

# GENDER & DEVELOPMENT NETWORK



# Annual Report 2019

**Photo credits from front page, from top:**

GADN Director Jessica Woodroffe (far right) speaks at panel at CSW organised by Crystal Simeoni of FEMNET (far left) in March 2019.

Gerard Howe of DFID (centre) responds to questions from GADN working group chairs November 2018.

Jennifer Aggrey-Fynn (second from right) of the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers discusses the interaction between workers' rights and women's rights with GADN members in March 2019.

# Table of contents

<b>Message from the GADN co-chairs</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Who we are</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>What people are saying about us</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Vision and strategic aims</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>What we do</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Activities and achievements</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Highlights of 2018–19</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Supporting our membership</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Shaping policy in the UK sector and beyond</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Working group activities</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Secretariat and Advisory Group activities</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Communications and publications</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>GADN structure</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Board of Trustees</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Advisory Group</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Secretariat</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Working group chairs</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Forums</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>2018–19 funding</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Annex: GADN member organisations 2018–19</b>	<b>23</b>

## Message from the GADN co-chairs

With the support of the organisations and individuals that make up our membership, the Gender and Development Network (GADN) has had another successful year promoting gender equality and women's rights globally. We have influenced UK and international decision makers to improve the impact of their work, and supported our members to continue improving their policy and practice in this important area.

Important achievements last year included the promotion of a women's rights perspective within the sector's response on safeguarding, sexual harassment and abuse. We were also proud to build a new partnership with pan-African women's rights network FEMNET. Our work with FEMNET and the European debt activism network Eurodad on the way public-private partnerships adversely impact marginalised women and girls was well received by members, Southern women's rights organisations and decision makers alike. Regular members meetings provided members with a chance to meet with DFID staff, to learn about disability and gender, and most recently to explore the intersections between workers' rights and women's rights.

We launched our ambitious plans for 2019–20 with a public meeting on intersectionality with Marai Larasi of Imkaan in April, and we look forward to a members meeting in July on the building of transnational feminist movements. Building links with women's movements around the world continues to be a theme for the coming year, starting with a new joint project with FEMNET on women's rights and economics to complement our existing work on gender equality and macroeconomics. Our role in holding the UK government to account for its international work on gender equality remains a priority, as is strengthening the UK sector's approach to the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment.

GADN webinars and a new website should prove a valuable resource both for our members and for organisations in the Global South. Working groups on violence against women and girls, women's participation and leadership, women's economic justice, humanitarian issues, disability, environment, and girls' education will provide a space for members to share learning and develop advocacy, while our Programmes working group enables members to develop best practice and exchange learning on agencies' own work.

The active participation and generous financial contributions of our members enables us to make an impact throughout our range of activities. As co-chairs of GADN's Board of Trustees, we want to thank you for your contribution last year, and look forward to working with you in the coming year.



Lee Webster  
Co-chair  
Gender and Development Network



Antonella Mancini  
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For any further information about GADN or to become a member, as an organisation or an individual, please visit our website ([www.gadnetwork.org](http://www.gadnetwork.org)) or contact:

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June 2019



A GADN members meeting on intersectionality, chaired by Priya Nath of WaterAid (left), with a keynote address by Marai Larasi of Imkaan (right) in April 2019.

# Introduction

## Who we are

GADN is an influential network of UK-based NGOs and leading experts working with partners worldwide to put gender equality and women's rights at the heart of international development.

Around the world women and girls face discrimination in every aspect of their lives—just because of their gender. For many women, their race, disability, sexuality or class leads to further discrimination, with marginalised women and girls in developing countries hit hardest.

We are passionate about achieving change by working with NGOs and governments to ensure women's priorities are at the centre of international policies and programmes. Women must have control over the decisions that affect their lives—from quality education, to decent jobs, to political voice, to living free from violence.

We provide expert advice, develop best practice and support our members to share skills and knowledge. Independent of government funding, we have a strong track record of influencing the UK government and international institutions on women's rights.

We are part of a fast-growing global feminist movement. Working collaboratively with women's organisations in the global south, we are determined to build a world where gender equality prevails and where all women and girls realise their rights free from violence and discrimination.

## What people are saying about us

- *“From previous first-hand experience when I worked at [pan-African women's rights network] FEMNET I know that I can trust GADN to work in solidarity with all women's rights organisations, including Southern women's rights organisations, to promote priorities of mutual interest.”* (Dinah Musindarwezo, Director of Policy and Communications, Womankind—former Executive Director of FEMNET)
- *“GADN has created such an important women's rights space and voice in the sector. It provides excellent political judgement, professional insights and trustworthy analysis on which ActionAid colleagues and I can rely.”* (Girish Menon, Chief Executive Officer, ActionAid UK)
- *“GADN is a vital resource. Their webinars are particularly informative, bringing together different perspectives—from women's rights activists on the ground to high-level policymakers—to debate major policy issues.”* (Abigail Hunt, Research Fellow, Overseas Development Institute)
- *“I really appreciate the way GADN aspires to be a feminist organisation, using an intersectional approach.”* (Sophie Efange, Gender Policy Advisor, Christian Aid)

