



Activities
Report
2016-17

GENDER & DEVELOPMENT NETW[♂]ORK



Cover images: 13th AWID Forum 2016 attended by GADN members in Costa do Sauípe, Bahia, Brazil, September 2016 (top); GADN members meeting on macroeconomics and gender, April 2016.

Gender & Development Network
c/o ActionAid
33-39 Bowling Green Lane
London EC1R 0BJ

www.gadnetwork.org

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A letter from the GADN co-chairs

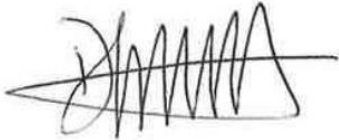
The Gender & Development Network (GADN) has had a very successful year, complete with landmark achievements and productive engagement with our members. As ever, GADN's successes are only possible with our members' active participation and generous financial contributions. We have exciting plans in store for the coming year—and we hope we can count on your continuing involvement.

In the coming year, we are planning members' meetings with fascinating guest speakers like Dinah Musindarwezo of the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), who will speak to members on 27 June 2017. We have also founded the Feminist Forum as a space for interested members to debate current challenges and concerns in gender and development, and we have continued to grow our relationship with DFID's Gender Equality Team and expanded our work with other teams, thus creating more opportunities for our members to shape UK development policy and practice.

In 2017–18, our working groups will continue to enable our members to share best practice and work on joint activities together. In the last year, GADN has seen the development of a new working group on Gender and Environment, as well as the revitalisation of our Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights grouping in response to member concerns in the current climate, bringing our total to nine.

*GADN's small but dedicated Secretariat also works on a variety of thematic projects like the **Feminist Development Alternatives project**, which resulted in a series of seven papers available on our website as well as a members meeting this year. The **Gender Equality and Macroeconomics project**, a joint initiative between the GADN Secretariat and the Bretton Woods Project, has produced a variety of policy briefings in 2016–17 and enabled us to shape national and international debates on economic justice by bringing our messages into spaces like the UN High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment, the 61st Commission on the Status of Women in New York, the G20 and the world of international finance institutions. GADN is also engaging in ongoing evaluations of its work and implementing what we learn to better address members' needs going forward. Have a look at our **strategy for 2017–20** to see an outline of our commitment to supporting our members' work and providing a platform for joint advocacy for the next three years and beyond.*

As co-chairs of GADN's Board of Trustees, we want to express our appreciation for your continued support for our work. We are always keen to hear from members—if you want further information, if you would like to get involved in any area of our work, or if there is anything else that you think we could do to support you in your work, please get in touch and let us know!



Daphne Jayasinghe
Co-chair
Gender & Development Network



Kanwal Ahluwalia
Co-chair
Gender & Development Network

Introduction



Women's Economic Justice working group event with SEWA's Monica Raina, December 2016.

Who we are

The Gender & Development Network (GADN) is a diverse, effective and inclusive membership network made up of leading UK-based non-governmental organisations' (NGO) staff, practitioners, consultants and academics working on gender, development and women's rights issues. GADN enables members to share information and expertise, effectively lobby government and international bodies on gender and development issues and provide expert advice and comment on policies and projects. Our members work in partnership with development and advocacy organisations throughout the world.

Vision and strategic aims

Our vision is a world where social justice and gender equality prevail and where all women and girls are able to realise their rights free from discrimination. **Our strategic aims** are:

1. To support and increase the capacity of members to deliver effectively on gender equality and the rights of women and girls in international development
2. To increase commitment to women's and girls' rights and gender equality, and develop a better understanding of best practice and alternative policy proposals, across the UK international development sector
3. To strengthen UK government's commitment, policy and practice towards achieving women's and girls' rights and gender equality in its international work
4. To strategically influence international development processes and debates that shape the discourse around gender equality and women's rights where we have expertise and leverage
5. To build a progressive and effective network that is part of a global feminist movement

What we do

- **Support** our members to be more effective in their own work on gender and development through networking with others
- **Share** information and analysis and create space for discussions amongst members on issues central to gender and development and women's rights to facilitate joint learning
- **Coordinate** advocacy on our core issues to improve our collective impact
- **Make proposals** to DFID and other decision makers on policy and practice
- **Provide analysis** on areas identified as gaps within the network, and develop alternative solutions

How we work

- **Working groups** lead on issue areas, bringing together members active in that area to develop analysis and best practice and where appropriate undertake joint advocacy
- **Members meetings** act as a forum for debate and information sharing on key topics in the sector, and allow members to network with one another
- **Publications** – produced by the working groups or Secretariat – provide information and analysis and are used in advocacy
- **Newsletters and communications** keep members up to date with the latest news on gender and development, and publicise members' activities and resources

A new three-year strategy has been agreed for 2017-20 and is available on our website.

