

Honourable Minister Ploumen

This letter is sent to you by many of the current Women's Rights and Feminist organisations, including many who benefited from the FLOW-I funding scheme of your Ministry.

**We thank you** for your personal commitment to gender equality and women's rights and much appreciate your efforts to continue the opportunities created by your predecessors with the MDG3 Fund and the FLOW-I fund (*that provided funds to over 35-50 national, regional and global coalitions*).

**These funds have been essential** in empowering civil society organizations (CSOs) and social movements working for women's human rights. Thanks to these funds, diverse women-led organisations were able to work at a local and regional level as well as to bridge the gap to the global policy processes on development. This included the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's), ensuring a strong stand-alone goal (SDG5) on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, as well as gender-responsive targets in many of the other global goals.

**However, the decision to only fund nine projects in this new round** - out of 100 that passed the eligibility test, and going from an average 2,4 to 9.5 million per grantee - is breaking the backbone of the global women's human rights movement. We are extremely worried that hundreds of local, national and regional women-led organisations who used to benefit from your support, - directly or indirectly as sub-grantees of FLOW beneficiaries - will have to end their activities, or severely scale back programmes, and that this will have very negative impacts on especially the most vulnerable groups of women.

**This is why we need to sound the alarm.**