Urgent Action Funds

On Crisis & Care

A Global Convening on Feminist Crisis Response

12-15 May 2025
Hotel Jequitimar, Guarujá, São Paulo, Brazil

AGENDA

BETTER PREPAREDNESS

FUNDERS INITIATIVE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

URGENT ACTION FUNDS
Sustaining Feminist Activism Worldwide

CONVENING OVERVIEW

Convening Purpose

This is a global, yet intimate, gathering to reimagine crisis response through an intersectional feminist lens that centers collective care and healing. It brings together frontline defenders, feminist activists, artists, and healing practitioners with representatives from donor institutions and multilateral agencies. We hope this gathering will build and strengthen connections across borders and create a container for transformative conversations, idea exchange, and collective strategic dialogue that will nourish feminist movements. As we engage with complex realities, we seek to co-create a space for rest, healing, and coming into presence and community with each other as we explore practices of collective care and healing as a response to crisis.

Convening Themes

The gathering is informed by four themes that will frame our conversations. They are not meant to be exclusive but are prompts to invite deliberation and exchange.

Finding Care and Healing in Crisis

Feminist activists and their communities are at the forefront of defending human rights and climate justice within increasingly hostile environments, compounded by multiple challenges. Their bravery and commitment to building a more just world is what has made it possible for movements and communities to adapt, survive, and thrive. In the crisis context, the need to center care is more urgent than ever. Through this theme, we recognize, witness, and honor the journeys that feminist activists are on – how they are experiencing crisis and how they understand and practice care at this time. Together, we will appreciate the uniqueness of the different regional contexts of crisis and care while feeding our imagination of a global feminist crisis response framework.

Imaginations of Feminist Horizons

Laughter, love, and belonging are at the center of our imagination of feminist futures because what's the point of the revolution if we can't dance? Inhabiting the horizons that we are calling forward is an important way for us to practice care while walking boldly towards the futures we need. We will learn from existing creative and diverse strategies of resistance and how feminist activists are using these to walk towards transformative futures. We will nourish the seeds of the new technologies and models of feminist community-led crisis response that are emerging in our multiple contexts.

Stories of Our Resistance

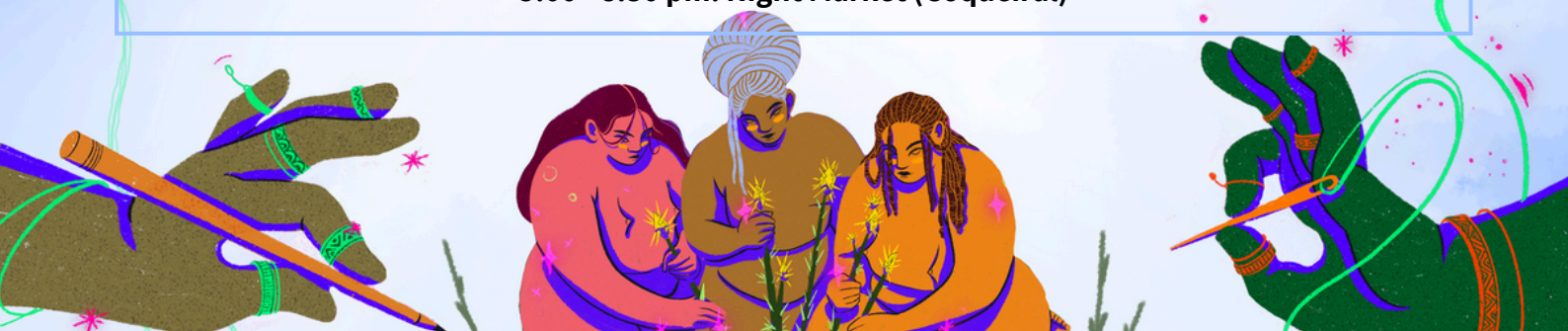
Our understanding of crises is both shared and divergent, encompassing immediate, acute, and long-term experiences. We recognize crises as an interconnected web across diverse experiences and geographies, rooted deeply in structural, systemic, and historical realities (colonialism, capitalism, white supremacy, ableism, patriarchy, and heteronormativity, among others).

This theme explores how multiple stories of resistance, each unique to their contexts, come together into a collective picture of feminist crisis response that centers care. Together, we will share and strategize the resilience and resistance practices we use to prepare for and respond to crises and foster transformation.

