



OVOF Team Bi-Annual Meeting in Oaxaca, Mexico – September 2024

Every year, the Our Voices Our Futures (OVOF) consortium holds two biannual meetings to ensure effective collaboration, planning, and progress across its initiatives. The second biannual meeting for 2024 took place during the 2nd week of September in Oaxaca, Mexico. This gathering focused on discussing joint activities, work plans, and budgets for the year 2025, setting clear objectives to be met.

Reflecting on Key Learnings and Setting Future Goals

The meeting began with a reflection on lessons learned from the consortium's PMEL (Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning) discussions held in July 2024. These reflections underscored the importance of setting realistic, achievable targets, aligning those targets with the broader work plan, and ensuring that the principles of collective care are embedded in every activity. OVOF members then proceeded to map out joint activities for 2025, focusing on key initiatives that would advance their shared goals.

Key Joint Activities for 2025

1. Full Picture Campaign

The Full Picture Campaign, led by APC (Association for Progressive Communications), is an activity aimed at combating dis/misinformation. The campaign, which began in August 2024 and will continue through April 2025, seeks to raise awareness about the dangers of online misinformation and empower individuals with tools to recognize and counter false narratives.

2. Global Feminist Tech Exchange

Another key initiative led by APC is the Global Feminist Tech Exchange, which will gather feminist technologists to engage in capacity-building activities. The exchange will offer hands-on training and explore effective ways to combat online violence, providing participants with practical skills to navigate and challenge harmful digital environments.

3. Platform Accountability Campaign

CREA leads OVOF's engagement in the Platform Accountability Campaign, aimed at holding major tech companies—such as Facebook—accountable for their role in perpetuating harm through social media platforms. This campaign will call for greater transparency and ethical responsibility from tech firms, with the goal of ensuring safer and more inclusive online spaces.

4. Re-Conference 2025

CREA will also lead the Re-Conference, a major event scheduled for December 2025 in Nepal. This conference will focus on decentralizing spaces for feminist dialogue and action, bringing together a wide range of voices and perspectives from across the globe.

5. Follow-ups to FHP

IMD (International Movement for Democracy) will conduct follow-up activities related to the Feminist Holistic Protection (FHP), utilizing the spaces created by joint activities to engage with participants from the 2024 FHP school. These follow-ups will include distributing educational materials and offering small grants to participants, enabling them to integrate FHP learnings into their ongoing projects and organizational work.

6. CSW/Beijing+30

WO=MEN will take the lead in CSW/Beijing+30, a major event in New York focused on increasing the participation and visibility of structurally silenced communities in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) processes. One of the central activities of this initiative will be co-creating an "activism" space, where partners will showcase their work through the fusion of art and activism.

7. Global Partners Summit

UHA! will host the first-ever Global Partners Summit under the OVOF umbrella in April 2025. This summit, co-developed with OVOF partners, will offer a platform for the consortium to reflect on its four years of collaborative work, share key learnings, and discuss the future of the consortium's initiatives.

8. Human Rights Council (HRC) Spaces

The OVOF consortium will also participate in Human Rights Council (HRC) sessions in Geneva, scheduled for June and September 2025. These sessions will serve as important platforms for advocacy, particularly in pushing for the rights of structurally silenced women on the global stage.



OVOF participation at the ILGA world conference 2024



The ILGA World Conference is one of the most prominent global gatherings for activists, advocates, and allies dedicated to advancing the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals. In 2024, the conference made a historic return to Africa for the first time in 25 years, with Cape Town, South Africa, serving as the vibrant host city.

This year's conference was an important milestone, bringing together a diverse array of voices from across the world to engage in critical discussions, build solidarity, and strategize for the future of LGBTQIA+ rights. Among the attendees was the OVOF (Our Voices Our Futures) Consortium, represented by the OVOF Consortium Coordinator and the Advocacy Coordinator. Both were active participants, attending multiple sessions and engaging with the global community.

The OVOF Consortium Coordinator, had a deeply reflective experience at the conference. Here, she shares her thoughts on her first-time attendance at ILGA:

"My experience at the ILGA World Conference was both overwhelming and inspiring. As it was my first time attending such a significant global gathering of diverse activists, I felt both humbled and energized by the collective commitment to justice and equality. A particularly memorable session for me was the plenary on 'Building Solidarity Beyond Identities,' which featured powerful discussions on several critical issues, including the role of Black Pride as a movement, the importance of amplifying intersex voices, and the urgent need to advocate for refugee rights as human rights. It was a reminder of how interconnected our struggles are and how vital it is to build solidarity across movements."

