



OUR THEORY OF CHANGE: A GENDER PERSPECTIVE

AN INTERSECTIONAL APPROACH TO WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Women's experiences of corruption and exclusion are shaped by the intersection of gender with race, indigeneity, class, disability, sexuality and other circumstances. The gender perspective presented in the tables that follow should therefore be read with sensitivity to these differences, and its approaches adapted to strengthen women's leadership, safety and capacity to challenge corruption across diverse contexts.

OUR CORE OBJECTIVE: PROMOTE LEADERSHIP

Our Initiatives	Rationale for Our Initiatives	A Gender Perspective
We enable leadership dedicated to integrity.	Supporting leaders who challenge corruption helps destabilize entrenched patronage networks and build collective movements that effect change.	Women are often excluded from patronage networks, so when supported as leaders, they can be more disruptive of corrupt cultures and therefore have greater transformative impact in forming cultures without corruption.
We afford recipients financial freedom.	The financial aspect of our award offsets the personal and professional costs of opposing corruption, increasing recipients' capacity to act independently.	Women often face greater economic dependence and diminished access to resources. In these circumstances, our unrestricted award provides them with greater freedom, autonomy, and capacity to act.
We augment recipients' political influence.	The recognition and visibility we provide recipients convert moral authority into legitimacy, political influence, and access to decision-makers.	In patriarchal contexts, women are afforded less political authority and access to decision-making. Our public recognition may therefore be able to provide greater gains in legitimacy, influence and network access when conferred on women, enabling them to challenge corrupt power while advancing equality.
We use visibility to protect our recipients.	By providing recipients with public recognition, we raise the political and reputational cost of retaliation against them, increasing their capacity to continue opposing corruption.	Women opposing corruption can face heightened and gender-specific risks, so visibility combined with support can provide a stronger relative protective effect for women. This benefit depends on circumstances, so informed consent is crucial.
We facilitate network access.	Connecting recipients to local, regional and global networks strengthens collaboration, learning, psychological solidarity and coordinated action against corruption.	Women are often excluded from formal and informal networks. Connecting women laureates with trusted peers, allies and decision-makers can accelerate access to expertise, solidarity, collaborative opportunities and the relationships needed to sustain political change.
We challenge cultures of gender exclusion.	Recognizing women as leaders challenges restrictive gender norms and increases the legitimacy and participation of women in public life.	Our work is a meaningful mechanism for offsetting gender inequalities and for building cultures without corruption. Awarding at least half of our prizes to women reinforces these commitments, increasing the influence of women in the struggle against corruption.
We support laureates' physical, psychological, emotional and social wellbeing.	Anti-corruption leaders often face sustained stress, trauma, threats, and isolation. Supporting their wellbeing strengthens resilience and helps sustain their leadership over the long term.	Women opposing corruption often face gender-specific pressures, including harassment, sexual violence, threats to family members, and isolation. Responsive support for their physical, psychological and social wellbeing can help protect their resilience and sustain their leadership.

OUR CORE OBJECTIVE: INSPIRE CITIZENS

Our Initiatives	Rationale for Our Initiatives	A Gender Perspective
We tell powerful stories of courage to inspire emulation.	Storytelling humanizes corruption, inspires emulation, and mobilizes citizens to act. Our focus on courage highlights the issue's moral and political urgency, grounds our storytelling, and enables us to identify committed reformers for our networks.	Stories of women resisting corruption challenge expectations of silence and passivity, demonstrate women's agency and encourage other women to act. They also make women's distinctive experiences of corruption and contributions to reform visible to wider audiences.
We tell success stories to highlight the possibility of change.	By making videos that tell success stories about initiatives that undermined corruption, we challenge learned helplessness about corruption by showing that the problem can be reduced and that change is achievable.	Success stories about women leaders confronting corruption challenge assumptions about who can confront corruption and achieve change. Visible examples of women's victories can expand ambitions, build confidence and encourage women and girls to participate in public life to bring about reform.
We tell stories that expose the causes and effects of corruption to underline the urgency of the problem.	Demonstrating the real-world causes and consequences of corruption undermines the ubiquitous perception that corruption is a victimless crime, increasing public understanding of the issue and the urgency of initiatives to alleviate it.	Corruption disproportionately harms women and girls, including through unequal access to services, opportunities and resources. Telling these stories makes the underlying harms visible, challenges the idea that corruption is victimless and strengthens public support for responses attentive to women's experiences.