- *"I am very impressed by how much GADN has grown both in terms of its membership and its influence. It has helped me to keep me up to date on the key issues affecting the rights of women and girls in development."* (Marilyn Thompson, consultant and founding member of GADN)
- *"Being part of GADN is essential for my job and my professional development. It's where I go to learn, seek advice and be challenged to do more effective work on gender equality."* (Priya Nath, Equality, Inclusion and Rights Advisor, WaterAid)
- *"I'm a freelance consultant and for me the GADN members meetings and updates are the best way to keep up to date with what's going on in the sector."* (Ruth Dübbert, consultant)

## Vision and strategic aims

**Our vision** is a world where social justice and gender equality prevail and where all women and girls are able to realise their rights free from discrimination. **Our strategic aims**, detailed in our **2017–20 strategy**, are:

1. To support and increase the capacity of members to deliver effectively on gender equality and the rights of women and girls in international development.
2. To increase commitment to women's and girls' rights and gender equality, and develop a better understanding of best practice and alternative policy proposals, across the UK international development sector.
3. To strengthen UK government's commitment, policy and practice towards achieving women's and girls' rights and gender equality in its international work.
4. To strategically influence international development processes and debates that shape the discourse around gender equality and women's rights where we have expertise and leverage.
5. To build a progressive and effective network that is part of a global feminist movement.

## What we do

- **Support** our members to be more effective in their own work on gender and development and women's rights by providing space to network with each other and by sharing information, analysis and joint learning.
- **Coordinate** advocacy on our core issues to improve our collective impact, making well-argued policy proposals to DFID and other decision makers.
- **Take a lead** on areas identified as gaps within the network, providing analysis, producing publications and undertaking advocacy.
- **Build alliances** with feminists and other organisations who share our goals, both in the UK and internationally.

## Activities and achievements

### Highlights of 2018–19

- Advocating for women’s rights in safeguarding work and improving agencies’ response across the sector with our **new Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH) working group’s** workshops and publications.
- Changing the conversation on public-private partnerships by collaborating with FEMNET and Eurodad on a briefing read by members, Southern women’s rights organisations and decision makers.
- Working with Southern women’s rights organisations to form the **Gender and Trade Coalition: A Feminist Alliance for Trade Justice**, a new project for advocacy on trade justice and women’s human rights.
- Using our network of members, working groups and partners to **coordinate informed and gender-aware feedback** on DFID’s implementation of its Strategic Vision on Gender Equality.

### Supporting our membership

In the last year, our network has played a leadership role in the sector, convening conversations and creating spaces for learning and strategy. These opportunities include:

- Promoting a **women’s rights perspective within the sector’s response to safeguarding issues**. GADN helped improve the response of agencies across the sector, while the formation of a Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH) working group has provided members with shared learning opportunities and built a support network amongst our members. The group has also **hosted workshops on safeguarding** for practitioners and advocates, sharing insights via their reports (available via our website) and shaping debate on PSEAH issues.
- Hosting **four successful members meetings**, with 40–80 members at each meeting. These events provided members with a chance to discuss approaches to safeguarding, meet with DFID staff, learn about disability and gender, and—most recently—explore the intersections between workers’ rights and women’s rights. They also afforded a crucial networking space for members to meet and learn about each other’s work.
- Creating **opportunities to hear directly from Southern partners**, like a meeting with Crystal Simeoni, Head of Advocacy and Economic Justice Lead of the African regional



women's rights network FEMNET, so that members can ensure their work reflects the priorities of women in the Global South.

- Fostering **active, member-led working groups** that allow members to share learning and strategy on key topics in gender and development like safeguarding, violence against women and girls, participation and leadership, economic justice, girls' education, humanitarian work, the environment, programming, and gender and disability.
- Facilitating **communication across the sector**. Our weekly bulletins share resources and opportunities across our network of members, partners, donors and contacts, allowing members to publicise their work and benefit from information-sharing.
- Providing **thought leadership on priority issues** to encourage members to develop their analysis further, as in our workshops on *feminist advocacy on macro-level economics* and *feminist responses to safeguarding*.

## Shaping policy in the UK sector and beyond

Working with our members, GADN has made a tangible impact on policy and built new international alliances throughout the year. Significant achievements this year included:

- Facilitating and coordinating **members' input to shape DFID policy and practices on gender equality**—most notably this year, a successful safeguarding meeting with DFID staff, a roundtable on gender with DFID Permanent Secretary Matthew Rycroft in September 2018, and a forum for GADN's working groups to feed back to DFID on the implementation of its Strategic Vision on Gender Equality in November 2018.
- Producing and commissioning new publications that **challenge and inform both members and external audiences**. These include a *thinkpiece* exploring how to confront sexual violence and abuse in the aid sector, and a *briefing* revealing the impact of public debt in Africa on women's rights.
- Bringing together pan-African women's rights network FEMNET and the European debt activism network Eurodad in a joint briefing with GADN on how *public-private partnerships adversely impact marginalised women and girls*. The briefing has been well received by members, Southern women's rights organisations and decision makers, successfully challenging perceptions of private-sector funding.
- Launching the *Gender and Trade Coalition: A Feminist Alliance for Trade Justice*, a joint project with Southern women's rights organisations, to advocate for more just and sustainable policy by working from the intersection of trade justice and women's human rights.
- **Developing core messages** with our working groups to influence the implementation of DFID's Strategic Vision on Gender Equality.
- **Bringing key players together** in our webinar series, which enables the network to build alliances internationally and provide a platform for collaboration between allies

across the global feminist movement. This year, our webinars have tackled crucial topics like *making trade policy work for gender equality*, *feminist perspectives on corporate accountability and workers' rights*, and the role of *social protection in advancing gender equality and women's rights*.