Summary of activities and achievements



Break-out groups at GADN members meeting on gender and environment, January 2017

Highlights of 2016-17

- Four well-attended members meetings on topics encompassing gender and the environment, global refugee movements, feminist development alternatives and macroeconomics that enabled members to learn from experts and created space for members to network and strategise.
- The new Feminist Forum, which will enable members develop feminist analysis within their work and share ideas and learning.
- Nine active working groups and a new platform for group chairs to meet and coordinate their activities.
- An array of publications on gender equality and women's rights, which provide information and analysis to our members and target external audiences including the UK government, international institutions and global civil society. The Feminist Development Alternatives collection of papers, which brought together thinking from a range of authors around the world, was a particular highlight.
- A deeper working relationship with the DFID Gender Equality team. Particularly exciting was GADN's convening of a roundtable of women's rights organisations to discuss macroeconomics and women's rights with then-Secretary of State Justine Greening in May 2016.
- Stronger alliances with women's rights organisations internationally, particularly with the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) with whom we produced a policy briefing, organised a webinar and convened a joint strategy session. We also

provided a platform for Monica Raina from the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) to speak.

- Working on the United Nations High-Level Panel (HLP) on Women's Economic Empowerment and the 61st Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), where key decision makers heard our messages on gender equality and macroeconomics. GADN was part of the creation of a macroeconomics working group within the HLP.

Working group activities and achievements

In 2016-17, GADN's working groups have provided wide-ranging opportunities for members to learn, network and collaborate. Our working groups are active and member-led, offering space for innovative thinking and strategic cooperation. In recent evaluations of GADN's work, members have reported a strong appreciation for the opportunities that GADN membership creates for collaboration and solidarity amongst gender equality advocates. GADN is particularly grateful to the members who have served as chairs of working groups over the last year. (For a list of current chairs, see *GADN structure* below.)

Gender and Disability in Development working group

This year, the Gender and Disability working group has focused on positioning itself as a resource on disability issues to the other GADN working groups and helping them to mainstream disability into their own work. To that end, members developed a **leaflet** detailing the group's priorities and activities in order to facilitate collaboration with other groups. Members are also working on a paper on the linkages between gender and disability issues and planning a questionnaire for other working groups to identify needs in terms of support from the disability group. Following on from the questionnaire, the Gender and Disability group plans to hold a disability awareness session to promote better collaboration with other working groups.

Members of the Gender and Disability working group have shared findings at GADN events including the Programmes group meeting on FGM and the Violence Against Women and Girls working group's general members meeting.

Gender and Environment

Following a very successful members meeting on this topic in January 2017 and interest by a variety of members, this new working group has been formed to provide a place for GADN members to work together on issues of climate change and natural resources relative to women's rights and gender equality.

Gender Mainstreaming working group

This year, the Gender Mainstreaming working group members decided to merge their group with the Programmes working group in order to continue ensuring that a gender perspective is integrated into programming and policy of all member organisations. The group's last meeting was held in December 2016, where Shelagh Possmayer presented GADN's ***Untangling gender mainstreaming*** briefing and Annalisa Renna of Integrity Action shared her *Gender equality and social inclusion* strategy paper.

Girls' Education working group

The Girls' Education working group has had a busy year, beginning with a March 2016 meeting with Chris Berry at DFID to discuss possibilities for collaborative working, picking out potential action points like sharing programming experience and expertise in the Middle East and North Africa region, the Girls' Education Forum and the group's utility as a reference point for DFID programming on education. Many members attended DFID's Girls' Education Forum in July 2016 and the midline sharing event for the Girls' Education Challenge. The group also took part in the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) consultation on DFID's girls' education programming in June 2016, focusing on use of evidence, payment by results, low-cost private education and integration with other DFID programming. In February 2017, the group then hosted a well-attended ICAI roundtable entitled *Accessing, staying and succeeding in basic education – UK aid's support to marginalised girls*. The group is now collaborating with the UK Education and Development Forum (UKFIET) for its September 2017 conference.

The Girls' Education working group's own meetings have provided ample opportunity for members to collaborate and learn from each other. In July 2016, group members heard presentations from GEC programmes in Somalia, while in October 2016 they heard talks by Alison Bukhari (Educate Girls) on pioneering Development Impact Bonds and Rita Perakis (Social Finance) on their proposed Education Outcomes Fund. In January 2017, the group met to discuss new and interesting tools in monitoring, evaluation and learning and research in girls' education. The group is planning to undertake a self-assessment that will use a survey to examine the group's aims, objectives and website, resulting in a new workplan and meeting topics.

Humanitarian working group

The Humanitarian working group has provided a platform throughout the year for members to coordinate their work in this area. The group served as a forum to develop joint position papers in advance of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in May 2016 and the UNGA Refugee and Migrants Summit in September 2016—see their ***Joint statement on women and girls towards the global refugee and migrant summits***. Led by working group members like CARE International UK, ActionAid and Oxfam, these joint statements involved input from over 45 local women's organisations in the Global South and helped to catalyse wider collaboration in crisis-affected countries as well as at the global level to influence policy processes.

Also in September 2016, the group hosted a meeting with Clare Hollowell, acting Humanitarian Advisor on Women and Girls in Crisis at DFID, for members to share their work and receive updates on DFID's priorities and plans. This and other meetings with DFID officials have dealt with a variety of issues such as the WHS, SRHR in emergencies, the gender dimensions of the global refugee crisis, gender dimensions to the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Programme and country-level issues in Syria, Iraq and other contexts.

