

# WOMEN CHAPTER INTERNATIONAL



## Annual Report 2023

**Women Chapter International (WCI) – Registered on 04 June 2020, Sweden.**

**Organisationsnummer: 802531-3266**

### Board Members

**Supriti Dhar (Chair)**

**Camilla Carlsson**

**Monjun Nahar**

**Fredrik Elg**

**Suzanne Ibrahim**

### Auditor

**Pia Tingvall**

## Chairperson's message

Greetings from Women Chapter International (WCI) to the board members, well-wishers, and stakeholders. As a Chairperson of WCI, I am taking the opportunity to share the annual report of 2023 with you all.

I sincerely thank all stakeholders, including donors and partners, for their support and contributions to the organization. I also acknowledged my gratitude to all of you, especially Camilla Carlsson and Monjun Nahar for their kind and sincere efforts in reconstructing WCI's future.

I must recognize and appreciate the collective effort of the board members, and consultants that contributed to creating a future path and bringing a better outcome for 2023. I must thank the Swedish Institute for their continuous support of WCI and for their kind understanding of the obstacles to transferring money to Bangladesh in implementing a project.

Since its inception, WCI has been trying to create networks worldwide, which is helping to exchange our knowledge and experience and providing a future direction. WCI is working on three projects (Bangladesh, Georgia, and the USA). In Bangladesh, WCI has been working in highly climate-prone areas and the experience gave further scope to work with such vulnerable groups of women and girls in Bangladesh. However, it would not have been possible, if SI had not considered the complexity and limitations, especially on money transfer issues. With the support of SI and WCI's local partner in Bangladesh, we have accomplished the project in 2024. WCI provided capacity-building support on digital security and policy advocacy to the Europe Foundation in Georgia and Companion Östergötland in the Georgian project. As an exiled HRD and having an organization, WCI was approved for a project, IDREAM, by the Center for Victims of Torture, USA.

WCI has been trying to cooperate with Coompanion Östergötland on different spheres of democratic rights. I hope we will continue our efforts and find new avenues to work and meet the challenges in the future.

I hope our collective efforts will continue to create more working scope to achieve our common goal of promoting an inclusive and just society.

Thank you,

Best wishes,

Supriti Dhar, Founding Chair, WCI

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## **Vision, Mission & Objectives of WCI**

Women Chapter International (WCI) is a non-profit organization that has been working to contribute to creating a gender-just society. WCI respect human rights and dignity. It is recognized that “Gender Equality” is an essential aspect of “leaving no one behind” and central to achieving sustainable development goals. Therefore, its mission is to address all legal, social and economic barriers to promote women's and girls' empowerment so that every woman, girl and person with different sexual and gender identities enjoy their rights.

— The goal of the association is to promote the Human Dignity of women and girls

### **Purpose:**

To eliminate the socio-cultural and economic barriers and ensure human rights

- Work according to SDG (numbers 5, 10 and 16)
- Counter violence against women, girls and LGBTQ through awareness among society, through physical education of girls in the schools.
- Create a Victim Support Center (VSC) for those who have been subjected to gender violence and provide them legal and mental support;
- Work to ensure digital security for vulnerable groups as it is a new form of cyber violence.
- Increase Transformative Feminists Leadership of Women's Rights Organizations (WROs) and among youth.
- Support women in education, work and self-employment, rehabilitate them into the mainstream.
- Promote the gender education of school staff, hospital staff, and police in the early detection of violence and abuse.
- Raise awareness among the women and girls in the climate disaster-prone areas.
- Work for victims among minority, indigenous and LGBTQ communities.
- Opinion formation against VAWG through media and social media.
- Promote healthy relationships that are equal and without violence to work with children and young people in schools and to work with parents and with family support.
- Collaborate with the online writing platform ‘Women Chapter’ and ‘Women Chapter English’ and other feminist news media as media partners.

**Working approach:** Women Chapter International is open to collaborating with organizations founded on the same goals, values and objectives. The association is a non-profit organization that is politically and religiously independent. The highest decision-making body is the board.

## Key Accomplishments

WCI has worked at three projects since its inception in 2020.

### 1. Creative Advocacy Work in Georgia

This project is a cooperation between two Swedish organizations, Women Chapter International and Coompanion Östergötland and one Georgian organization, Europe Foundation. As part of this project, WCI provided support in Digital Security and Policy Advocacy to vital actors, such as activists, media persons, civil society members, and others in Georgia. For this project, WCI engaged one of its board members, **Monjun Nahar**, and volunteer **Ashrafal Haque**. They were paid by the project through Coompanion Östergötland.

#### a. Digital Security and Digital Hygiene Training

WCI employed the Activity-Discussion-Inputs-Deepening-Synthesis (ADIDS) approach in its digital security and digital hygiene training sessions. The first Digital Security Workshop, held from January 24-26, 2023, included 21 representatives (162F) from 13 CSOs, including staff from the Europe Foundation, who participated in three half-day online sessions. The second workshop, focused on Training of Trainers (ToT), took place from October 25-27, 2023, with three representatives from three CSOs in attendance, all of whom had participated in the previous training.