Resourcing Feminist Crisis Response

Rooted in the multiplicity and wealth of our experiences, we will investigate how feminist movements are building and sustainably resourcing crisis response and care infrastructures, including considerations beyond financial resources. As the funding landscape changes dramatically in real time, we will highlight critical gaps and explore opportunities to strengthen the funding ecosystem for feminist crisis response that centers collective care. Grounded in our interdependence and the complex realities we face, we will discuss how to sustainably resource feminist movements' responses to crises and bold visions for a more just world.

Tuesday, May 13 **Theme: Imaginations of Feminist Horizons**	
2:00 - 5:30 pm	Donor-Only Session: Weaving Connections (Spa Terrace)
7:00 - 9:00 pm	Activists/Donor Mehfil (Welcome Dinner and Drinks)
Wednesday, May 14 Activists and Donors **Theme: Stories of Our Resistance**	
9:00 - 10:50 am	Program Break for Activists
	Donor-Only Session: Funding When the Whole World Is a Wildfire (Jequitibá 4)
10:50 am	Gathering Call: Please make your way to the main gathering hall (Jequitibá 1-3)
11:00 - 11:30 am	Daily Welcome & Opening Ceremony, Urgent Action Fund for Feminist Activism (Jequitibá 1-3)
11:30 - 12:30 pm	Multaqa To Never Simplify What is Complicated: Stories of Our Resistance (Jequitibá 1-3)
12:30 - 2:00 pm Lunch	
2:30 - 4:30 pm	Pachotos • Navigating the Storm: Collective Approaches to Protection and Safety (Jequitibá 1-3) • Keeping Civil Society Movements Alive in Shrinking Civic Space (Jequitibá 4) • #Femdefence Workshop (Ipê 3) • Nobody is Free until Everybody is Free: Safety and Resistance in Fascism (Figueira II) • Feminist Care and Resistance Archives (Mar Casado) • Rebalancing Through Plants, Recognizing, Recovering, and Sharing Individual and Community Practices (Coqueiral)
5:00 - 5:30 pm	Donor-Only Session: Pod Debrief
7:00 - 9:00 pm Dinner **5:00 - 8:30 pm: Night Market (Coqueiral)**	



Thursday, May 15 Activists and Donors **Theme: Resourcing Feminist Crisis Response**	
8:50 am	Gathering Call: Please make your way to the main gathering hall (Jequitibá 1-3)
9:00 - 9:30am	Daily Welcome & Opening Ceremony, Urgent Action Fund Africa (Jequitibá 1-3)
9:30 - 10:30 am	Multaqa Instructions on Not Giving Up: Resourcing Feminist Crisis Response (Jequitibá 1-3)
11:00 - 12:30 pm	Pachotos • Building and Sustaining Feminist Crisis and Care Infrastructure (Jequitibá 1-3) • Dreaming, Building, and Inhabiting Ecologically Just Futures (Jequitibá 4) • Strengthening Narratives to Resource Collective Care (Figueira I) • Alternative and Creative Resourcing Models (Figueira II) • Bridging the Divide: Feminist Crisis Response and the Humanitarian Sector (Ipê 3)
12:30 - 2:00 pm Lunch	
2:30 - 4:30 pm	Donor-Only Session: Rooting in Radical Possibility (Jequitibá 4)
5:00 - 6:30 pm	Closing Ceremony and Ritual (Jequitibá 1-3) Music Performance: Mia Kami, Pacific Storyteller/Artist
7:00 - 8:00 pm - Closing Dinner **8:00 - 11:00 pm - Festa (Coqueiral)**	

12-15 May, 2025
Guarujá, São Paulo, Brazil

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COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS

1. **Care is a shared rhythm.**

Practice collective and self-care; no one person is responsible for the group's well-being.
Let's listen to ourselves and our body. We strive to create an environment where people can check in with themselves and name what they need to engage in a brave space.

2. Access is love.

Every person has essential skills, knowledge, resources, and talents. We strive to make spaces as accessible as possible.

3. Words shape our spaces.

Use inclusive language: use simple terminology, and gender-sensitive words, and display and respect pronouns. Avoid discriminatory language and derogatory terms that target anyone's identity, ideas, or behaviors. Be mindful of word connotation, especially in relation to historical oppression.