Post-2015 working group

The Post-2015 working group, having fulfilled its stated purpose of influencing the post-2015 process and the creation of the SDGs, took the decision to cease activities in 2016-17 and integrate their work on the SDGs into the existing work streams. The group's co-chairs will remain contact points on post-2015 work for other GADN working groups and activities.

Programmes working group

The Programmes working group has expanded considerably this year, absorbing the GADN Gender Mainstreaming working group and merging with the PPA Gender Learning Group. The group now has a page on the Bond website that will direct Bond members interested in gender to the GADN working group's resources and discussions. The group also fed into the GADN-Bond submission to the Women and Equalities Committee Inquiry into implementation of SDG5 in December 2016.

The group also held a range of informative meetings, beginning in June 2016 with *Understanding and measuring social norms in relation to FGM/C*, co-hosted by the London School of Health and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). Members heard presentations from Michaeljon Alexander-Scott, co-author of the DFID guidance note on social norms; Ben Cislighi, lecturer in social norms at LSHTM; and Katy Newell-Jones, a consultant working with ActionAid and the Orchid Project on measuring social norms for a FGM/C project in Somaliland. In December 2016, the Programmes group hosted *Learning from research on changing social norms*, drawing on Plan International UK's research with 142 girls on gender-based social norms, as well as World Vision UK's work on mobilising grassroots action on social norms around early/child marriage in Uganda and Nepal. Finally, in March 2017, group members held a learning meeting entitled *Technology initiatives to support women and girls' rights*, with presentations from Girl Effect on their Girl Connect and Technology Enabled Girl Ambassadors (TEGAs), from Practical Action and the Sunolo Sakhi project on technology, education and menstrual hygiene management, and from Integrity Action on including gender mainstreaming in digital community mentoring.

The Programmes working group has also worked to build links with other GADN working groups by planning an upcoming joint learning event with the Violence Against Women and Girls group on scaling up interventions and ensuring programmatic evidence is included in work with DFID.

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

In light of the reintroduction of the United States government's Mexico City policy (also known as the global gag rule) that drastically restricts US government funding for reproductive health and rights, GADN has created an ad hoc working group to help members coordinate their advocacy and respond to rapidly-changing events in the international sphere. A series of informal meetings have taken place amongst GADN members. This is an evolving area where our members will be able to collaborate internationally and build further alliances with a range of women's rights organisations, within and beyond the development sector.

Violence against Women and Girls working group

A large and very active group, the Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) working group has worked with a variety of partners over the course of 2016-17. The group met with DFID's VAWG team in May 2016 and again in December 2016 to discuss the ICAI review on violence against women, Baroness Verma's findings on National Action Plans (NAPs) and country visits, and the possibility of future joint meetings with GAPS and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Group members fed into ICAI's *Learning review into DFID's efforts to end VAWG*, before a June 2016 joint event with ICAI to discuss the findings. Jessie Kirk, DFID's VAWG Policy Advisor, is keen to involve the group moving forward and will share

interim papers for the eventual ICAI report with members in July 2017. The group is also discussing how to take forward ICAI's recommendations with DFID's Vicky Spencer.

The VAWG working group has also hosted meetings and events on a range of topics in 2016-17. These include an April 2016 meeting attended by the DFID VAWG team with a presentation from Penal Reform International. In December 2016, members met with the LSHTM to hear about Value for Money work (part of DFID What Works Global Programme) with focus on economy, efficiency, and effectiveness. LSHTM's Giulia Ferrari will also share findings from this research at an upcoming VAWG group meeting in 2017. Also in December, the VAWG group hosted a learning event on intersectionality with speakers from ADD International, Age International and Islamic Relief. Linked to International Women's Day in March 2017, the VAWG group convened a discussion on intersections between VAWG and women's economic empowerment with Danielle Spencer (ActionAid) presenting findings from ActionAid's latest report, *Double jeopardy*; Jo Morris (LSE Gender Institute and consultant to Fair Wear Foundation) speaking on the ILO resource kit *Gender-based violence in global supply chains*; and Preethi Sundaram (IPPF) explaining the links between sexual and reproductive health and rights and economic empowerment.

The VAWG group has also created multiple opportunities for collaborative work amongst members. The group met with the GAPS direction to discuss joint ways of working with DFID and other government departments, as well as holding preliminary discussions with the Women's Economic Justice (WEJ) group on a possible joint briefing on the private sector and with the Programmes team on integrating work and influencing around scaling up VAWG programming. Finally, the VAWG working group's members are developing a position paper linking the Leave No One Behind concept to intersectionality that will help members influence discussions in 2017 and beyond around the SDGs.

Women's Economic Justice working group

The WEJ working group and its members have been instrumental to the GEM project and GADN's work influencing the HLP and participation at CSW this year. The WEJ group members fed into the GADN **factsheet** on economic justice that was widely distributed and helped to shape advocacy messages for CSW. The WEJ co-chairs also contributed to analysis of the CSW draft outcomes document and submitted input to DFID.