Participating in ILGA is crucial for ensuring that community-led and community-run organizations, particularly those from SSW communities, are supported and given the opportunity to have their voices heard. It is essential that these partners can actively engage and contribute to the conversation.

The Consortium Coordinator emphasized the need for OVOF to continue supporting initiatives at such global platforms.

"As a consortium, it is crucial that OVOF not only supports but also makes its presence known in these spaces. We must continue to show up, contribute, and collaborate in international settings like ILGA to help further the agenda of inclusive and intersectional justice for all."

With the lessons and inspiration gained from this historic event, OVOF is poised to continue its advocacy work on both regional and global stages, contributing to a world where equality and human rights are upheld for everyone.



OVOF @AWID : FEMINIST PUB QUIZ & THE FULL PICTURE CAMPAIGN LAUNCH



Have you heard about The Full Picture Campaign?

That was what we asked at the AWID Forum 2024 — a powerful convening point for feminist, women's rights, gender justice, LBTQI+, and allied movements.

All of us have received and shared misinformation on the internet, accidentally or on purpose. Misinformation and disinformation are designed to emotionally trigger us, making us interact with it and (often) share it.

Enter: The Full Picture Campaign, carried forward jointly by the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) and the Our Voices Our Futures consortium. The campaign's basic ask: Pause while scrolling. Especially while seeing a post that is designed to trigger, and ask if it really is the full picture of what is happening, and how we can get to it.

On the 3rd of December, when the AWID Forum was on an upswing, we launched the campaign — well attended by feminists and activists from across the world, majorly from the Global South.

The evening started with an engaging and popular Feminist PubQuiz facilitated by WO=MEN. Participants split into teams to answer trivia questions, resulting in hoots, laughter and new friendships.

The BINGO card comprised of misinformation and disinformation bits we find scattered all over the internet — fake news that is especially relevant for progressive movements and movement-builders, with a focus on women and queer lives.

Because: Even when news uses "facts", it is often only a small part of the entire picture, using information in isolation and devoid of context — which paints an image that may be very far from the truth under the guise of factual truth. "Facts" and narratives also come sponsored by actors and vested interests who/which are not immediately visible.

So we played a game: Can you see past the noise, and get the full picture?

"It sounds like a new problem, but it is not... The difference is that technology has created tools and ways to create, disseminate, manipulate, and amplify on a much larger scale. The speed, magnitude, and reach is bigger and faster than ever before", Smita from APC said while introducing the game.

Social media platforms also really love misinformation and disinformation — that's what gives them the views and likes... and us hooked (and doomscrolling at night). When you mix in algorithms, and algorithmic bubbles telling us who to trust and what to believe (and even what we see!), it becomes a whole other game of societal manipulation.

Technology is a major part of this, of course — but technology can also be used strategically to create safe and open online spaces, which is what The Full Picture is trying to do — by using technology and major social media platforms to equip communities with important tools and methods of checking against information pollution.

As Smita, also part of The Full Picture, said: *"One happens when there is an excess of information and the other happens when there is a dearth of information."*

Can you guess which is which?

The First Feminist Holistic Protection School



From September 1 to 6, 2024, over 34 human rights defenders from countries such as Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, and more gathered in Oaxaca, Mexico, for the inaugural Feminist Holistic Protection (FHP) School. Hosted by the OVOF Consortium and organized by IM-Defensoras, Consorcio Oaxaca, and JASS Mesoamérica, this pioneering workshop aimed to build collective knowledge, share experiences, and deepen the practice of holistic protection and care among human rights defenders from marginalized communities.

A Space for Learning and Solidarity

The FHP School offered a unique platform for participants to reflect on the political framework of Feminist Holistic Protection, drawing on over 14 years of experience from IM-Defensoras. Through discussions, workshops, and shared activities, defenders from women's and LGBTQ+ sectors explored self-care, collective care, and the political nature of activism. They examined the historical roots of colonialism, racism, and sexism, and how these forces continue to shape their struggles for justice today.