## Working group activities

Our nine working groups make GADN the dynamic network that it is, bringing members together on themes of critical concern for gender equality advocates everywhere. The groups are led by members and provide spaces to learn, share best practice, network and collaborate on advocacy. Coordination across the working groups takes place every six months at a meeting of group chairs.

### Gender and Disability

Ahead of the Global Disability Summit in July 2018, GADN's Gender and Disability working group participated in technical meetings with DFID on stereotyping, discrimination and social and political participation for persons with disabilities. The co-chairs also held meetings with Bond's Disability and Development Group (DDG) and DFID's Disability Team and Gender Equality Team to explore possibilities for collaboration and discuss DFID's Disability Strategy. Throughout the year, the group provided spaces for learning and sharing best practice by hosting speakers on topics such as ActionAid's disability work, education for girls with disabilities, and menstrual hygiene management in Nepal. Members also benefitted from two key learning sessions: the first covered intersecting stigmas of gender and disability, with presentations from DFID, DDG and Inclusion International Africa; the second session tackled entrepreneurship through a gender and disability lens, with contributions from Dr Nicola Patterson of Newcastle University and Dr Jannine Williams of the University of Bradford.

### Gender and Environment

This year saw all new membership for GADN's Gender and Environment working group, so members focused on exploring potential new areas for collaborative working. Members are now planning new events to secure more active participation and build interest in the group and its core issues.

### Girls' Education

GADN's Girls' Education working group has convened a busy schedule of meetings to share knowledge on topics like ending gender violence in schools, safeguarding, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's agenda on girls' education, and funding mechanisms for education, including talks by Educate Girls on development impact bonds and IG Advisors consultancy on the funding landscape. Throughout the year, group members have also been actively engaged in meetings with the UK Forum for International Education and Training (UKFIET) on its upcoming Education in Emergencies event in October 2019, and with consultations for the 2020 Global Education Monitoring Report focused on inclusion. The group also submitted two abstracts—one on intersectionality and girls' education, and a second on gender-responsive pedagogy—for a UKFIET symposium in September 2019. Plans were also made to collaborate with the Gender and Disability working group on education for girls with disabilities.

## **Humanitarian**

In April 2018, GADN's Humanitarian working group held a special meeting to feed into DFID's new guidance note on VAWG in humanitarian settings. From there, the group continued to work closely with DFID by providing technical feedback on the Global Disability Summit's spotlight sessions, meeting with new DFID staff to scope priorities and explore potential collaborations, and committing to hold follow-up meetings with DFID and GAPS on implementation of DFID's Strategic Vision on Gender Equality in humanitarian settings. The Humanitarian working group also coordinated advocacy amongst members in advance of the Global Disability Summit, including raising a question on gender in the humanitarian session plenary, and shared information with events like a November 2018 meeting where Judith Lakavai (Vanuatu Society for People with Disability) presented her work.

## **Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH)**

Newly formed in the last year, the PSEAH working group was especially active around the October 2018 Safeguarding Summit, holding briefings and meetings with DFID staff and giving input to the Bond Culture working group. Members also participated in training for those responsible for safeguarding work within their organisations in November 2018. In April 2019, the group held a *workshop* with VAWG specialist Heather Cole on survivor-centred approaches to safeguarding for practitioners and advocates, resulting in a report that is available on the GADN website.

## **Programmes**

GADN's Programmes working group co-hosted a June 2018 meeting with the Gender and Disability working group to increase awareness around inclusive programming for women and girls with disabilities, with presentations from seven different agencies. Its next major event was a meeting on intersectional programming in April 2019, where Kate Horstead (Age International) and Najah Almugahed (Islamic Relief) shared practical experiences and learning with members.

## **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)**

At a learning event in August 2018, GADN's VAWG working group participated in knowledge-sharing on the What Works to Prevent VAWG programme—including consideration of implications for policy, programming and research and dissemination plans—with presentations by Emily Esplen (DFID VAWG advisor) and Tim Hess (IRC). The event was a useful opportunity for members to re-engage with the DFID VAWG team on prevention. For the rest of the year, the group focused on sharing learning and ensuring synergy with GADN's work on safeguarding. Thus, an event in February 2019 showcased new research from University College London on preventing VAWG in the Peruvian Amazon, and from a Womankind-supported project in Zimbabwe, Nepal and Kenya on online violence and abuse against women's rights activists.