At the same time, the WEJ group held its own events that included a meeting with Monica Raina from the Self-Employed Women's Association in December 2016. Also in December, the group hosted a learning session on Progressio's work on women's rights on business and human rights, focusing on agricultural industries and extractives and led by Malou Schuller. Future events will include learning sessions for members on financial inclusion and unpaid care programming work.

Women's Participation and Leadership working group

The Women's Participation and Leadership (WPL) working group has had a busy year providing learning events for members and consulting with DFID on its efforts to increase women's participation in public life. The group holds quarterly meetings with DFID's Governance team and its Gender Equality team to discuss DFID's work to create a new theory of change on WPL and share members' experiences. A half-day session with DFID to further discuss the issue is planned. In the summer of 2016, the WPL group also consulted

with the GSDRC Helpdesk at the University of Birmingham, which was preparing a desk review of literature for DFID on the same topic and credited the group to DFID for its thorough and helpful response.

The WPL group's series of learning events this year have included a May 2016 event entitled, *What is women's leadership?* This event featured presentations Sarah Childs and Oxfam and was attended by Westminster Forum for Democracy as welcome observers. In October, the group held the first instalment of a two-part event on integrating women's leadership into humanitarian and emergency response, with guest speakers Toral Pattni, CARE; Eliza Hilton, Oxfam; and Ines Smyth, consultant to Oxfam in Myanmar. The second part of this event took place in December 2016 with members discussing integrating WPL into economic empowerment programming. Further learning sessions are planned, including a June 2017 event on WPL in conflict and fragile contexts with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and Social Development Direct. The WPL group also has a new paper in progress, with funding from GADN for a consultancy on gendered political economy analysis.



GADN members meeting on gender equality and economics, April 2016.

Supporting our members

GADN endeavours to be a space where members can hone their ideas, share evidence and experience, strengthen their advocacy positions and collaborate across the development sector in the UK and internationally. In a recent assessment of GADN's key stakeholders, respondents described GADN as "an institutional landscape [that binds] together people who have come from quite diverse circumstances. You know that people know each other through GADN. There's a sense of knowing each other, like having a school tie on or something – a recognition element." At a recent members meeting, one of our members added that, "GADN provides valuable influence and status for members collectively."

Strengthening communication

This year, we have continued to share weekly updates from the sector among GADN members, expanded the capacity of our monthly newsletter due to high demand by a growing number of subscribers, and we are currently formulating a new strategy for wider dissemination of publications by the GADN Secretariat and the working groups. In terms of supporting members' advocacy work, we connected GADN members attending the AWID Forum in September 2016 and the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2017 through Google groups, circulated event notices and publications, and arranged meetings between interested members and DFID on this year's CSW priorities. At CSW itself, GADN acted as a hub for members and facilitated meetings with DFID officials in attendance. Likewise, for International Women's Day in March 2017, GADN shared information on members' events.

Feminist Forum

GADN has founded a Feminist Forum as a space for interested members to discuss issues, concerns and challenges related to feminist politics today. This new group is part of GADN's effort to support feminist analysis amongst its members and provides a new avenue for GADN to bring members together to strengthen, challenge and nuance their work. The Feminist Forum held its first meeting in November 2016 with guest speaker Kat Banyard from the UK group Feminista. Its second meeting in January 2017 focused on the rise of populism. The third meeting is scheduled for April 2017 on the topic of "Breaking out of the echo chamber."

Members meetings

GADN has convened four very successful members meetings, held quarterly, where members can come together with relevant experts for learning, networking and strategising. Our meetings in 2016-17 have covered a wide variety of topical subjects relevant to our members' work on gender equality and women's rights.

- **Gender equality and economics**

In April 2016, GADN held a members meeting on gender equality and economics, focusing on women's economic empowerment and the GEM project. We also discussed the HLP on women's economic empowerment, with relevant DFID staff in attendance to explain how the HLP has worked and listen to GADN members' views.

- **Feminist development alternatives**

GADN's members meeting in July 2016 dealt with the Alternatives project, with contributions from two of the pack authors – Zohra Moosa of Mama Cash and Neelanjana Mukhia of South Feminist Alternatives – and space for member discussion.

- **Gender and refugee movements**

In October 2016, GADN held a joint members meeting with GAPS to discuss the gender dimensions of current refugee movements, particularly focusing on UK policy and practice. Speakers included representatives from Women for Refugee Women, CARE International UK and the London Refugee Women's Forum.

- **Gender and environment**

GADN held a successful members meeting in January 2017 on the topic of gender equality and the environment, which was co-hosted by Friends of the Earth and the Women's Environmental Network. As a result, a new working group has been formed on this topic, with the first meeting held in March 2017.

Linking members to working groups

GADN has also strived in the last year to create better links between our working groups and the wider membership. We have begun holding biannual meetings of working group chairs, the most recent meeting held in October 2016, and we have continued to promote working group activities and accomplishments through our various communications channels.