OUR CORE OBJECTIVE: SHOWCASE LEADING THINKING

Our Initiatives	Rationale for Our Initiatives	A Gender Perspective
We broadcast leading thinking about corruption.	Disseminating research and analysis improves policy, strategy, and public understanding. It also promotes principled action that is more likely to be effective in addressing corruption.	Broadcasting women's research, analysis and experience counters their underrepresentation in shaping anti-corruption policy. Greater visibility increases women's influence and helps ensure that their priorities inform how corruption is understood and addressed.
We elevate diverse expert voices about corruption.	Including multiple perspectives on corruption produces more robust, context-sensitive strategies that are better equipped to address complex corruption challenges.	Women are often excluded from decision-making about corruption. Elevating their expertise challenges biases in what counts as evidence of corruption, how corruption is defined and measured, and which solutions are pursued, producing more informed and effective responses.
We bring leading ideas about corruption to the public.	Translating research into accessible formats ensures wider uptake, allowing ideas to shape public understanding and influence behavior beyond expert communities.	Making women's insights accessible to wider audiences strengthens recognition of their expertise, normalizes women as authoritative voices in public debate and expands their capacity to influence policy, public opinion and collective action on corruption.
We create platforms for local, regional and global dialogue about corruption.	Bringing a diverse set of thinkers together to dialogue about corruption fosters innovation, exchange of ideas, and cross-pollination across disciplines and regions.	Our forums expand women's access to intellectual and political networks, providing them with opportunities not merely to participate but also to frame problems, set agendas and shape the anti-corruption strategies that emerge from local and global dialogue.
We shape public narratives around the corruption crisis.	Framing corruption influences policy agendas, public priorities, and the strategies used to address the problem. We adopt a multidimensional approach to public dissemination that achieves these ends.	Highlighting the gendered causes and consequences of corruption makes women's experiences central to public understanding of the problem. This can change public priorities, strengthen the case for gender-responsive reforms and legitimize women's leadership in addressing corruption.

OUR CORE OBJECTIVE: CURATE A MOVEMENT

Our Initiatives	Rationale for Our Initiatives	A Gender Perspective
We convene key actors working on corruption.	Bringing stakeholders together reduces fragmentation and strengthens collective action by aligning efforts across sectors and geographies.	Bringing women into influential convenings about corruption expands their access to decision-makers, helps shape collective agendas and challenges exclusionary practices that can reinforce corrupt power.
We coordinate across organizations focused on corruption.	Alignment within a coalition of actors working on corruption increases efficiency, reduces duplication, allows for divisions of labour and amplifies the overall impact of anti-corruption initiatives.	Integrating women-led initiatives can increase their reach, resources and credibility. Giving women-led organizations influence over shared priorities also helps ensure that collective efforts incorporate gender-responsive strategies.
We build trusted networks for advocates about corruption.	Strong relationships among anti-corruption advocates enable collaboration, information sharing, and mutual support, which are essential for sustained systemic change.	Women often lack access to trusted power networks, so their participation in our collectivization initiatives likely generates disproportionately large gains in influence, opportunity, and long-term positioning within systems of power and decision-making.
We enable safe collaboration spaces for collective action against corruption.	Secure environments allow actors to share openly, build trust, and plan effectively, particularly in high-risk contexts.	Women facing gender-specific risks benefit more from safe and trusted spaces, making collaboration more viable, increasing participation, and enabling more sustained and impactful engagement in anti-corruption movements.