- Spirituality and Reflection

The week began with a spiritual ceremony led by Rosa Chávez from JASS Mesoamérica, grounding the event in the region's rich traditions of care and community. Participants also took part in the "River of Life" exercise, reflecting on their personal and collective journeys, and developing care agreements to support one another throughout the week.

- Workshops and Practical Learning

Key sessions included workshops on creative expression, risk analysis, and healing practices. Defenders explored how to integrate self-care into their activism and developed strategies for mitigating risks in their work. A visit to Casa La Serena, a sanctuary for women defenders in Oaxaca, underscored the importance of rest and recovery.

- Reflections from Participants

Defenders left the FHP School with powerful insights and tools for their work:

- Kenya: "This experience gave me clarity on integrating collective care in our work and a deep sense of solidarity across geographies."
- Lebanon: "The risk assessment sessions empowered me and strengthened my ability to give and share experiences with diverse communities."
- India: "This workshop has shown me the importance of centering care in feminist work and the potential for cross-movement solidarity."

Looking Ahead

The FHP School successfully laid the groundwork for a global network of defenders committed to feminist, holistic protection. By blending political, personal, and collective approaches to activism, it highlighted the importance of care as a central pillar of justice movements. As participants return to their regions, they carry forward a renewed commitment to solidarity and resilience, ready to implement FHP strategies in their ongoing work.

This event marks a crucial step in advancing the OVOF Consortium's mission to co-create and apply holistic protection strategies, fostering stronger connections and shared strategies for human rights defenders worldwide.



A Note from the Coordinator: Reflecting on 2024 and Looking Ahead

The Our Voices, Our Futures (OVOF) Consortium reflects on 2024 as a year marked by growth, resilience, and impactful collaboration. Despite facing numerous challenges, including elections and contentious election results that have influenced the work and future of OVOF partners, we've remained steadfast. Additionally, ongoing and escalating violence in many OVOF countries has tested our resolve.

Through it all, we've deepened our commitment to amplifying the voices of human rights defenders from marginalized and silenced communities. At the same time, we've advanced the political framework of Feminist Holistic Protection (FHP) and reinforced the bonds of global solidarity. Together, we've shown that even in the face of adversity, our collective strength and dedication drive meaningful change.

Key Highlights of 2024

Feminist Holistic Protection School: One of the most significant milestones this year was the successful launch of the FHP School in Oaxaca, Mexico. Human rights defenders from across the world gathered for a transformative week of learning, healing, and collective action. This space allowed us to deepen our shared understanding of care as a political tool and collective resistance, a testament to the power of solidarity even in the face of systemic violence.

International Advocacy and Global Visibility: Our work in 2024 also took us to global platforms where we continued to raise the voices of defenders. In Geneva, OVOF participated in the Human Rights Council and supported sex workers' rights activists from the Global South to engage directly in Human Rights Council processes and joined a protest by sex workers in front of the UN.

At the **AWID Forum**, we proudly launched the Full Picture Campaign, a dynamic digital initiative by Our Voices, Our Futures (OVOF). This campaign addresses the growing challenges of misinformation, disinformation, and the pervasive cycles of information pollution. The Full Picture aims to shift the focus back to how we consume, share, and spread information within our communities. By promoting responsible, informed engagement with digital content, we seek to empower individuals and movements to reclaim control over the narratives that shape our world.

ILGA World Conference: Our participation in the ILGA World Conference was another key moment this year, where we joined forces with LGBTQI+ activists to advocate for the intersectional needs of structurally silenced defenders. Together, we advanced the collective understanding of how holistic protection frameworks can be a vital tool for safeguarding the rights of LGBTQI+ and other oppressed communities around the world.

Commission on the Status of Women CSW 68: OVOF hosted the first ever two-day ARTivism event at the CSW in March 2024. With film screenings by sex workers and trans organisations, art expositions, crafting workshops, conversations about the use of zines and a joint mural about the feminist future we want to see.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our partners, supporters, and activists who have walked this path with us in 2024. Your unwavering solidarity, dedication, and courage continue to drive us forward. As we head into the new year, we carry with us the lessons, resilience, and energy of 2024, ready to tackle the challenges ahead and build an even stronger, interconnected global network.

In solidarity,

The OVOF Consortium Coordinator

-Mary

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