Secretariat and Advisory Group activities

Additionally, GADN members are involved in shaping the projects outlined below, which are led by the Secretariat and the Advisory Group.

Working with members to influence DFID and other government departments

GADN continues to facilitate members' contact with DFID and other UK government departments and ministries. In July 2016, we circulated suggested points on gender equality for agencies to raise in their own communications with the new Secretary of State for International Development, Priti Patel. GADN's Advisory Group met with the Gender Equality team in October 2016, where we received guidance on DFID's priorities going forward. Since then, and particularly around the release of the Bilateral and Multilateral Reviews and the Civil Society Partnership Review, GADN's Secretariat and Advisory Group have kept close contact with the Gender Equality team. A larger meeting with GADN's broader membership planned for 2017, while Jessica has carried out regular phone meetings with the new head of the Gender Equality team and her deputy. In advance of CSW, GADN also arranged a meeting between interested members and DFID on CSW priorities, as well as introducing DFID officials at CSW to members in attendance.

As part of GADN's work on economic justice and the GEM project, we have continued to consult extensively with DFID's Economic Inclusion team. The GADN Secretariat coordinates a reference group of NGO members on women's economic empowerment, which meets regularly with the Economic Inclusion and Gender Equality teams. In May 2016 GADN convened a roundtable of women's rights organisations to discuss macroeconomics and women's rights with then-Secretary of State for Development Justine Greening. Along with

GADN's WEJ working group, the Secretariat also fed into the UK negotiating position for the CSW outcome document both prior to and during CSW. We also made a submission to DFID on the G20 position on women's economic empowerment. Following a letter from GADN to Justine Greening in her new role as Minister for Women and Equalities and member of the HLP, we received a letter back thanking GADN for our work and collaboration.

In January, the Bond SDGs group and GADN made a joint **submission** to the UK Women and Equalities Committee's inquiry on the implementation of SDG 5 in the UK. GADN Director Jessica Woodroffe gave oral evidence to the Committee (video link [here](#)). In early February 2017, Undersecretary of State for Women and Equalities Caroline Dinenage said, "Some NGOs have done some really great work on raising awareness [on the SDGs]. The British Council, the Gender & Development Network and Oxfam all have very big reach with regard to people that follow them and with their websites."

Our members have described GADN as a place where gender advocates can "think together and collaborate together," which makes "the work on influencing DFID [...] stronger and more effective." They appreciate that GADN is a "good source of intelligence" relative to DFID's priorities and strengthens the work that they do for their respective organisations.

Gender Equality and Macroeconomics project

In its second year, the GEM project has made significant progress toward its objectives of influencing the direction and content of debate around gender equality and macroeconomic policy. We have used the international debate that is currently taking place on women's economic empowerment to raise our core messages, seeing the process of negotiation itself as a useful avenue to highlight issues rather than focusing narrowly on the final reports. GADN was instrumental to ensuring that the HLP on women's economic empowerment included a working group on macroeconomics in the lead-up to the HLP's second report. Then, as a member of this group, GADN initiated debates amongst key targets including DFID, UN Women, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. GADN also fed into other working group papers – for example, the groups focusing on unpaid care work, social norms and public-sector procurement and employment – directly and via consultations with DFID.

Many of our outputs have had the dual function of influencing decision makers and building capacity among civil society organisations. GADN organised two webinars for the GEM project: the **first of these** was held on 21 February 2017 with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), while the **second webinar**, in conjunction with AWID, took place on 28 February 2017. We have also produced publications designed to influence decision-makers and benefit our members and wider civil society: a **factsheet** for effective lobbying at CSW, a **briefing** aimed at recognising unpaid care work's contribution to human wellbeing and economic strength while confronting its role in entrenching gender inequality, and an additional **briefing** calling on governments to make macroeconomic policy a force for equality. GADN will soon publish a briefing setting out recommendations for trade agreements that support gender equality, which will be particularly useful in the UK post-Brexit.

Building new alliances has also been a key part of the GEM project. From the Secretariat, Jessica Woodroffe and Megan Daigle attended the conference of the International Association for Feminist Economists (IAFFE) in Galway at the end of June and held a panel

event with Naila Kabeer, Diane Elson and Alicia Girón, a panellist on the HLP. We have continued to build relationships with academics and members of the HLP.

We also inputted into the W20 (the women's group within the G20) discussions on women's economic empowerment for both the meetings in 2016 in Turkey and 2017 in Germany. Finally, GADN gave evidence before the UK Women and Equalities Parliamentary Select Committee on the SDGs, stressing the importance of unpaid care work, and shared findings at the WIDE+ civil society conference. Through these activities, the WEJ working group and our coordination work around CSW, GADN continues to support members' own work on economic issues.



GADN at the Women's March in London, January 2017.