4. Critiqua Amorosa.

Engage with openness and a willingness to learn, offering respectful but direct feedback. Ask questions if something is not clear to you, that's how we learn. Assume best intentions, but acknowledge and address harm with care and accountability.

5. Make space, take space.

Step in and step back, with awareness of the group's dynamics. Let's show up fully, with our lived experiences and full identity, not just our "institutional selves". All roles hold equal value in our ecosystem, whether as artists, healers, activists, academics, donors, or the organizing team.

6. Listen holistically.

Listen with heart and intention. Engage purposefully, avoid interrupting, and honor interpretation and access needs. Slow down, and remember that not everyone speaks the same language. We can't be articulate all the time.

7. Honor all our truths.

Push past binary thinking; multiple truths exist at once. Honor different perspectives while acknowledging privilege. Let's make space for our multiplicity and allow ourselves to sit with discomfort. Move past opposition to collaboration, building collective power.

8. "My eye gets sharper, but my touch softer."

Embrace softness; we can be gentle with each other without sacrificing rigorous thinking and clear and direct communication.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

MULTAQAS

Multaqa (pronounced mul-ta-ka) is an Arabic word referring to a meeting place or gathering point where people come together physically or symbolically for dialogue, exchange, and engagement. A Multaqa typically emphasizes the convergence of people from different backgrounds, fostering mutual learning, shared purpose, and co-created understanding.

For this gathering, Multaqas are a daily moment of togetherness for us all. The purpose of each Multaqa is to inspire and spark connection and collective learning. There will be one Multaqa daily, highlighting the theme and providing framing and provocation for the day. All Multaqas will have live interpretation in the four languages of the convening: Spanish, Portuguese, French, and English

PACHOTOS

Pachoto is a Shona/Zimbabwean word meaning “by the fireside” where stories are told. It symbolizes that there is no top end of the table and no hierarchy. For this gathering, Pachotos are smaller, more intimate spaces for participants to be in dialogue and strategize together, learn skills, experience care practices, and deepen relationships and networks.

There are four types of Pachotos, which center different ways of learning and engaging with the themes and content of the convening. Pachotos are held daily; some repeat twice over the convening’s four days. Live interpretation is available for some Pachotos; others use the Wordly app. The Pachotos on Days 1 and 2 and the afternoon of Day 4 are for activists, while those on Day 3 in the afternoon and Day 4 in the morning are for activists and donors together. Pachotos are 1.5-2 hours long. The four types of Pachotos are:

🧭 **Praxis Pachotos** - Praxis Pachotos are designed for knowledge building and political education, bringing together theory and practice about feminist crisis response that puts care at the center. Hear from speakers across regions about their tactics, learn how diverse communities build resilience and practice collective care, and engage in dialogue to inform our collective analysis and movement responses.

♟️ **Strategy Pachotos** - Strategy Pachotos create space for dynamic transnational dialogue about the challenges we face and the solutions we generate to address them. How are we adapting, surviving, and thriving amidst our complex crisis landscape? How are we resourcing our resilience and resistance? Come ready to exchange, share, learn, and strategize.

🧰 **Skill Building Pachotos** - Looking to learn a new skill or add to your feminist superpowers? Skill Building Pachotos are designed to create space for collective learning and sharing. Whether you want to sharpen your knowledge of digital security and essential self-defense techniques or learn how to practice organizational well-being, the Skill Building Pachotos are packed with many tips and tricks.

🌿 **Care and Healing Pachotos** - The Care and Healing Pachotos invite and offer participants the opportunity to experience care and healing practices from different regions. Participants can learn and experience how artists and healers create spaces of healing and care utilizing various techniques, knowledge, and approaches. These experiential sessions allow participants to feel and understand on a sensory level what care and healing are.

DONOR-ONLY SESSION | 2:00 - 5:30 pm
Weaving Connections
Spa Terrace

Join fellow donor participants for welcome, orientation, and community-building as we kick off donor engagement at the On Crisis and Care Convening. We will mark the opening of our journey through the convening's activist-donor dialogues with ritual and grounding in the Brazilian context and hearing updates from the first two days of the convening. From there, we will set intentions for our participation and learning and situate our discussions in the current and emerging realities for the funding sector. Do not miss this opportunity to build and weave relationships that we will deepen through this convening and lean into on the other side to get us through complex times.