The primary objective of the training was to provide participants with practical, hands-on knowledge of digital safety tools, equipping them with essential skills to safeguard their digital presence. The training was structured in three distinct phases, each addressing different aspects of digital safety.

**Phase One: Basic Training on Digital Hygiene** The first phase consisted of a three-day session focused on digital hygiene. During this phase, participants learned the fundamentals of protecting their information and devices from common digital threats. Topics covered included creating strong passwords, recognizing phishing attempts, and implementing basic security measures to ensure their digital environments remain safe.

**Phase Two: Advanced Training Session** In the second phase, participants underwent a two-day advanced training session, delving deeper into sophisticated tools and topics. This segment covered the use of encrypted email services for secure communication, the importance of regularly backing up data, and the correct methods for restoring backups when necessary. Additionally, the training emphasized best practices for maintaining ongoing digital safety and addressing more complex cyber threats.

**Phase Three: Assessment and Readiness** The final phase was a one-day session focused on assessing the participants' readiness to conduct their own digital safety training. This assessment ensured that trainees were not only proficient in the skills they had learned but also capable of effectively transferring this knowledge to others in their networks. The objective was to thoroughly prepare them to confidently train others, thereby expanding the reach and impact of digital safety practices.

**Outcome** The overarching goal of Women Chapter International’s digital safety training was to provide participants with practical, hands-on knowledge of essential digital safety tools. By the end of the program, participants were well-versed in protecting their information, securely communicating, maintaining backups, and preparing to disseminate this crucial knowledge within their communities, fostering a safer digital environment for all.

#### **b. Advocacy Training on SMART Advocacy Approach**

In the advocacy training sessions, WCI provided comprehensive training on the SMART Advocacy approach. The objectives of the training were to:

- Build a common and clear understanding of the SMART Advocacy Approach
- Develop a clear and common understanding of the socio-cultural and political context of Georgia
- Enhance knowledge and practical skills to accelerate the advocacy process
- Formulate issue-based action plans to execute advocacy initiatives

As a result of the training, participants were able to:

- Establish a common understanding of the concept of Policy Advocacy
- Acquire practical knowledge and skills in the advocacy process
- Develop Advocacy Action Plans

During the first advocacy session in May 2023, 19 representatives from 15 CSOs, all women, participated. The subsequent session in December included 16 representatives (15 women) from 12 CSOs. In this session, participants worked individually and in groups to draft advocacy action plans within the framework of their ongoing EF projects.

**This project started in 2022 and will be ended in 2024.**

#### **2. IDREAM Project, The Center for Victims of Torture (CVT)**

The Women Chapter International (WCI) signed an agreement with The Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) as a Partner in CVT’s project, IDREAM, for the cohort performance period of December 1, 2022 – January 31, 2024. The United States Government funds this Agreement under the US Congress’s Foreign Assistance Act.

The IDREAM project is a capacity development project for HRDs living in exile. The primary focus of the IDREAM project is to support HRD-led organizations, with at least one participant in exile, through a variety of activities so that they may implement more effective advocacy campaigns. The IDREAM project aims to identify, support, and work with a global network of HRDs in exile. WCI participates in this project.

Throughout the project period, WCI is supposed to get 55,000 US dollars (40,000+10,000+5000) in total. To accomplish this project, WCI included another HRD from Syria, **Suzanne Ibrahim** (who is now board member of WCI), living in Sweden, along with the principal applicant, **Supriti Dhar**.

The entire IDREAM project is online, with a 1.5-hour weekly meeting. 29 HRDs worldwide participated in this project, which discusses resilience, advocacy action plans, and digital security for exiled HRDs. The project is mainly designed to share knowledge among HRDs' experiences and prepare them for future projects.

The project aims for all participants to be capable of designing another project independently, so WCI has taken the initiative to gather six exiled HRDs living in Sweden who came through ICORN and work with them closely to ensure the future well-being after two-year project period. To design this project, Supriti Dhar travelled to Uppsala, Sweden, on 25-26 October 2023 to meet ICORN authorities and exiled HRDs and discuss the project idea with them.

Under this IDREAM project, WCI designed a new project. After a couple of online meetings, WCI organized its first physical meeting in November 2023 in Norrköping. In a two-day-long meeting, the participants gave a deep insight into their current situation, and what ICORN could do to avoid such uncertainty. WCI aimed to establish a network with exiled HRDs in Sweden and provide a necessary support to overcome the uncertain situation of living in Sweden. Regarding this, the participants from Syria, Libya, Bangladesh and Iran agreed to set up a project for the future well-being of exiled HRDs. This group, led by WCI, has decided to work together to reduce uncertainty and establish a stable future.

### **3. Bangladesh Project**

WCI has been funded by the Swedish Institute for the project titled 'Promoting SRH service and information for women and girls in climate vulnerable areas of Bangladesh' with the local partner Initiative for Right View (IRV), a North-Southern coastal area-based organization in 2022. The amount of this seed project is 99,614 SEK. The project is ongoing.