## **Women's Economic Justice (WEJ)**

GADN's WEJ working group made a *submission* to the International Development Committee (IDC) inquiry on DFID's Economic Development Strategy in May 2018. In the submission, the group highlights structural barriers that the strategy must consider in order to deliver on its commitment to women's economic empowerment. In January 2019, the group also submitted to an IDC inquiry on the UK's progress on SDG implementation and gave input to the chapter on decent work in Bond's shadow Voluntary National Review report, giving it a much stronger

gender lens. The WEJ co-chairs represented GADN at a number of key meetings, bringing the group’s thinking to the CDC’s new gender strategy, Bond’s forward planning, the shadow DFID team’s consultation on public services and the Prosperity Fund’s approach to gender. At the 63<sup>rd</sup> Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63) in New York, Sofie Efange attended a meeting of the OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality (GenderNet) organised by DFID’s Gender Equality Team, where she brought the WEJ group’s thinking to bear on a zero draft of CSW63’s agreed conclusions. For its own members, the WEJ working group hosted a presentation by Sabita Banerjee of the International Roundtable for Sustainable Tea (THIRST) about working conditions and women tea workers’ activism in India.

### Women's Participation and Leadership

In May 2018, GADN’s Women’s Participation and Leadership working group released a **guidance note** to help practitioners integrate a comprehensive understanding of gender into political economy analysis. This was distributed in the CONCORD bimonthly newsletter, which goes to 200 INGOs across Europe. Members also met with GAPS and the International Centenary Action Group to explore possible collaborations. This year, the group also initiated a new piece of What Works research—a first draft of the findings was presented at an April meeting, in anticipation of the final analysis and recommendations to come.



GADN members attend a members meeting on DFID’s Strategic Vision for Gender Equality. L–R: GADN Director Jessica Woodroffe, Lee Webster (ActionAid), Gerard Howe, Rebecca Terzeon, Katie Chapman and Claire Ambrose (DFID) in November 2018

## Secretariat and Advisory Group activities

GADN's Advisory Group and Secretariat work together to coordinate activities and strategy across the network, taking the lead on core thematic areas, spearheading the network's work on cross-cutting issues and supporting the working groups and membership. Our Advisory Group is made up of seven active members, representing a range of NGOs and independent consultants, who meet regularly to support GADN's implementation of its 2017–20 plan, while the Secretariat manages GADN's day-to-day work and key projects.

### Members meetings

Held quarterly, GADN's members meetings allow members to meet, share their plans and interests, identify areas for collaboration and learn about new issues. All our meetings start with a members' round-up where participants have a chance to share highlights of their own work.

Last year, we held four successful meetings:

- **Sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse: how should gender analysis shape safeguarding response?**

In July 2018, members met to discuss the UK safeguarding landscape, feminist analysis of recent events and lessons learned from a feminist perspective. The event was led by a panel that included Vikki Spencer (DFID Safeguarding Unit), Fenella Porter (Oxfam), Nancy Kachingwe (feminist consultant based in Zimbabwe) and Danielle Spencer (ActionAid).

- **DFID's Strategic Vision for Gender Equality: opportunities, challenges and implementation**

A well-attended members meeting in November 2018 provided a space for feedback on DFID's Strategic Vision for Gender Equality. Working group chairs brought core messages and led breakout discussions on working group themes, with a DFID staff member in each group. DFID sent a large team including Gerard Howe, Head of Inclusive Societies, and both DFID and GADN's membership reported positive responses to the format and level of engagement. Working groups will follow up with relevant DFID contacts.

- **Intersection of gender and disability: through the lens of stigma and discrimination**

The Gender and Disability working group hosted the January members meeting, exploring practical examples and learnings on addressing stigma and discrimination against women and girls of all ages with disabilities. The meeting included presentations from Lucy Drescher (Bond Disability group and Results UK), Fatma Haji (Inclusion International Africa) and Rachel Kean (DFID Disability Inclusion team). Members debated how to introduce gender to disability work and ensure a feminist perspective.

- **Exploring the intersection between women's rights and workers' rights**

Members were joined by an excellent panel consisting of Chidi King (International Trade Union Confederation), Jennifer Aggrey-Fynn (National Union of Rail, Maritime and

Transport Workers) and Dr Kalpana Wilson (Birkbeck University of London). There is much to be gained from understanding how struggles to achieve workers' rights intersect with movements to secure the rights of women and girls—from violence at work to participation and leadership, disability rights and women's economic justice. This meeting provided space for a diverse audience of GADN members and labour activists to assess opportunities for closer collaboration between labour and feminist movements.

### **Safeguarding**

In light of recent revelations and mobilisation in the development sector, GADN is pleased to have formalised the new Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH) working group as a space for members to share information and strategy on safeguarding. The PSEAH group has fed into *Bond papers* on safeguarding, alongside which the network has produced a *recommendations paper*, a *workshop report* written by Heather Cole, a *thinkpiece* by Nancy Kachingwe, and a *resource list* for anyone working on safeguarding issues.

GADN also attended DFID's Safeguarding Summit in October 2018 and fed into Bond's document on Summit-related commitments for the NGO sector. Members (Joan Summers, Catherine Klirodotakou and Fenella Porter) were also part of talks for the Summit's leadership charter. In parallel to the Summit, GADN Director Jessica Woodroffe has been part of DFID's safeguarding expert group and met with Peter Taylor, head of the DFID Safeguarding unit, encouraging DFID to treat safeguarding as a gender issue.

### **Building alliances**

GADN is playing an increasingly prominent role in global feminist strategy and advocacy through alliances with key partners and networks around the world, especially in the Global South. As part of the 2017–20 strategy, GADN is working to amplify the voices of Southern partners relative to international decision-making processes, along the way strengthening our own work with joint projects and strategies.

