**Why we maintain our grants to women's organizations in France during the COVID-19 crisis**

The Mediterranean Women's Fund, the Chanel Corporate Foundation and the Kering Corporate Foundation which support women's action against violence and for equality in the countries around the Mediterranean, are currently very concerned about the impact of the pandemic on women in France, particularly the most vulnerable ones.

This is the case of women victims of violence for whom confinement sometimes becomes a fatal trap, it is the case of disabled women, undocumented migrants and homeless women.

It is also the case of women who make up the majority of health, social and education workers[[1]](#footnote-1).

Many low-paid or precarious jobs (cleaning ladies, cashiers[[2]](#footnote-2), grassroots organizations workers[[3]](#footnote-3)) are now held by women. It is therefore essential to remain vigilant about the effects that the global economic crisis is likely to have on them.

Faced with this perilous situation, women's organizations are mobilizing and are in a hurry to act. However, they often find themselves in financial uncertainty. Some donors are putting their grants on hold or suspending them because of the crisis. As a result, associations lack resources and have to be more inventive in finding accommodation, setting up helplines from confinement places...

They need our help now more than ever. This is why we urge the community of private donors and foundations in France to adopt the following principles:

1. Not to suspend grants initially awarded and to agree to change or adapt their purpose as much as necessary.
2. To inform in a transparent manner about the deadlines of grant decision committees.
3. To increase support to women's groups and associations in France, particularly with regards to operating costs, including salary support.
4. To encourage the continued existence and capacity of women's organizations by accepting that the deadlines initially set for the implementation of projects be pushed back.
5. To initiate conversations between donors and associations to be as close as possible to their needs and break their current isolation.

We call on all funds and foundations that wish to do so to sign this appeal with us.

1. 62,2% of school teachers and workers are women. [(INSEE data)](https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/4311840#consulter) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 90% of cashiers are women. [(INSEE data)](https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/4232605) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Women hold 69% of grassroots organizations’ jobs ([Ministry of Youth and Sports data](https://www.associations.gouv.fr/la-place-des-femmes-au-coeur-de-la-vie-associative.html)). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)