We have received a great deal of positive feedback for our macroeconomics work. Our webinars have been described as “great” and “amazing” by participants on Twitter, and GADN's contributions were quoted directly by Hakima Abbas, co-director of AWID. Our publications have been included in the [WIDE+ newsletter](#), shared on the [AWID](#) and [NAWO](#) websites, and via email among the ACP Civil Society Forum. Our briefings and inputs have informed the Global Alliance for Tax Justice's outputs ahead of CSW and have been described as “brilliant” by an ActionAid International Policy Advisor.

In addition to the GEM project's own goals, the project has also allowed GADN to build new and better links with allies in the global feminist movement and other progressive movements around issues such as tax justice and environmental protection, in conjunction with our working groups and GADN's broader membership. These growing connections will present GADN members with opportunities to connect and collaborate with an increasingly global network of like-minded activists.

Alternatives project

In June 2016, GADN released a [pack of seven papers](#) for the Feminist Development Alternatives project. The papers detail visions for a more equitable future and bring together authors working towards gender equality in universities and NGOs. A [blog](#) was written to encourage dialogue around the pack, and AWID has also provided a link to the pack from their website, broadening the reach of the project. GADN's members meeting in July 2016 also

focused on the Alternatives project, with contributions from two of the pack authors – Zohra Moosa of Mama Cash and Neelanjana Mukhia of South Feminist Alternatives – and space for member discussion. GADN Chair Kanwal Ahluwalia spoke on a Development Studies Association panel on feminist alternatives in September 2016, while Megan discussed the project at the October 2016 conference organised by Women in Development Europe (WIDE+) in Brussels. Throughout the year, we have worked to ensure that findings from this work influence the positions we take throughout the work of the network.

61st Commission on the Status of Women

In March 2017, Jessica represented GADN at CSW in New York along with a number of our Advisory Group members and other members. In the lead-up to the event, the Secretariat worked to connect members planning to attend, sharing members' CSW events, arranging for interested members to meet with DFID on CSW priorities, and introducing DFID officials at CSW to some of our members in attendance. A GADN team also inputted language to DFID negotiators on CSW's agreed conclusions and met with the Government Equalities Office to ensure that the agreed civil society input included macroeconomic policy issues.

At CSW, GADN co-convened a strategy session with the Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR) and AWID on macroeconomic policy and women's rights with 20 of the most knowledgeable activists, scholars and advocates on the topic. This event allowed us to share valuable knowledge and create new contacts, but it also established our presence within the movement on this issue. Jessica was also invited to attend a small strategy session organised by AWID. Jessica and members of the WEJ working group met with UN staff, including the head of policy and of macroeconomics, and DFID officials at CSW. (Because of an imminent vote in the UK parliament on the UK's departure from the European Union, no UK members of parliament attended CSW this year.)

Building alliances

This year, GADN's work in a variety of areas – and in particular the Alternatives project, the GEM project and our quarterly members meetings – has allowed us to create and strengthen our links to other organisations and allies, which has been a priority for us. Within the UK we have sought to work more with think tanks and have deepened our relationships with both Chatham House – through work on the W20 – and ODI. In February 2017, GADN co-organised a webinar with ODI as part of the GEM project on macroeconomic policy and gender, allowing us to benefit from ODI's broad audience of policymakers and researchers.

GADN also forged stronger links to AWID through collaboration on the Alternatives project, co-branding a briefing for the GEM project and co-organising a webinar on corporate power and gender justice in February 2017. Working with AWID has allowed us to access a very international set of target allies including many grassroots women's organisations located in the Global South. We have also used both the HLP, CSW and other opportunities for consultation and collaboration as avenues to reach decision-makers and build new alliances outside the UK – for example, with WIEGO; ITUC; the Tax Justice Network; the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), with whom we co-branded a GEM briefing; the Center for Economic and Social Rights, with whom we convened a strategy event at CSW in March 2017.

Communications

Members report that they appreciate GADN's regular updates and information-sharing, as well as its rigorous and high-quality briefings and other publications. GADN communicates with members and the wider development sector in the UK and around the world through:

- The GADN website: www.gadnetwork.org
- Social media: **Twitter** and **Facebook**
- Monthly **newsletters** collating gender and development news, job opportunities, events and publications
- Weekly notices to members
- **Events** including members meetings and guest speakers
- **Publications** including briefings and position papers

GADN's 2016-17 publications include:

- **Briefing:** Making the case for macroeconomics in gender equality work (May 2016)
- **Briefing:** Breaking down the barriers: macroeconomic policies that promote gender equality (May 2016)
- **Briefings:** Feminist Development Alternatives pack (June 2016)
 - Aspiring to alternative feminist societies – GADN
 - Building feminist alternatives for development – Neelanjana Mukhia and Nancy Kachingwe
 - Feminist alternatives on the streets, in the fields, in alliances – Tica Moreno, Sempre Viva Organização Feminista (also in Portuguese)
 - A feminist strategy for a caring and sustainable UK economy – UK Women's Budget Group
 - Feminist alternatives to the development paradigm – Tina Wallace and Fenella Porter, International Gender Studies Centre, University of Oxford
 - Funding equality: donor trends and women's rights organisations – Lumba Siyanga, Women for Change
 - Supporting change where it happens: the critical role of feminist movements – Zohra Moosa, Mama Cash
- **Position paper:** WEJ working group submission to inquiry on business and human rights (July 2016)
- **Position paper:** GADN response to first report from the HLP (October 2016)
- **Letter:** Open letter to the HLP on women's economic empowerment (November 2016)
- **Position paper:** Joint submission by the Bond SDGs group and GADN to the Women and Equalities Committee inquiry on implementing SDG 5 in the UK