GADN has continued to partner with FEMNET this year. In July, we organised two events linked to our visiting speaker, Crystal Simeoni, Head of Advocacy at FEMNET—the first of these was an opportunity for members to hear from Crystal about FEMNET's work as a pan-African feminist network, and the second was a stock-taking *workshop on macroeconomic policy*. GADN also facilitated Crystal's meetings with other organisations and individuals in London. Late in the year, GADN published a *co-branded primer with FEMNET* to prepare members for the CSW63 theme on social protection, public services and infrastructure.

This year has also brought opportunities to collaborate with other allies in the spheres of global feminist, international development and trade justice. Following our meeting and *webinar* with AWID on the UN binding treaty on transnational corporations and human rights, under the auspices of the GEM project, GADN fed into and supported various joint pieces of work. These include a *briefing on women's rights and corporate accountability* that allowed us to co-brand with a range of allies including the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Public Services International, International Women's Rights Action Watch, Unison, Developing Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), the National Association of Professional Environmentalists, and corporate transparency movement PODER. We also

made new connections with actors like War on Want and Global Justice Now with our participation in the *UK civil society position paper* on the UN binding treaty. Under the GEM project, GADN has also worked with ActionAid, the Trade Justice Movement, Fairtrade and Traidcraft to bring feminist analysis to bear on an International Trade Centre report on trade with developing countries released in October 2018. Policy and Communications Officer Marion Sharples also attended the Global Alliance for Tax Justice's Tax and Gender working group strategy session in November 2018. Finally, in February 2019, GADN organised a joint pre-CSW63 webinar with ODI on social protection and gender equality, with Bijal Bhatt (Mahila Housing SEWA Trust) and Shahra Razavi (UN Women).

### **Influencing decision makers**

**Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM):** GADN worked closely with the Commonwealth Secretariat Gender Section to propose recommendations, many of which then appeared in the *outcome document* from the CHOGM Women's Forum in April 2018, including an overarching recognition of the critical role of gender equality in realising the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Following the CHOGM meeting, GADN produced a *response to the leaders' communiqué*.

**Stockholm Forum on Gender Equality:** Board of Trustees co-chair Lee Webster attended this event in April 2018, where DFID was also represented. The forum covered a range of women's rights topics and demonstrated the value of feminist ministers to inform government and policy, although representation from the Global South was low.

**G20:** GADN brought key messages on public funding of care services, decent work and gender impact assessments of macroeconomic policy to the draft W20 communiqué and a range of related processes, including the C20 International Financial Architecture recommendations, the C20 Gender working group recommendations, the T20 care economy briefing and the W20 communiqué on labour inclusion.

**G7:** Ahead of the June 2018 G7 Summit in Canada, GADN produced a *factsheet* for members, including context for the summit, the priorities of the Canadian presidency and GADN's policy recommendations. We also proposed core messages from our GEM project via the G7 Gender working group.

**Department for International Development (DFID):** On top of the work on the GEM project and the safeguarding agenda, which are also covered in this report, GADN continues to target DFID with messaging and advocacy on a range of topics related to gender and development. The DFID Gender Team regularly consults with GADN's Secretariat, working groups and membership on events like CHOGM and the G7. When DFID held a roundtable on gender with Permanent Secretary Matthew Rycroft and a group of CEOs, GADN was heavily involved in coordinating input and follow-up on behalf of the NGOs present. Feedback suggested the meeting was instrumental in raising gender back up DFID's agenda. DFID's Gender Team have requested quarterly catch-up meetings with GADN going forward, and GADN has been involved in reviewing DFID's Economic Development Strategy in relation to women's economic empowerment via meetings with the Gender Equality team and Chloe Templeton from the Jobs and Inclusive Growth team.

**International Development Committee (IDC):** The IDC held an inquiry on implementation of SDGs, on which Francesca Rhodes (Oxfam) led for GADN's Advisory Group. Working with Women for Women International, Francesca also provided input to the chapter on SDG 5 for the Bond shadow report on the Voluntary National Review. The WEJ working group also made a submission to the inquiry.

**Labour Party:** Members of the Advisory Group and Secretariat met with Shadow Secretary for International Development Kate Osamor and her special advisor Aisha Dodwell in September 2018. Since then, GADN has suggested parliamentary questions on safeguarding and briefed the shadow team on this issue. GADN also shared a Labour consultation on public services among members, resulting in several organisations making submissions including ActionAid, Age International and Oxfam.

### **Gender Equality and Macroeconomics (GEM) project**

This year has been one of the most impactful yet for the GEM project. In May 2018, GADN finalised its core messages for the project and released them in the form of a *recommendations paper*, a key intervention into the growing debate around macroeconomics and social justice. This has meant influencing decision makers in the UK and beyond—meeting with DFID to inform their review of the Economic Development Strategy, for example—and making space for members and partners to critically examine their advocacy propositions on macroeconomics policy, as in our *joint workshop with FEMNET* in July 2018.

