

2021 Annual Report



**WOMEN
ENABLED
INTERNATIONAL**

A Message From WEI Leadership

This was a year of significant growth and progress for WEI, despite the continued challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It has also been a time of change and anticipation of new beginnings.

We both had the privilege of stepping into interim leadership roles, which gave us even greater perspective and admiration for the WEI team, our work, and our impact.

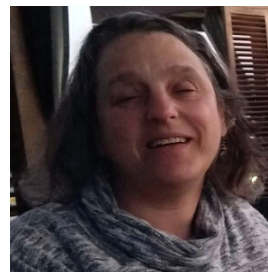
Championing human rights at the intersection of gender and disability requires strength and resilience to overcome the myriad barriers our community faces. It also requires radical rest and collective care to ensure the sustainability of our movement.

As we look back on 2021, we are truly proud of WEI's many achievements that strengthened recognition of the rights of women and gender minorities with disabilities, fostered inclusive movement building, and bolstered capacity to better meet the needs of our community. We are also proud of the steps we took to take care of ourselves and of each other along the way.

Thank you for your support.



Suzannah Phillips
Interim Executive Director



Carissa Janis
Interim President, Board of Directors

Mission

WEI advances human rights at the intersection of gender and disability to respond to: the lived experiences of women and girls with disabilities; promote inclusion and participation; and achieve transformational equality.

Vision

WEI envisions a world where women and girls with disabilities claim human rights, act in solidarity, and lead self-determined lives.

Partnering In Advocacy

WEI's legal advocacy strategies rely on continuous collaboration with partners — from data collection and documentation of rights violations, to engaging with international human rights mechanisms to secure recommendations that respond to the lived experiences of women and gender minorities with disabilities, to pushing governments to implement changes that uphold rights and improve lives.



One example of this in 2021 was WEI's submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health, which drew on research conducted in partnership with 7 women-led organizations.

Our research asked 300 women and gender non-conforming persons with disabilities around the world about how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted their lives. Sharing our findings, we advocated to address gaps identified in the global response to COVID-19 and to strengthen responses to future crises.

Another example of WEI's collective advocacy was our joint submission with 6 partner organizations to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women about the barriers faced by indigenous women and gender minorities with disabilities to fulfill their human rights.

"The joint collaboration with WEI and other international organizations has opened avenues to bring the lived experiences and voices of multiply marginalized groups on the ground to the global level through advocacy."

- Pratima Gurung, President, National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal

360° Capacity Strengthening



WEI's 360° capacity strengthening approach means that we strive to bolster the capacity of women and gender minorities with disabilities themselves and, as importantly, to provide mainstream movements, governments, UN agencies, and other stakeholders with guidance to promote meaningful inclusion of – and responsiveness to – those living at the intersection of gender and disability.

In just one of our many capacity strengthening projects in 2021, WEI partnered with UN Population Fund (UNFPA) Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, which serves nearly 20 countries, on a series of webinars addressing issues related to GBV.

The webinars convened more than 85 participants from multiple sectors – including UNFPA staff, government officials, regional program administrators, and direct service providers. WEI utilized a curriculum developed by UNFPA and the East European Institute for Reproductive Health – with technical support from WEI – to impart tools and best practices on how to tailor preventive and support services to the rights and needs of persons with disabilities survivors of violence.

"WEI is meeting people where they are, from addressing myths and increasing basic understanding of how to talk to people with disabilities, to practical, technical guidance about inclusive and gender responsive service provisions."

*- Nurgul Kinderbaeva, Programme Specialist on Gender,
UNFPA Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia*

Cross-Movement Building

WEI increasingly plays a 'scaffolding' role to strengthen the disabled feminist movement and to create conditions that increase inclusion and leadership of disabled feminists across the gender equality and disability justice movements - and beyond. For example, in 2021 WEI provided logistical and communications assistance to support the development of a Latin American collective that grew out of an earlier regional convening we held in Costa Rica. We also conducted outreach and consultations with women, nonbinary persons, and gender minorities with disabilities in the U.S. to lay the groundwork for organizing a new cross-disability national alliance.

On the global level, WEI was selected as a civil society leader of the Generation Equality Forum — one of the only organizations working at the intersection of gender and disability in this critical space. We served on the Feminist Movements and Leadership Action Coalition and spearheaded outreach to organize and energize an Inclusive Generation Equality Collective to foster greater participation by disabled feminists in the overall GEF process and agenda, as well as to hold stakeholders accountable for their GEF commitments aimed at achieving irreversible progress towards gender equality over the next five years.