Language: English

Wednesday, May 14
Activists and Donors
Theme: Stories of Our Resistance

DONOR-ONLY SESSION | 9:00-10:50 am
Funding When the Whole World Is a Wildfire
Jequitiba 4

We will gather at the start of the first full day for activists and donors together at the convening to deepen our shared knowledge of the drivers and impacts of interwoven crises and the unique crisis response strategies that feminist actors are leading. Grounded in stories and practical examples, we will explore how funding at the intersection of crisis and care creates opportunities for transformation and plays a powerful role in protecting civic space, defending democracy, and advancing climate justice. Throughout all our discussions, we will continue to reflect on how we can be stronger advocates for feminist movements in times of interlocking crises, including in the philanthropic and humanitarian sectors.

Language: English

MULTAQA | 11:30-12:30 pm
To Never Simplify What is Complicated: Stories of Our Resistance
Jequitiba 1-3

"To never get used to the unspeakable violence and the vulgar disparity of life around you. To seek joy in the saddest places. To pursue beauty to its lair. To never simplify what is complicated or complicate what is simple. To respect strength, never power. Above all, to watch. To try and understand. To never look away. And never, never to forget." – Arundhati Roy
This Multaqa is our opportunity to acknowledge the power in the room. The crises we experience are tightly bound together, and tighter still is our interdependence and solidarity. We will explore the structural causes of compounded immediate and long-term crises, the multiple faces of resistance across feminist movements, strategies of protection and care, and opportunities for transformation – all to create a collective picture of resistance and call for solidarity that embraces difference, diversity, and interconnectedness.

Languages: Portuguese and English

PACHOTOS | 2:30 - 4:30 pm

🧭 **Navigating the Storm: Collective Approaches to Protection and Safety**
Jequitibá 1-3

Feminist movements have long been innovating approaches to keep activists, communities, and movements safe through crisis. This Pachoto will explore the diverse ways this has been done across regions by unpacking strategies activists use to support collective safety and wellbeing. What does care look like within your community? In what ways does crisis complicate care? How does care manifest in spite of crisis? What kinds of resourcing are needed to support movement-led strategies for collective protection and safety?

Language**:** English/French

♟️ **Keeping Civil Society Movements Alive in Shrinking Civic Space**
Jequitibá 4

As we confront interwoven crises across the globe, our responses must account for shrinking civic space – not least because feminist and LGBTQI+ activists are often first in line to be attacked. We see states use acute crises like pandemics, coups, or climate disasters to crack down on civil society, limit civic space, and further entrench authoritarian practices - often under the guise of national security. Come to learn and strategize: How are activists and movements addressing these multilayered crisis realities and responding to a closing civic space? What are some stories of hope and success? How can donors most effectively support movements and activists facing criminalization and operating in increasingly hostile and repressive civic spaces?

Language: English

🧰 **#Femdefence Workshop**
Ipê 3

This pachoto will teach participants to understand stress responses, practice confident body language, develop assertive communication, and learn essential self-defense techniques to navigate risks and defend themselves in various situations. It will involve movement, so please dress comfortably!

Language/Capacity: English, 20 participants maximum

🧭 **Nobody is Free until Everybody is Free: Safety and Resistance in Fascism**
Figueira II

This Pachoto is a transnational exchange on the rise of fascism and the lessons that can be exchanged about staying safe and surviving these regimes. What possibilities do our diverse experiences open? Are we making peace with the unacceptable? How can we surface the connections between our struggles and crises in ways that open possibilities for solidarity and collective action? How can donors share risk with activists and sustain support to movements living and working amidst fascism?

Language: English and Spanish

🧭 **Feminist Care and Resistance Archives**
Mar Casado

Restoring and archiving our collective feminist histories is an act of resistance and has the power to reclaim, restore, and preserve a narrative of truth. Feminist activists and movements have been documenting and building archives around modalities and cultures of care. In times of war, crisis, and destruction, how are feminist movements documenting experiences so our legacy lives on, our stories are not forgotten, and we find healing in the memories of struggle and liberation? We will hear from activists from Palestine, Sri Lanka, and Argentina about the innovative ways in which they are using archiving and documentation to foster healing and care.

Languages: English and Spanish

🌿 **Rebalancing Through Plants, Recognizing, Recovering, and Sharing Individual and Community Practices**
Coqueiral

This pachoto shares plant-based practices for spiritual, physical, and emotional balance, focusing on how leaves, flowers, fruits, seeds, sap, and roots can support human rights defenders. Participants will receive a digital fanzine with resources for plant-based individual and collective care.

