



MADRE

Fall 2017

www.madre.org



The Future We Seek

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friend,

Here's one thing you can always count on. Whenever our partners worldwide are threatened by war and disaster, MADRE stands up — thanks to your support.

And when harmful US policies threaten our vision of peace and justice, we hold our leaders accountable and demand a feminist foreign policy that protects the rights of women and families.

From military attacks in Syria and Iraq, to fueling conflict in Yemen and reducing aid to Colombia, we've seen Trump's policies expose women to more violence and deprivation. That's why we empower and sustain our grassroots partners as leaders and peacebuilders, working with them to bring urgent care to frontline communities and to demand just policies.

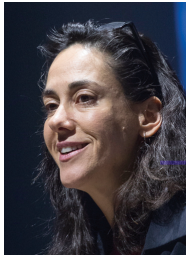
I'm so thankful to have passionate allies — like you and our partners worldwide — standing with us to advance this vital work.

Because when crises are worsening and the news each day seems bleak, that's when we step up. That's when it's more important than ever to hold fast to our vision of justice, despite the cruel policies we see from our own government.

Take a look inside to see what a feminist foreign policy means to us, and to learn about the brave actions our partners take to stand up for peace and rights. Thank you for supporting these activists through MADRE. Because of friends like you, we are able to press on towards a more peaceful world.

In solidarity,

Yifat Susskind



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Syria

YOUR FEMINIST FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR

THE CRISIS: The US government continues to escalate Syria's catastrophic war.

OUR DEMAND: We call on the US government to immediately halt airstrikes and all military actions that deepen violence and endanger lives.

HOW YOUR SUPPORT MAKES CHANGE

With our partners, MADRE leads Strategies for Change, a space for women peace activists to share ideas, learn from one another and develop concrete solutions. Because of your support, these meetings bring together dozens of Syrian women and provide them with a space to work together towards peace.



In Lebanon, we run a school in a refugee camp so that Syrian children who've fled the catastrophe of war can continue their education in a safe environment. And we deliver medical supplies and reproductive health care to Syrian refugee women and girls.

To learn more about MADRE's work with women activists in Syria, visit our website: www.madre.org/syria



IMAGES © SYRIAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE

MADRE EXPENSES

Program Services **81%**

Administrative & General **8%**

Fundraising **11%**



Colombia

YOUR FEMINIST FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR

THE CRISIS: For decades, US administrations have fueled Colombia's armed conflict, supplying weapons and training. Now that a peace agreement has finally been reached, Trump has proposed to cut US aid to its lowest levels in more than 30 years.

OUR DEMAND: We call on the US government to support peace in Colombia and to provide funding for essential humanitarian aid.

HOW YOUR SUPPORT MAKES CHANGE

MADRE and our local partners at Taller de Vida bring healing to former child soldiers and war survivors in Colombia. Through our workshops, women and girls receive restorative art therapy and counseling to help them recover from their traumas.

With your support, MADRE and Taller de Vida advocate for justice and healing for women and girls. To learn more about MADRE's work in Colombia, visit our website: www.madre.org/peace



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Iraq

YOUR FEMINIST FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR

THE CRISIS: For decades, the US has sowed violence in Iraq, from launching wars and invasions, to continued airstrikes that kill hundreds at a time. ISIS has emerged from that chaos to make women a target of its extremist agenda.

OUR DEMAND: We call for the halt of all US military actions in Iraq and increased aid for communities rebuilding from war.



HOW A BOTTLE OF WATER BECOMES A BEACON OF HOPE

With our partners, the Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq (OWFI), we run an underground network to help people flee ISIS, powered by brave local activists who risk their lives to reach people in danger.

Here is one story of a woman and her family living under ISIS control who decided to gather up a few belongings and run. Thanks to a secret call to our partners, they knew exactly which way to go. By the light of the moon, OWFI activists had placed bottles of water, marked with a unique sticker, throughout the long escape route through the mountains.

These bottles of water act as trail markers guiding the way. And they give those who are escaping a life-sustaining supply of water to make it through their arduous journey.

Once they made their way safely to an OWFI shelter, the family were greeted with food, medicine and clothing — support that you make possible. They joined the many others whose lives have been saved by OWFI.

Want to learn more about OWFI's lifesaving work? Visit our website: www.madre.org/iraq



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