- **Factsheet:** Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work (January 2017)
- **Briefing:** Sharing the load: unpaid care work and women's economic empowerment (February 2017)
- **Briefing:** Stepping up: how governments can contribute to women's economic empowerment (February 2017)
- **Webinar summary:** Corporate power and women's economic justice – results from a joint webinar and recommendations for CSW61 (March 2017)

Communications highlights in 2016-17 include:

- Our audience on Facebook increased by 10 per cent from 9,131 to 10,062 in 2016-17
- Our number of Twitter followers increased by 19 per cent from 3,353 to 4,006
- Our website attracted over 33,100 visits this year and over 56,900 page views
- Our monthly newsletter subscription rose by 8 per cent from 2461 to 2664 subscribers, and we maintained high open and click-through rates

Membership



GADN Director Jessica Woodroffe addresses the IAFFE conference in Galway, Ireland, alongside (L-R) Diane Elson, Alicia Girón and Naila Kabeer, June 2016.

In a recent evaluation of GADN’s work with members and stakeholders, respondents indicated that membership in GADN “provides valuable influence and status for members collectively.” In 2016-17, GADN has continued to update governance and management procedures to ensure we are effectively and efficiently supporting our members to work on gender equality in development. We now have well over one hundred members and we are delighted that there is a strong interest in the sector in realising women’s and girls’ rights. The network is currently made up of 65 organisations, including two overseas organisations, and 116 individuals who believe ensuring women’s rights and gender equality is central to international development.

GADN has also continued to partner or work with the following networks based in the UK: ABColombia, Bond, Beyond 2015 UK, the Bretton Woods Project (BWP), the Development Studies Association, Gender Action for Peace and Security (GAPS UK), Girls Not Brides, National Alliance of Women’s Organisations (NAWO), Population and Sustainability Network (PSN), Restored, StopAids, Trade Justice Movement, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO), the UK Network for Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML) and Women’s Resource Centre (WRC).

We have also worked and liaised with international networks and organisations including Women in Development Europe (WIDE+), Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), AWID and FEMNET.

Overseas membership

GADN has instituted a new overseas membership policy to allow organisations and individuals from around the world to join GADN, benefit from our resources and events where possible, and network with our existing UK-based members. Thus far, we have registered two overseas organisations as members as well as several new individual members.

GADN structure



GADN members meeting on gender and refugee movements, October 2016.

Board of Trustees

GADN's trustees are Kanwal Ahluwalia (co-chair), Daphne Jayasinghe (co-chair), Catherine Klirodotakou (treasurer—resigned as treasurer 15 December 2016), Cristiana Conte (treasurer—appointed 16 December 2016), Anne Quesney, Beverley Duckworth, Antonella Mancini, Radha Wickremasinghe, Hawah Bunduka (resigned 2 September 2016) and Lee Webster (appointed 16 December 2016).

This year, the Board of Trustees met on 13 April 2016, 13 July 2016, 6 October 2016 and 26 January 2017. An annual strategy day that included members of GADN's Advisory Group was also held on 26 January 2017.

Advisory Group

The Advisory Group works with the Secretariat to implement GADN's annual workplan and to lead on those issues not covered by a working group.

Members in 2016-17 were Rachel Noble, ActionAid UK; Danielle Spencer, ActionAid UK (temporary); Francesca Rhodes, Oxfam GB; Priya Nath, VSO; Lee Webster/Chiara Capraro, Womankind Worldwide (job share); Mairi MacRae, IRC; Ines Smyth, independent consultant.

Secretariat

Jessica Woodroffe, Director

Kady Billington-Murphy, Coordinator (on maternity leave)

Marion Sharples, Coordinator (maternity cover)

Megan Daigle, Research Officer

Fernanda Nidecker Parker, Volunteer

Previous volunteers in 2016-17:

- Monika Pindel
- Parisa Crockett
- Dolly Ogunrinde
- Alexandra Azua Hale

Working group chairs

GADN's member-led working groups are the core of our work as a network, allowing us to draw on our members' diverse expertise to speak out on emerging issues in gender and development. The chairs of our working groups are GADN members who facilitate cooperation and strategising around their chosen theme so that all of us can do better work.