GADN's work on the GEM project work this year has also covered themes such as trade, corporate accountability, austerity and workers' rights, amongst others. Our ongoing work on gender and trade coincided with CHOGM in London this year. In April 2018, Marion attended a roundtable on trade and gender on the fringes of CHOGM. GADN also *critiqued* SheTrades Commonwealth, the DFID-funded initiative launched after the meeting. Our work on trade continued in June 2018 with an invitation from the International Trade Committee to *give oral evidence* on gender and trade alongside ActionAid Vietnam and the Commonwealth Businesswomen's Network, followed by attending the Eurodad policy forum and convening a successful three-day training on trade, human rights and gender with Amnesty International, the Trade Justice Movement and CORE Coalition. GADN also met with the Department for International Trade's Gender and Trade team in August to discuss our *recent joint paper*. All of these efforts around trade culminated in the launch of the *Gender and Trade Coalition*, of which GADN is a co-founder, to advocate for more just and sustainable policy by working from the intersection of trade justice and women's human rights.

Debt and austerity have emerged as pivotal GEM themes through GADN's work with partners like FEMNET and the Jubilee Debt Campaign. This includes a briefing entitled *Realising women's rights: The role of public debt in Africa*, written by Dinah Musindarwezo, which outlines how public debt and its servicing undermine governments' ability to meet their commitments on gender equality. In April 2018, GADN made a *submission* to the United Nations Independent Expert on foreign debt and human rights on the impact of economic reforms and austerity measures on women's human rights.



On corporate accountability, the GEM project has continued to place GADN at the centre of the conversation alongside key allies. A joint meeting in July 2018 saw GADN discuss the UN binding treaty on transnational corporations with Womankind staff and Inna Michaeli (AWID). Then, in September 2018, we hosted a joint webinar with AWID on *feminist perspectives on corporate accountability and workers' rights* with Fernanda Hopenhaym (PODER), Leah Eryenyu (AMWA), Sanam Amin (APWLD) and Gemma Freedman (UNISON).

Ahead of CSW63 in March 2019, which had social protection and public services as primary thematic areas, GADN's primary goal was to build the capacity of women's rights organisations and NGOs on gender and macroeconomics. Thus, in January 2019, GADN released a briefing with FEMNET entitled *How social protection, public services and infrastructure impact women's rights*. The following month, our *joint webinar on social protection* with ODI reached an impressive 463 registrants and 175 attendees, receiving excellent feedback from all involved. Likewise, our *briefing on public-private partnerships and gender*, co-branded with Eurodad and FEMNET, was well received by women's rights organisations and seen by Philip Alston, UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty, in the immediate lead-up to CSW63.

At CSW63 in New York, Jessica represented the GEM project by speaking on a FEMNET panel on public-private partnerships, attending a strategy session on gender and trade with Gita Sen (Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health) and Mariama Williams (South Centre), and participating in an Oxfam-organised workshop on unpaid care work.



GADN members hear from Dr Kalpana Wilson, Birkbeck University of London, on her research on women workers in South Asia in March 2019.

## Communications and publications

Over the year, GADN has refreshed its communications strategy in consultation with members, stakeholders and communications experts. We will soon launch a new website with clearly categorised resources, a searchable consultant database and a platform for publications from Southern women's rights organisations.

We maintain a rigorous and topical publication series, releasing briefings, position papers and factsheets on themes of interest to our members and current events in the development and women's rights sectors. Our publications are widely circulated and read amongst our target audiences of members, allies and decision makers in the UK and around the world.

GADN's 2018–19 publications include:

- **Briefing:** Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2018: Response to the communiqué from the Gender and Development Network (April 2018)
- **Factsheet:** The 2018 G7 in Canada (April 2018)
- **Guidance note:** Putting gender in political economy analysis: why it matters and how to do it (May 2018)
- **Submission:** International Development Select Committee Inquiry on DFID's Economic Development Strategy (May 2018)
- **Opinion:** Why SheTrades misses the mark on transforming trade for women
- **Recommendations:** Safeguarding and beyond: recommendations from the Gender and Development Network (May 2018)
- **Briefing:** Gender equality and trade: recent developments and ways forward (June 2018)
- **Briefing:** Realising women's rights: the role of public debt in Africa (August 2018)
- **Thinkpiece:** Confronting sexual violence and abuse in the aid industrial complex (August 2018)
- **Briefing:** Women's rights beyond the business case: ensuring corporate accountability (August 2018)
- **Thinkpiece:** Developing a life course approach to women's rights and gender equality (November 2018)
- **Briefing:** How social protection, public services and infrastructure impact women's rights (January 2019)
- **Briefing:** Can public-private partnerships deliver gender equality? (March 2019)

Communications highlights in 2018–19 include:

- Our audience on Facebook increased by **32 per cent** from 11,224 to 14,860 in 2018-19.
- Our Twitter followers increased by **11 per cent** from 4,808 to 5,367.
- Our website attracted over **30,900 visits** this year and over 58,700 page views.

## GADN structure

GADN's *handbook*, available on our website, provides complete information on the structure, policies and procedures of the network and its constituent parts.

### Membership

In 2018–19 our membership has continued to grow. We now have 73 organisational members and over 140 individual members who share our ambition of achieving gender equality and women's rights. Of our organisational members, three are based overseas in addition to 32 overseas individual members. Given that GADN is conceived by membership and management as a space for civil society, the Board decided after careful consideration not to accept further memberships from private consultancy firms as of May 2017. (For a complete list of organisational members, see the annex to this report.)

