



# *Coalition of Feminists for Social Change*

Our Work  
2018-2020





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# WHO WE ARE

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The Coalition of Feminists for Social Change (COFEM) is an advocacy collective of thought leaders, activists, practitioners and academics working globally to end violence against women and girls (VAWG) in humanitarian and development settings.

Through our network, launched in 2017, COFEM is building a community and fostering collective action that promotes intersectional feminist analyses

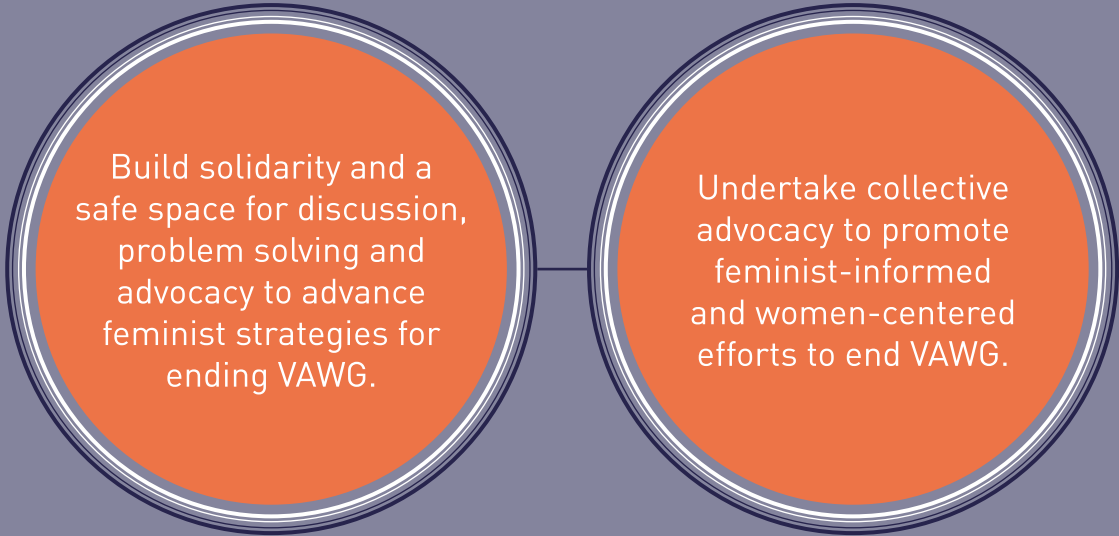
and women-centered approaches in all efforts to prevent and respond to VAWG in development and humanitarian settings globally.

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## COFEM'S OBJECTIVES

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Build solidarity and a safe space for discussion, problem solving and advocacy to advance feminist strategies for ending VAWG.

Undertake collective advocacy to promote feminist-informed and women-centered efforts to end VAWG.

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# COFEM'S ADVOCACY & ACTION AGENDA

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COFEM has several core concerns that drive our advocacy. We are committed to ensuring:

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1

Women and girl-led movements and activism are at the forefront of efforts to end VAWG and this is reflected in GBV initiatives, programmes and research.

2

Feminist experts working to address VAWG are engaged in national, regional and global decision-making processes around GBV funding, policy, programming and research.

3

Men and boys are engaged in work to end VAWG in ways that are accountable to women and girls and support structural change to achieve gender equality.

4

The language of 'gender' as well as 'gender-based violence' focuses on the political project of ending structural gender inequalities that perpetuate VAWG.

5

Practitioners, researchers, donors and policy-makers recognize the distinct drivers and impacts of VAWG and insist on specialized programming, services and responses to address this violence and support gender equality.

6

Partnerships are formed with those working to end other forms of violence to cultivate collective action rather than 'victimhood competition.'

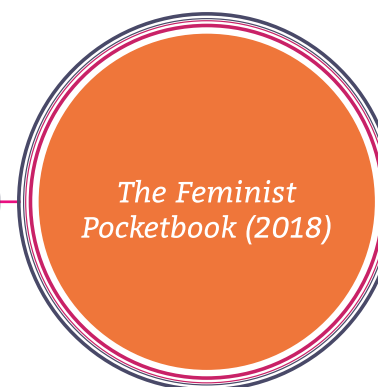
# COFEM'S ADVOCACY RESOURCES

COFEM is fostering feminist-informed discourse by producing and sharing knowledge products, educational materials and advocacy tools with donors, humanitarian and development practitioners, policy-makers, researchers and students. Examples include:



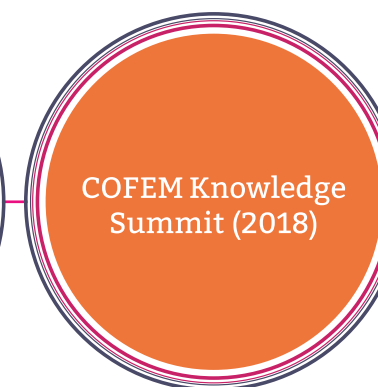
This collection of five papers and accompanying video interviews articulates concerns about the shrinking space for feminist analysis in GBV-related work in development and humanitarian settings, and action needed to address those concerns.