Gender and disability:	Sylvie Cordier, ADD International
Gender and environment:	Kate Metcalf, Women's Environmental Network Anna Watson, Friends of the Earth
Girls' Education:	Amy Parker, Relief International Alice Fookes, UN Women UK Jessica Mony, SDDirect
Humanitarian:	Diana Trimiño, IRC Howard Mollett, CARE International UK
Programmes:	Cristiana Conte, Plan UK Jake Phelan, ActionAid UK Jonathan Casey, Practical Action
Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights:	Preethi Sundaram, IPPF Anne Quesney, ActionAid
Violence against Women and Girls:	Barbara Dockalova, Womankind Worldwide Anne Quesney, ActionAid
Women's Economic Justice	Chiara Capraro, Womankind Worldwide Preethi Sundaram, IPPF
Women's Participation and Leadership:	Rebecca Haines, CARE International UK Emily Brown, Oxfam

Other GADN members who have acted as working group chairs over the course of 2016–17 include Francesca Rhodes, Laura Brown, Heather Barclay, Priya Nath, Tanja Haque, Rebecca Ingram, Zarina Khan, Bethan Cansfield and Claire Mathonsi.

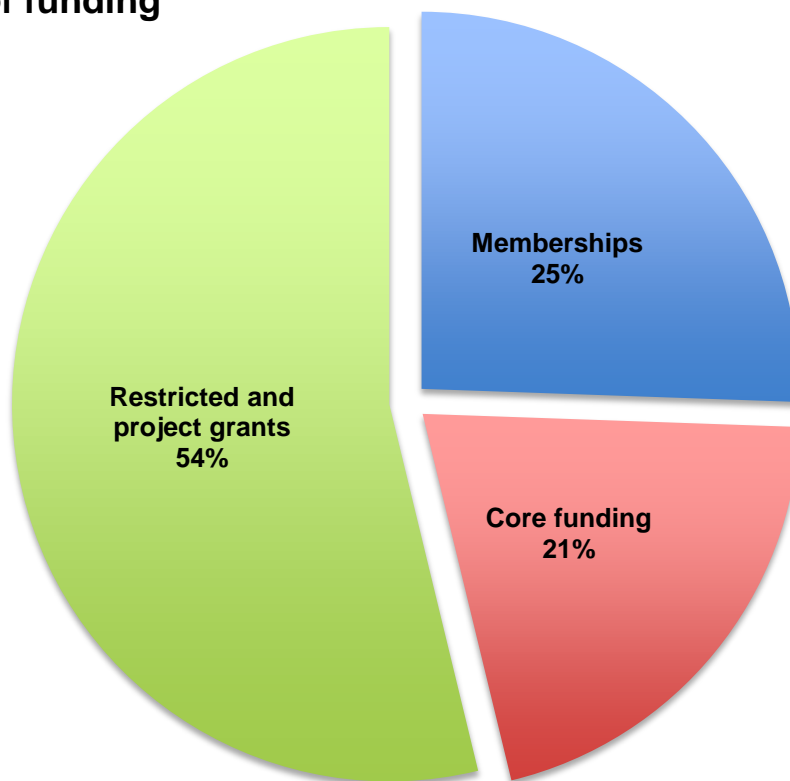
2016-17 funding

GADN continues to rely on membership fees for our work. In addition, we received core funding this year from ActionAid UK, Christian Aid, Oxfam GB, Plan International UK and Girl Effect. Additionally, GADN received funding from the Cannes Lion Film Festival, the G.W. Cadbury Trust and the Bretton Woods Project, as part of a grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

We are grateful to all our member organisations and donors for their contributions to our work. We would also like to acknowledge the contribution that the staff of our member organisations make to the success of GADN.

For more information on GADN's funding and finances, please see our 2016-17 financial report, which will be made available on our website in the coming months.

Sources of funding 2016-17



For any further information about GADN, or to become a member, please contact:

Marion Sharples
Coordinator
marion@gadnetwork.org

+44 (0)203 122 0609

Gender & Development Network
c/o ActionAid
33-39 Bowling Green Lane
London EC1R 0BJ

Annex: GADN member organisations 2016-17

28 too many
Acid Survivors Trust International
ActionAid UK
ADD International
African Initiatives
Age International
Amnesty International
BRIDGE/IDS
British Council
CAFOD
CARE International UK
Central American Women's Network
CBM UK
Cherie Blair Foundation for Women
ChildHope
Children in Crisis
Christian Aid
Concern Worldwide
Development Planning Unit
Emerge Poverty Free
FORWARD (Foundation for Women)
Friends of the Earth
Girl Effect
HelpAge International
Integrity Action
International Planned Parenthood Federation
International Rescue Committee
Islamic Relief Worldwide
Marie Stopes International
Microloan Foundation
Mother's Union Worldwide
NFWI
Orchid Project
Overseas Development Institute
Oxfam
PADEAP
Plan
Progressio
Reproductive Health Matters
Saferworld
Salvation Army – International Development
Save the Children
SCIAF
Self Help Africa
Sense International
Social Development Direct
Stonewall
Tearfund
The Brooke
The GREAT Initiative
Theatre for Change
Trocaire
Tropical Health and Education Trust
UN Women UK
VSO
WaterAid
WILPF
WISE Development
Womankind Worldwide
Women for Women International
Women's Environmental Network
Wonder Foundation
World Learning Europe
World Vision
WWF

Overseas organisations

Aid Organisation Bangladesh
World University Service Canada