"Saber que podemos apoyarnos desde distintas partes del mundo y trabajar por un objetivo en común nos hace más fuertes, más resilientes y, sobre todo, nos ayuda a incidir de manera más eficaz en el mundo, aportando soluciones tangibles".

"Knowing that we can support each other from different parts of the world and work for a common goal makes us stronger, more resilient and, above all, helps us to have a more effective impact on the world and provide tangible solutions."

- Estefanía Cubillos Nova, member of the Inclusive Generation Equality Collective and the Network of Latin American Women with Disabilities.

Strategic Communications

In preparation for marking our 10th anniversary and positioning the organization for a new decade, WEI updated our brand and website. In 2021, we undertook a process of reflection and collective decision making that resulted in a new logo and color scheme — a unified design that embodies our commitment to inclusivity, intersectionality, and accessibility.



Logo description: Twelve repetitions of the letter i in lowercase lettering, arranged in a circle. To the right of the logo, is the name of the organization "Women Enabled International."

For us, this new visual identity inspires feelings of individual and collective power, integrity, and belonging. We hope every member of our diverse and growing WEI community feels welcomed by and represented in these qualities.

Our modernized website makes it easier than ever to find helpful resources, explore the issues, and connect with a global community of advocates. It is more than a home, we see it is a virtual hub for sharing stories, information, and tools by and for our movement.

COLOR PALETTE



Ultra Violet



Golden Yellow



Ether

Passing The Torch

In a consummate act of feminist leadership, WEI Founder Stephanie Ortoleva stepped down from her role of Executive Director in 2021 to make way for the next generation to lead the way forward.

Stephanie's groundbreaking leadership and tireless efforts over the past 10 years created an incredibly strong foundation upon which WEI continues to grow. Her legacy is stewarded by deeply dedicated and talented professionals who learned from her and worked alongside her to build WEI into a thriving organization.

The staff and board of WEI celebrate all she accomplished both within WEI and for our global community. Thank you, Stephanie, for taking us so far and entrusting us with the future of our movement!

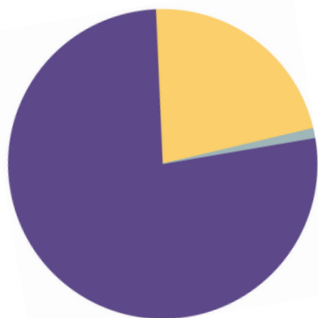


"These last few years especially, I am in awe of the next generation of feminists – including our staff and many who served as WEI legal fellows and interns – who bring such incredible energy, clarity and conviction to the work. I have no doubt in their ability to move the needle on the seemingly intractable inequalities experienced by those living at the intersection of gender and disability."

– Stephanie Ortoleva, Founder of Women Enabled International

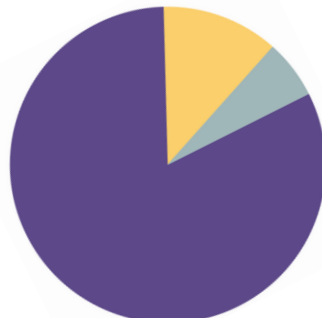
Financial Statement

FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021



INCOME: \$1,999,381

- Grants - 77%
- Multilateral Funding - 22%
- Contributions & Other - 1%



EXPENSES: \$1,225,211

- Programs - 82%
- Core Mission Support - 13%
- Development - 5%

"FJS is proud to support WEI as one of the only international organizations advancing human rights at the intersection of gender and disability and as a thought partner who has encouraged funders, like FJS, to become more accessible and inclusive. WEI plays a critical role in the feminist ecosystem and is at an exciting stage of growth that will allow for continued impact and systemic change long into the future."

— Maitri Morarji, Juliana Velez, and Rophiat Bello, Foundation for a Just Society Global Team

Thank You!

Women Enabled International is deeply grateful to the following funding partners, as well as to the growing community of individuals whose generous support made our work possible in 2021:

- Channel Foundation
- Disability Inclusion Fund
- Disability Rights Fund
- Dropbox Inc.
- Ford Foundation
- Foundation for a Just Society
- Gucci
- Open Society Foundations
- UN Population Fund
- UN Women
- Wellspring Philanthropic Fund
- Urgent Action Fund

Please consider donating today.