GADN has also continued to partner or work with the following networks based in the UK: Bond, Bretton Woods Project, Gender Action for Peace and Security (GAPS), Girls Not Brides, the National Alliance of Women's Organisations (NAWO), STOPAIDS, Trade Justice Movement, Jubilee Debt Campaign, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) and the UK Network for Sexual and Reproductive Health.

We have also liaised with international networks including FEMNET; Women in Development Europe (WIDE+); Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN); Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID); International Trade Union Confederation; Eurodad; Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD); Regions Refocus; International Center for Research on Women (ICRW); and Global Alliance for Tax Justice.

### Board of Trustees

GADN's trustees are:

- Lee Webster (co-chair)
- Antonella Mancini (co-chair)
- Maria Varela-Garrido (treasurer)
- Daphne Jayasinghe
- Beverley Duckworth
- Disha Sughand
- Bryony Timms
- Naana Ooto-Oyorley
- Saranel Benjamin

Thanks to former trustees Kanwal Ahluwalia (resigned 11 July 2018), Cristiana Conte (resigned 30 November 2018), Catherine Klirodokou (resigned 30 January 2019) and Radha Wickremasinghe (resigned 30 January 2019).

This year, the Board of Trustees met on 8 May 2018, 11 July 2018, 8 November 2018 and 30 January 2019. An annual strategy day that included members of GADN's Advisory Group was also held on 30 January 2019.



GADN staff and Advisory Group members in June 2019, L – R: Olivia Jenkins, Laura Aznar Herranz, Natasha Piette Basheer, Roosje Saalbrink (Womankind), Francesca Rhodes (Oxfam).

## Advisory Group

The Advisory Group works with the Secretariat to implement GADN’s annual workplan and lead on issues not covered by our working groups. Members of the Advisory Group devote substantial amounts of time to the network and play a vital role in GADN’s work.

In 2018–19, the Advisory Group consisted of:

- Sophie Efange (Christian Aid)
- Francesca Rhodes (Oxfam)
- Fenella Porter (Oxfam)
- Ines Smyth (consultant)
- Rachel Noble (ActionAid)
- Roosje Saalbrink (Womankind)
- Kanwal Ahluwalia (consultant)

## Secretariat

GADN’s Secretariat staff members are:

- Jessica Woodroffe, Director
- Sophie Efange, Policy Manager (starting September 2019)
- Natasha Piette Basheer, Coordinator

We are also grateful to Marion Sharples, our Policy and Communications Officer, who in left January 2019. GADN is particularly indebted to our outstanding volunteers in 2018–19: Leila Mani Lundie, Kathleen Bailey, Nalini Venkatesha, Laura Aznar Herranz, Olivia Jenkins and Aisling Corr.

## Working group chairs

GADN's working groups are member-led, and thus the chairs of our working groups perform an essential function in coordinating and leading work on each group's respective theme. They make all of the collaborative learning and strategic planning that our working possible. Current chairs (as of May 2019) are:

<b>Gender and Disability:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sherin Alsheikh Ahmed (Islamic Relief)</li> <li>• Diana Hiscock (HelpAge International)</li> <li>• Rachel Aston (CBM UK)</li> </ul>
<b>Gender and Environment:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catriona McClean (Green Economy Coalition)</li> </ul>
<b>Girls' Education:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emily Echessa (Save the Children)</li> <li>• Purna Shreshta (VSO)</li> <li>• Martin Canter (Plan International)</li> </ul>
<b>Humanitarian:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anna Parke (ActionAid UK)</li> </ul>
<b>Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ruby Moshenska (ActionAid)</li> <li>• Joan Summers (Marie Stopes International)</li> <li>• Fenella Porter (Oxfam GB)</li> </ul>
<b>Programmes:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Valentine LeCluse (Integrity Action)</li> <li>• Sam Fox (ActionAid)</li> <li>• Ida Jarsve (Women for Women International)</li> </ul>
<b>Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maria Vlahakis (Womankind)</li> </ul>
<b>Women's Economic Justice:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sophie Efange (Christian Aid)</li> <li>• Rachel Noble (ActionAid)</li> </ul>
<b>Women's Participation and Leadership:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tam O'Neil (Care International)</li> <li>• Shannon O'Connell (Westminster Foundation for Democracy)</li> </ul>

We are also grateful to chairs who stood down in 2018–19: Sylvie Cordier (ADD International), Kate Metcalf (Women's Environmental Network), Amy Parker (Relief International), Rebecca Ingram (British Council), Howard Mollett (CARE International), Danielle Spencer (ActionAid), Jake Phelan (ActionAid), Priya Nath (WaterAid), Emily Brown (Oxfam) and Zarina Khan (ActionAid).