Languages: English and Portuguese

DONOR-ONLY SESSION | 5:00-5:30 pm

Pod Debrief

After meeting up with your pod in Jequitibá 4, we invite you to stay in the room, go for a walk, sit on the beach, or choose any setting your group will enjoy for your debrief.

Thursday, May 15
Activists and Donors
Theme: Resourcing Feminist Crisis Response

MULTAQA | 9:30-10:30 am

Instructions on Not Giving Up: Resourcing Feminist Crisis Response

Jequitiba 1-3

"...Patient, plodding, a green skin
growing over whatever winter did to us, a return
to the strange idea of continuous living despite
the mess of us, the hurt, the empty. Fine then,
I'll take it, the tree seems to say, a new slick leaf
unfurling like a fist to an open palm, I'll take it all."
- Ada Limón, Instructions on Not Giving Up

Just as activists and movements are facing heightened attacks and threats, formal funding for feminist movements is receding. What does this mean for how we resource feminist movements and their critical work in times of crisis? Given these new funding realities – and when the world is on fire – how do we change how we think about resourcing? There is no one answer to these questions. This Multaqa offers provocations about where we go from here.

Language: English

PACHOTOS | 11:00 - 12:30 pm

🧭 Building and Sustaining Feminist Crisis and Care Infrastructure

Jequitiba 1-3

How are feminist activists responding to the impacts of interwoven crises on their lives, communities, and movements? This transnational exchange will explore the diverse tactics that feminist activists are innovating from the ground up, with care as the bedrock supporting them all. Together, we will explore the forms of feminist crisis response infrastructure, how these initiatives provide care to activists in times of crisis, how they challenge the structural harms that give rise to crises in the first place, and the kinds of resourcing needed to sustain them.

Language: English

♟️ Dreaming, Building, and Inhabiting Ecologically Just Futures

Jequitiba 4

Amidst interconnected and escalating environmental and climate crises, feminist activists are caring for and protecting land, water, and territories, innovating solutions, and fighting for justice and accountability. Many are doing this work in ways that reconnect body, mind, spirit, land, and nature, drawing on Indigenous, Black, and Afro-descendant ancestral practices to heal, regenerate, and develop feminist, community-driven, and sustainable alternatives. Join this space to find common threads, exchange knowledge and strategies, and build on local wisdom to cultivate transnational solidarity.

Language: English

♟ **Strengthening Narratives to Resource Collective Care**
Figueira I

What narratives are needed to protect and grow resourcing for collective care? As philanthropic and bilateral resources for feminist movements shrink, how can we make a stronger case for resourcing collective care as integral to responding to crises, protecting civic space, defending democracy, and advancing climate justice? We know that collective care is essential to sustaining feminist movements and building a more just world, and we also know that many donors continue to struggle to make the case for it. Come strategize how to strengthen our narratives to secure stronger resourcing for this work.

Language: English

♟ **Alternative and Creative Resourcing Models**
Figueira II

We will surface the alternative resourcing strategies that activists, collectives, and grassroots organizations use to resource organizing and movement work, alongside an exploration of potential roles for donors in providing seed resourcing for these strategies. This session will pool the wisdom and experience of people in the room to identify how feminist activists can sustain themselves beyond external funding. Through the session, we hope to determine the types of support and infrastructure that feminist activists would like to strengthen, identify roles that donors can play, and facilitate a space for learning from one another's experiences.

Language: English

♟ **Bridging the Divide: Feminist Crisis Response and the Humanitarian Sector**
Ipê 3

Local feminist organizations are first responders in every crisis context, playing a significant role in ensuring that crisis responses are inclusive, responsive, and transformative – yet they continue to be underrecognized as central actors in the humanitarian sector. One barrier is that we use extremely different language and frameworks to conceptualize and talk about our work. How can we adapt our messages to bring home to the humanitarian sector the critical leadership of feminist first responders and the necessity of resourcing them? What data and stories do we need? How flexible are we willing to be? What partnerships are we willing to consider? Join us for an open discussion among activists and donors about what it will take to join forces with the humanitarian sector with the goal of abundantly and flexibly resourcing feminist movements on the frontlines.

