



**WHAT COLLECTIVE**

**POWER LOOKS**

**LIKE**



**JASS**  
JUST POWER

# JASS STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2018–2021

## BUILDING POWER

Raising awareness,  
sense of self and  
liberation

- Cross-movement contextual and power analysis
- Feminist popular education
- Movement and collective leadership
- Collective wellbeing and safety

## ORGANIZING & MOBILIZING POWER

Amplifying women's  
leadership & feminist  
perspectives across  
movements

- Fresh solutions and demands
- Long-term political strategies and big vision
- Smart and safer organizing tactics
- Cross-movement and cross-border alliances
- Local to global coordination and action
- Mobilization and outreach

## TRANSFORMING POWER

Impacting policies,  
ideas and funding  
about equality,  
movement building  
and gender justice on:

- Protection/self-defense of WHRDs and movements
- Defense of land, water and life
- Economic justice, democracy and feminist alternatives
- Health, wellbeing and sexuality

*Power for Voice.Resources.Bodies.Safety*



*When you use collective power effectively, it enables you to engage duty bearers and you do not fear. It empowers you when you are talking and you feel that there is nothing to hinder you.”*

**Tiwonge Gondwe, HIV+ woman activist from Malawi**

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**What does it take to create change** in this crucial moment when the world is shifting in both predictable and unexpected ways? Among the many strategies for change, one remains true: **we can only create lasting change together**. Without a doubt, it takes personal courage to speak up and challenge injustice, but progress depends on our collective power much more so than on individual empowerment. In fact, **the collective solidarity we feel from supporting each other is essential to being brave enough to cross the line**.

JASS works in partnership with local activists and organizations to solve issues of inequality and violence through community organizing and network building. We seek to connect new communities of activists that sustain and support women leaders and their families, and build local and global networks that amplify their voices for justice and serve as a safety net against violence. This is the key to sustaining hope and resisting injustice.

In this booklet, we spotlight four extraordinary networks that we have helped to build, accompany, and sustain. They are tackling some of the most pressing problems of our time—from violence against women and discrimination against the LGBT community, to defending land, water, and the environment. Each of their stories demonstrates the multifaceted nature of organizing for change. You will learn not only what women confront in hostile contexts, but also how they courageously respond with creative strategies that account for their safety and offer alternative solutions that support entire communities.

20-21 OCTOBER, 2012

MINERELA



# Malawi: Our Bodies, Our Lives

HIV-positive women are boldly organizing for equal treatment and healthcare for themselves and all living with HIV in Malawi. Their campaign, *Our Bodies, Our Lives* (OBOL), took shape through JASS' ongoing feminist movement-building process and accompaniment with our partners – a progressive faith-based network, the Malawi Network of Religious Leaders Living with or Personally Affected by HIV and AIDS, and the Coalition of Malawian Women Living with HIV/AIDS. This grassroots campaign upended stigma, lifted taboos about sex and sexuality, and reversed discriminatory treatment policies at the national level, placing HIV-positive women in the leadership of transformative health solutions for all. Today, the women of OBOL continue to be an unstoppable citizen force taking on land inheritance, LGBT rights, and fair treatment of sex workers.

**6500+**  
strong  
grassroots  
campaign in  
**27** districts

Launched  
**treatment  
literacy**  
effort that helps  
everyone to  
understand how to  
stay healthy living  
with HIV

**Replaced  
outdated HIV  
medicines**  
that caused painful  
side effects

Sustained  
**Advocacy**  
that holds local  
government and  
clinics accountable

ETEN MILITAR



POR SU SEGURIDAD



# Mesoamerican Women Human Rights Defenders Initiative

The Mesoamerican Women Human Rights Defenders Initiative (IMD) is a political alliance that strengthens and mobilizes women human rights defenders (WHRDs) in the increasingly violent contexts of Mexico and Central America (Mesoamerica). IMD keeps women activists safe, both physically and emotionally, so that they can continue defending human rights and justice for all. The Initiative's power comes from its pioneering contributions to the field of WHRD protection at regional and global levels, in particular, its cutting-edge holistic model to activist safety that combines a gender perspective to attacks and responses, advocacy and self-care.

## Co-founded/co-led by

6 regional and international groups:

JASS Mesoamerica, Consorcio, Oaxaca, AWID, UDEFEGUA, La Colectiva Feminista and The Central American Women's Fund

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# 950

lesbian and transgender activists, indigenous and rural women, and women journalists

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# 5

national women defenders networks in Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Guatemala

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## Award Winner

2014 recipient of the Letelier-Moffit International Human Rights Award

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## Pioneered a Registry

of attacks against WHRDs in Mesoamerica

 **JASS**  
Johor Anti Rape Squad

**CAUTION**  
WOMEN  
CROSSING  
THE LINE



**one fight  
one voice  
against rape:  
Defend our Sisters**

# Indonesian Young Women Activists: Safe Space, Solidarity, Power

Our powerful sister organization, the Young Women Activists' Forum of Indonesia (FAMM-Indonesia) brings together women activists who are putting their lives at risk to defend natural resources, the environment and LGBT and reproductive rights in a risky context. Drawing on JASS' movement-building tools and expertise, these women are developing underground strategies that challenge social norms about sex, sexuality, and discrimination, while finding effective ways to influence decision-makers. FAMM has turned the creation of *safe spaces* and shared sense of mutual acceptance, trust, and 'home' into a political strategy for collective power and safety.

## 350+ member

young women's network of LGBTI, Muslim, rural and indigenous women across 30 Indonesian provinces

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### Safe spaces

for finding common ground, training and tools

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### Urgent action

and alert system to activate support for activists under threat



# Alquimia: Activating Indigenous and Rural Women's Leadership

Alquimia is a feminist leadership school for rural, indigenous, and *mestiza* women activists in Mesoamerica that supports strengthened resistance strategies and collaboration so women are both more powerful and safer in the face of violence. Alquimia first launched in 2010 with a course for 22 carefully-selected indigenous and rural women from Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, Panama, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. Since then, the initiative has provided workshops and follow-up accompaniment at the community and national level, aimed at strengthening individual and collective leadership and organizing strategies from a feminist lens. Alquimia's methodology begins with recognizing the power, knowledge, and histories of those in the room. By building a foundation in which participants engage with both their unique and shared experiences, Alquimia leads participants to dissect the power and violence operating in their lives

– from their communities and families to the political, economic, and social realities of their countries and regions at large. Learning from one another is critical to the new information and ideas that are shared. The initiative has given birth to the **Mesoamerican Indigenous, Rural, and Mestiza Women's Alliance**, which provides mutual support to members and collaborates with JASS Mesoamerica to adapt the training and leadership support at country level.

Alquimia's innovation stems from its emphasis on building a sisterhood grounded in the indigenous practices of women, supported by power analysis and feminist organizing tools and strategies. This leadership training has been essential to building stronger networks of activists whose power multiplies through collective action. Crucial to that collective action is the radical notion of self-care as an essential tool for collective political strategy.

# WE HAVE A BIGGER STORY TO TELL.

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