In 2023, WCI initially solved the problem of sending money to Bangladesh. Both WCI and the Swedish Institute agreed that WCI could send the money to the local partner through a third person. Thus, in 2023, WCI started sending funds through a volunteer who had an international account.

Under this Bangladesh project, the local partner IRV has been working with young change-makers as well as local elected bodies. Through WCI's local partner, the project is working to address the issue of SRHR in climate-vulnerable southwest coastal regions where early marriage is high and women and girls have been facing Gender Based Violence (GBV). The project engaged a youth change-makers group consisting of 50 members by enhancing their knowledge and skills. The campaign has been significantly amplified by the active involvement of Journalist Groups. Their efforts in disseminating information on SRHR issues have reached broader constituencies, making a tangible difference through our advocacy and it is expected that the project will be able to influence the local elected bodies to promote women and girl's situation.

So far, IRV in Bangladesh has done 2023 mapping of youth volunteers, formation of a youth change maker group, capacity building of youth change maker group, formation of journalist group, journalist

orientation, regular coordination meetings with youth, dialogue with local elected bodies (LEBs) and module development.



## **Outcomes of these projects**

Through Creative advocacy work in Georgia and IDREAM projects, WCI has gained enormous knowledge about working with NGOs in Eastern European countries, human rights organizations and HRDs and has made a strong network that can be a helpful source for the future. The Bangladesh project has laid another foundation for future collaboration.

Special Notes: [www.wcintl.org](http://www.wcintl.org), the webpage of Women Chapter International (WCI), is done. WCI's Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/womenchapterinternational>

## **INCOME 2023**

**Creative Advocacy work in Georgia: 30 000 kr**

**IDREAM project: 418 679,90 ( 2023).**

**Bangladesh project: 99,614 SEK (for Bangladesh 86,614 + for WCI 13,000)**

**Other income : 5086 kr**

**Total: 523 379,90 kr**

## **EXPENDITURES 2023**

**Projekt management : 403 899,32 SEK**

**Bangladesh project cost: 57 742 SEK**

**Other cost: 91 738 SEK**

**Total: 523 379,90**

## **Bank**

**20230101 103 500,45 SEK**

**20231231. 90 521,03 SEK**

**See Appendix 1. Results report, 2 Ledger, 3. Balance, Bank**

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**Shortcomings:** WCI, established in 2020 amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, faced significant initial hurdles, hindering progress for its first two years. Currently, WCI continues grappling with several challenges, particularly in securing consistent funding. The lack of permanent financial support has disrupted WCI's ability to maintain a steady workflow.

One of the most significant challenges WCI faced early on was the process of opening a bank account. Despite this, WCI has managed to set up an account. However, the issue of efficiently transferring money remains unresolved. WCI is actively and proactively seeking optimal solutions to streamline its financial transactions to Bangladesh. Exploring various banking options may provide a viable path forward. Danske Bank can be an option.

Norrköping, 10 juni 2024

**Supriti Dhar**

**Camilla Carlsson**

**Monjun Nahar**

**Fredrik Elg**

**Suzanne Ibrahim**

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# Signaturcertifikat

Dokumentnamn:

**Annual Report 2023 final Edited Version (1) (2)**

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Dokumentets fingeravtryck:

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03085bf97c6d47ccc31be326fc4ce9acce44997ba9b

## Undertecknare

 <p><b>Camilla Carlsson</b> E-post: camilla.carlsson@coompanion.se Enhet: Chrome 125.0.0.0 on Unknown macOS 10.15.7 (desktop) IP nummer: 158.174.48.173</p>	 <p>Verifierat med initialer: CC Signerad med BankID: Camilla Madeleine Karlsson (195907262942) Betrodd tidsstämpel: 2024-07-05 21:39:09 UTC</p>
 <p><b>Supriti Dhar</b> Women Chapter (802531-3266) E-post: supriti.dhar@yahoo.com Enhet: Chrome 124.0.0.0 on Unknown Windows 10.0 (desktop) IP nummer: 83.190.88.228</p>	 <p>Verifierat med initialer: SD Signerad med BankID: Supriti Dhar (196811257903) Betrodd tidsstämpel: 2024-07-06 09:33:26 UTC</p>
 <p><b>Suzanne Ibrahim</b> E-post: suzanibrahim157@gmail.com Enhet: Chrome 126.0.0.0 on Unknown Windows 10.0 (desktop) IP nummer: 217.210.114.98</p>	 <p>Verifierat med initialer: S.I Signerad med BankID: SOUZAN IBRAHIM (196307156320) Betrodd tidsstämpel: 2024-07-09 14:13:04 UTC</p>
 <p><b>Fredrik Elg</b> E-post: fredrik.elg@sh-ft.org Enhet: Firefox 127.0 on Unknown Windows 10.0 (desktop) IP nummer: 95.194.196.217</p>	 <p>Verifierat med initialer: FE Signerad med BankID: Carl Fredrik Elg (196706152714) Betrodd tidsstämpel: 2024-07-10 16:11:46 UTC</p>

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2024-07-06 09:33:26 UTC

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