Language: English

DONOR-ONLY SESSION | 2:30-4:30 pm
Rooting in Radical Possibility
Jequitibá 4

"You have to act as if it were radically possible to transform the world.
And you have to do it all the time" - Angela Davis

As we prepare to close our time in Guarujá, we will reflect on the journey we have been on for the last two days, capture and consolidate our learnings, and fortify our commitments to taking action to strengthen the funding landscape for feminist crisis response that centers care. We will look ahead to opportunities to stay connected and in community, post-convening and beyond.

Language: English

EXHIBITION GALLERY

Here, you'll find visual and mixed-media artwork, as well as installation offerings, from artists, organizers, and healers throughout the gathering. Visit the gallery at your leisure and interact with the art and the artists. This is also the space where we will exhibit any creations that emerge from convening sessions.

Card Reading and Circle

This interactive session combines the Yorùbá concept of Orí with restorative circle practices, using the Sacred Ori Affirmation Card Deck to connect with ancestral wisdom and promote healing. Participants will engage in breathwork, storytelling, and community building to explore their connection to Olódùmarè and activate liberation pathways.

Language: English

Immersive Sound Installation: Nanay to my Anger, Nanay to my Grief
Nanay a mi rabia, nanay a mi pena

Through virtual reality cinema (a short six-minute film) and sound installations, we will navigate a sensory journey towards hope and the practice of imagination from ancestral poetics. We will ask ourselves: How does justice feel? How does it feel in our bodies/territories? What is justice for our heart, for our nervous system? How do we live justice in our collective tissues, in the web of life? How do we co-create our justice outside the state or hegemonic institutions? This installation is a pause to travel sensorially and to feel our justice in the here and now: to inhabit the worlds we dream of, for which we dream so much.

Language: Spanish, with English subtitles

IPhoto Exhibit: “Does disability influence my photography? You tell me."

An intimate photographic exhibit invites us to witness the world through a lens shaped by constraint, resistance, and quiet insistence.

Language: English

Threads of Struggle

A series of textile pieces done through a technique called latch hooking, providing an insight of land scale comparisons between haciendas, plantations, and urban cities. This series is an ongoing counter-mapping project by SAKA (Sama-samang Artista para sa Kilusang Agraryo / Artist Alliance for Genuine Agrarian Reform and Rural Development).

ONGOING OFFERINGS

In addition to the structured offerings in the agenda, our convening includes open spaces available to access anytime. These spaces do not have designated facilitators or guides besides mental health support. As such, participants are invited to use these spaces however it feels right—to engage, spend time quietly, or not engage at all.

No / Low Sensory Zone: A designated room to minimize sensory input, offering a calm environment for individuals with sensory sensitivities or those seeking a break from sensory overload. Use this room for unprogrammed space/time for quiet reflection, prayer, relaxation, or a quick nap.

Wellbeing Support: Two counselors can offer preemptive or reactive mental health support through private counseling sessions. Support is available throughout our time together in the four main languages of the convening. Come to the Support Desk to sign up.

Digital Security Corner: A dedicated space to drop in with questions about protecting your devices, data, and online presence. Whether you're curious about secure messaging, password management, navigating digital threats, or simply need to talk to someone about a digital security incident, this is a space for open dialogue and learning. Come explore approaches to digital care from a critical perspective, guided by feminist facilitators.

Feminist Resource Hub: An exchange space of resources, books, zines, and objects. Bring materials you would like to share with others, whether from your own life or your practice within a collective or organization. Explore other people's and collectives’ worlds through their shared materials.

Support Desk: The Support Desk is available throughout the convening for any questions or concerns.

Outdoor Oasis: Our venue is located on the Guarujá seafront and is surrounded by the Atlantic Forest, providing many peaceful spaces perfect for quiet reflection, conversations, and small gatherings. During the convening, we invite you to pause, unwind, and connect with yourself and others to enjoy the beauty of Guarujá.

Informal Touchpoints: During the gathering, we encourage you to use the non-programmed time to self-organize and converse with each other. Non-programmed time includes:

- **For activists** | Tuesday and Wednesday from 4:30-7:00 pm, Wednesday from 9:00-11:00 am, and Thursday 6:30-7:00pm
- **For donors** | Tuesday 5:00-7:00 pm, Wednesday 5:30-7:00 pm, and Thursday 6:30-7:00 pm