord’s Resistance Army says her training "deepens my skills in assisting people living positively. I am passionate about disadvantaged people and it is the reason I prefer to be close to such people."
Training provided by Development Education Network-Liberia enabled 37 women leaders.

“to highlight issues such as wife beating, non persistent child support and rape among others as key GBV issues to network and advocate against at diverse levels to support women's rights. One of the community radio stations interviewed a number of women at the end of the workshop to share their learning for airing.”

In Nicaragua, Apadeim, a women’s organisation says

“our education and awareness raising work has reached 40 women leaders in 20 communities. This has enabled these leaders to be aware of the effects of migration on people of all ages … where grandmothers, aunts and daughters are left minding the

children...leaders are now aware that the problem of migration has to be included in the development plan for the community…”

Shuburna Chodbury in Bangladesh says she will “use accountability tools especially community score cards (CSC) to improve the quality of services of health facilities of rural Bangladesh. The concept of good governance can be used to persuade while working with government.”

Destu Yousuf working with people displaced from the Ethiopian/Somali region says that

“..this training has inspired me in many ways to really think and review my approach to community development. I will initiate a holistic development approach for the displaced community and put a proposal to government.”
Take Action to Support this Work:

Supporters: As individuals and groups you will be part of something that grows and empowers women’s leadership which otherwise would be lost to the fight for equality. You can donate now to the Fund at www.comhlamh.org with a once off donation or set up a standing order. Any amount small or large is welcome. If you are a tax payer and you can donate €21 per month or a total of €250 in a year then we will be able to claim back tax credits and make your donation go further. In solidarity, women’s and other groups/organisations could include the Fund in their chosen charity. Our annual event and e mail updates provide feedback along with the website above.

Applicants: Applications from women over 18 years working in countries of the Global South must be made on our form which can be obtained at www.comhlamh.org/dympna. Applications are received and assessed in the Spring of each year. The criteria are outlined in the form.

About the Fund:

It is inspired by the late Dympna Meaney who worked in Ireland and Kenya as a teacher, educator and passionate campaigner for equality and social justice.

The Fund is directed and overseen by a voluntary committee of Comhlámh members who are friends, family and former colleagues of Dympna’s. Comhlámh is a non-government organisation with charitable status whose mission is to nurture, guide and mobilise development workers and volunteers to work for social justice locally and globally.

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