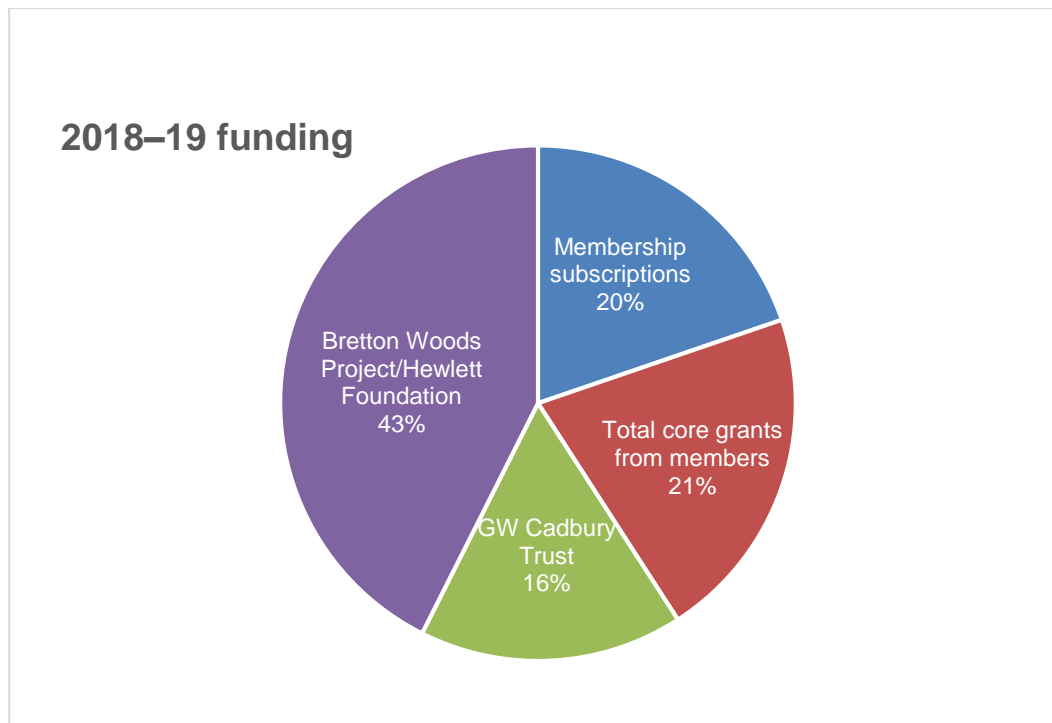
## Forums

**Feminist Forum** provides a space for GADN members to take off their organisational hats and speak frankly about challenging issues related to our work and feminism. Thanks are due to the Feminist Forum's coordinating group over the last year, including founder member Helen Elliott and current members Priya Nath, Ines Smyth, Sally King and Kavita Kalsi.

**Women of Colour Forum** is a new initiative that GADN is pleased to support as part of its commitment to a more critical understanding of race, post-coloniality and intersectionality within international development discourse and practice. Recognising that women of colour need their own spaces to gather, free from the marginalisation and discrimination so often found in places of work and across British society more broadly, this forum is for women of colour only.

## 2018–19 funding

Membership fees are vital for our work, and GADN is delighted that our membership continues to grow. We also received core funding this year from ActionAid UK, Christian Aid, Oxfam GB, WaterAid and Plan International UK, while a number of working group members have co-funded their groups’ activities. Funding was also provided by the GW Cadbury Trust and the Bretton Woods Project (part of a grant from the Hewlett Foundation). We are grateful to all our member organisations and donors for their contributions to our work. We would also like to acknowledge the contribution that the staff of our member organisations make to the success of GADN.



<b>Membership subscriptions:</b>	£23,857.81	20%
<b>Total core grants from members:</b>	£25,500.00	21%
<b>GW Cadbury Trust:</b>	£20,000.00	16%
<b>Bretton Woods Project / Hewlett Foundation:</b>	£51,420.00	43%

For more information on GADN’s funding and finances, please see our 2018–19 financial report, available [on our website](#).

## Annex: GADN member organisations 2018–19

28 Too Many	Overseas Development Institute
ActionAid	Oxfam
ADD International	Plan
African Initiatives	Practical Action
Age International	Raleigh International
Amnesty International	Relief International
British Council	Reproductive Health Matters
British Red Cross	Saferworld
CAFOD	Salvation Army
CARE International	Save the Children
CBM UK	SCIAF
Cherie Blair Foundation for Women	Self Help Africa
ChildHope	Send a Cow
Children in Crisis	Sense International
Christian Aid	Sightsavers
Concern Worldwide	Social Development Direct (SDD)
Development Planning Unit	Stonewall
Efforts Integrated Development Foundation	Tax Justice Network
Emerge Poverty Free	Tearfund
Equality in Tourism	The Brooke
Fairtrade Foundation	Theatre for a Change
FORWARD	Traidcraft Exchange
Frontline AIDS	Trocaire
Girl Effect	Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET)
Girls Not Brides	UN Women UK
Global Alzheimer's and Dementia Alliance (GADAA)	Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)
Hand in Hand	WaterAid
Health Poverty Action	Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD)
HelpAge International	WILPF
Hope for Children	Womankind Worldwide
Integrity Action	Women's Environmental Network (WEN)
International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)	Women for Women International
International Planned Parenthood Federation	Wonder Foundation
International Rescue Committee	World Learning Europe
International Women's Initiative (IWI)	World Vision
International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)	World University Service of Canada
Islamic Relief Worldwide	World Wildlife Federation UK
Link Community Development International	<b>Overseas organisations</b>
Marie Stopes International	Aid Organisation Bangladesh
Mothers' Union Worldwide	World University Service Canada
Orchid Project	Women's Rights and Democracy Centre (WORD Centre)