

## **Resisting and Challenging Religious Fundamentalisms: Learning from experience**

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** Challenging Fundamentalisms Selection Committee decisions on case study proposals

The Resisting and Challenging Religious Fundamentalisms team circulated a Call for Proposals to document strategies to resist and challenge religious fundamentalisms in June of 2008. We were overwhelmed with responses, and received close to 200 submissions dealing with strategies to resist and challenge religious fundamentalisms across a broad range of regions and religions.

We would like to acknowledge the amazing efforts of the selection committee who dedicated their time to reviewing so many proposals to help us make what were very tough choices. In particular, we are greatly indebted to Wanda Nowicka (ASTRA Central and Eastern European Women's Network for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Poland), María-José Rosado, Catholics for the Right to Decide, Brazil), Gita Sahgal (Amnesty International and Women against Fundamentalisms, UK), Pallavi Sobti-Rajpal (Utthan, India), and Ghadeer Malek for her input on behalf of AWID's Young Feminist Activism initiative.

Due to the overwhelming response and the interesting information and strategies covered by the submissions, the Committee decided to create two additional categories of selections to allow us to publicize more cases. The first category is the original format envisioned, and includes a full case study and the opportunity for the author to present the highlights of the case study at a session during the AWID Forum in Cape Town in November 2008.

The second category of 'snapshot case studies' will be published alongside the longer case studies, but will be shorter and will receive a small honorarium for their efforts. Unfortunately, AWID does not have the funding to be able to facilitate travel costs for these authors to attend the AWID Forum. The third and final category of selections will be prepared for web-publication only.

Please note that we have contacted all the authors of the selected case study proposals individually and are in the process of finalizing acceptances and agreements with them. The three lists of selections follow below. Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact the Challenging Fundamentalisms team at [cf@awid.org](mailto:cf@awid.org).

Warmest,

Shareen Gokal Senior Manager Resisting and Challenging Religious Fundamentalisms, AWID	Saira Zuberi Project Coordinator
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**Category 1: Full Case Studies for Print Publication and Forum Funding**

<b>Author(s), Organisation (if applicable)</b>	<b>Country: Topic</b>
Carmen Sorrentino, Associazione Luca Coscioni per la libertà di ricerca scientifica	Italy: Organising in the face of Catholic religious fundamentalisms and attacks on scientific research
Dora King	Sierra Leone: Evangelical religious fundamentalisms and Evangelical feminism Southern Africa
Lucila Puyol & Paula Condrac, Multisectorial de Mujeres de Santa Fe	Argentina: Test case litigation to defend existing abortion rights being denied to women
Marieme Hélie-Lucas, Secularism Is a Women's Issue (SIAWI)/WLUML	France & Algeria: Knowledge transfer from Algerian women's rights activists to those in France
Martha Guadalupe Mier & Guadalupe Elizalde Molina, Grupo de Mujeres de Las Casas, COLEM	Mexico: Evangelical religious fundamentalisms active in Chiapas and impacts on indigenous populations
Nadine Moawad, Meem	Lebanon: LGBTQ youth organising in Lebanon and regionally
Shadi Sadr	Iran: The Stop Stoning campaign, and building international solidarity
Staša Zajović & Katie Mahuron, Women in Black - Belgrade	Serbia: Women in Black's organising for a secular state and opposing misuse of religion/culture/ethnicity for political ends
Teresa Lanza Monje, Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir (CDD) - Bolivia / Elizabeth C. Placido, CDD - México	Bolivia/Mexico (joint case study): Advocating for SRHRs in the face of Catholic religious fundamentalisms in Mexico and Bolivia
Trupti Shah & Deepali Ghelani, Sahiyar	India: Sahiyar's work on communalism and its impacts on women in Gujarat
Valdina Oliveira Pinto & Leni M. Silverstein	Brazil: Candomblé and Evangelical religious fundamentalisms in Bahia

**Category 2: Snapshot Case Study for Print Publication**

<b>Author(s), Organisation (if applicable)</b>	<b>Country: Topic</b>
Ana Adeve, Jovens Feministas de Sao Paulo & Associação Frida Kahlo	Brazil: Efforts by youth organisations to create counter-movements to religious fundamentalisms which would be attractive to youth
Carmen Hein de Campos, Themis - Assessoria Jurídica e Estudos de	Brazil: Themis' use of legal strategies to combat attacks on family planning clinics,

Gênero	their staff and patients
Caroline Fourest & Fiammetta Venner, ProChoix	France: ProChoix's work on mobilisation of opinion leaders on threats to individual liberties by Muslim and other religious fundamentalisms
Claire Angeline Pauig Luczon, Women's Legal Education, Advocacy & Defence (WOMENLEAD) Foundation	Philippines: legal, media and other advocacy strategies to combat religious fundamentalisms across religions and encourage internal reform
Haven Herrin, Soulforce	USA: Advocacy and organising by LGBTQ youth through visits and engagement with university staff/students at institutions with discriminatory practices and policies
Lucille Harper & Leona English, Antigonish Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	Canada: Advocacy for sexual health education, information and services for youth, in opposition to local religious fundamentalisms
Margarita Jankauskaite & Virginija Aleksejune, Lygiu galimybiu pletros centras/Centre for Equality Advancement	Lithuania: Advocacy and awareness raising on the National Family Concept Bill, using innovative tactics such as a Mother's Day postcard campaign to highlight issues of maternity and poverty
Natalia Mori Cruz & Soraya Fleischer, Centro Feminista de Estudios y Assessoria (CFEMEA)	Brazil: CFEMEA's monitoring and publicisation of profiles and voting of parliamentarians
Susana A. Chávez, Centro de Promoción y Defensa de los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos (PROMSEX)	Peru: PROMSEX's work on establishment of an RF (anti-rights) watch group based on research into their political organising, international links and discourses
Ydalid Rojas Salinas, Foro Regional por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos, Arequipa	Peru: Coalition building and advocacy on Protocol for Therapeutic Abortion in Arequipa
Yuyun Rindiastuti & Nathanael Gracias	Indonesia: Analysis of religious fundamentalist recruitment and activity on university campuses (authors based at Sebelas Maret University, Solo, and Bina Nusantara University, Jakarta)

### Category 3: Brief/Mini-Case Studies for Web-Publication

Author(s), Organisation (if applicable)	Country: Topic
Enriqueta Ramírez de la Mota, Centro Ecuménico Antonio	Nicaragua: Ecumenical internal reform through building alliances, grassroots

Valdivieso (CEAV)	organising
Eunice Alfaro & Jean-Philippe Nicot	Honduras: Creating awareness and working with men for improvement of male/female relationships
Sarah Bradshaw, Teresita Hernández, Irela Solórzano & Amy Bank, Fundación Puntos de Encuentro para Transformar la Vida Cotidiana	Nicaragua: Getting into hearts, minds and living rooms: A homegrown feminist social soap opera/TV drama takes on abortion and LGBT issues in a country dominated by the Catholic hierarchy.
Maya Varinia Alvarado Chávez, Consorcio Actoras de Cambio	Guatemala: Working with women survivors of sexual violence in a context of conflict
Names withheld, "Sisters of Sumaiya" (name of organisation changed)	Canada: Feminist organising by youth/for youth to share experiences and information on various issues relating to violence, rights, etc.
Yaba Tamboura	Mali: Campaigning to raise awareness on CEDAW and other legal protections, and use of legal strategies against religious fundamentalisms
Zohra Andi Baso, Forum for Women's Issues in South Sulawesi	Indonesia: Organising against introduction/implementation of 'Syariah' through local regulations in South Sulawesi