<https://cofemsocialchange.org/learning-advocacy-tools/cofem-svri-paper-video-series/>



The *Feminist Pocketbook* consists of 10 'tip sheets' related to critical topics on addressing VAWG in humanitarian and development settings.

<https://cofemsocialchange.org/feminist-pocketbook/>



Over the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence in 2018, COFEM hosted an online 'Knowledge Summit' where leading VAWG experts discussed critical issues on VAWG with participants from across the world.

<https://cofemsocialchange.org/initiatives-events/vawg-knowledge-summit/>

*"I just finished the first [Knowledge Summit] session. I am just touched to my core by [the] presentation. I am a humanitarian gender adviser, and feel this loneliness and feel exhausted and tired of holding up the feminist bastion. I feel my work does get further if I use the kind of 'collaborative' language, working on 'partnership between women and men' when I actually want to speak about transformative, women's and girl's rights, women-centered approaches. Thank you for the inspiration."*

~Knowledge Summit participant, December 2018

# COFEM'S GROWING INFLUENCE

Feminist  
movement  
building and  
partnerships

COFEM membership has more than doubled since starting, now with over 200 members and growing.

Many individuals and women-led civil society organisations around the world have reached out to COFEM to collaborate, and express appreciation for COFEM's strong voice in calling for greater accountability and the centering of feminist perspectives in work to address VAWG.

COFEM is partnering with allied organisations around the world to advocate for feminist-informed, women-centred efforts to end VAWG. Recent partnerships include: social media campaigns with the GBV Prevention Network; presentations on our *Feminist Pocketbook* Tip Sheets with the Arab Institute for Women, the Global Women's Institute, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health and VOICE; joint advocacy with Salamander Trust, Raising Voices and the Center for Domestic Violence Prevention.

*"Being part of COFEM has empowered me and strengthened me to fight until the end in any discussion that I have, whether in a meeting, focus group or workshop to ensure that GBV refocuses on women and girls. This comes from the support of the great feminists in COFEM and COFEM's learning and advocacy tools. The Feminist Pocketbook helped me understand feminist approaches to addressing violence against women and girls and it has erased any vague concepts that I had."*

~ COFEM member, February 2018

Supporting COFEM  
members to speak  
up and speak out

COFEM supports its members through regular outreach, meetings and learning events, as well as by sharing advocacy and training tools and other resources.

Through largely volunteer efforts, COFEM members have:

- produced and presented papers at SVRI Forum 2017;
- written and launched the *Feminist Pocketbook*;
- presented in critical spaces such as the Stockholm Forum on Gender Equality (2017), the Gender Standby Capacity Project (GenCap annual meeting (2018), CSW63, the *Managing GBV in Emergencies Training Course* (2018, 2019) and more.

*"Thank you for this very useful set of papers. These and the recent discussion in this forum on the engagement of men in the VAWG movement have really helped me think through some of my positions as an individual. I've so far been a big advocate of involving men and boys, but am realizing that perhaps that advocacy has been somewhat glib and that there's a need to view critically the rationale and evidence for this, as well as its method. Many thanks to all on this forum who share points of view so openly – it helps many of us, even those who don't write in regularly."*

~ MenEngage Alliance member, October 2017

### Influencing conversations

- COFEM's *Feminist Perspectives on Addressing Violence against Women and Girls* Paper Series was one of the key highlights of the 2017 SVRI Forum.
- The Paper Series has been instrumental in generating discussion on accountability within the MenEngage Alliance, in online forums and at the Global Accountability Dialogue during CSW62.
- COFEM members spoke about the *Feminist Pocketbook* at a panel organised by the Society for Gender Professionals in 2018.
- Raising Voices is using the SVRI paper series and the *Feminist Pocketbook* to stimulate discussions on feminist approaches to ending VAWG.
- COFEM is participating in the Global Advisory Group for Norwegian Church Aid's Global Review on Engaging Men and Boys through GBV programming.
- COFEM is participating in many events throughout 2019 and beyond:
  - CSW 63
  - Ending Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Crises Conference
  - Women Deliver
  - 2019 SVRI Forum
  - Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative Conference
  - Nairobi Summit on ICPD25
  - CSW64 / Beijing +25

# LOOKING AHEAD

Continue to build solidarity and a safe space for feminist activists, practitioners and researchers to reflect, discuss and collectively strategize how to address challenges to our work.

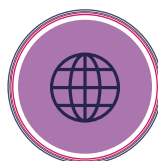
Build our regional engagement and, in particular, continue to develop partnerships with feminist networks and individuals in the Global South.

Undertake research to build knowledge and evidence about feminist and women-centred work to end VAWG.

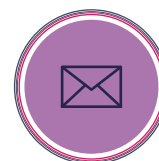
Continue to advocate for feminist and women-centred efforts to end VAWG and support allies around the world.

Share COFEM learning tools at local, regional and international events. Look out for us!

*To learn more about COFEM, inquire about membership or support our work, please visit us online or contact us via the email address provided below.*



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# GET IN TOUCH