



US Southeast Strategy



Southerners on New Ground/Elainiel Baldwin



REGIONAL LANDSCAPE

Historically, the US Southeast has been characterized by both extreme poverty and oppression and formidable movements for liberation. It is a region marked by slavery and Jim Crow, and the birthplace of the Civil Rights Movement. While women of color have suffered the worst consequences of repression in the region, from Harriet Tubman to Ida B. Wells to Ella Baker, they have also led its homegrown struggles for justice. Today, a new generation of visionary activists are leading innovative, intersectional, grassroots movements across the US Southeast.

Poverty remains entrenched in the region, which is also home to the prison capital of the world: Louisiana. Although reproductive freedom and basic human rights for LGBTQI people are under attack in state legislatures, funding for women's rights and LGBTQI rights primarily goes to organizations in the Northeast and on the West Coast. Southern women, girls, and LGBTQI activists of color are engaged in transformative work, but they are often overlooked by national funders and marginalized within many social justice movements.



APPROACH

Inspired by Southern activism, past and present, we are committed to supporting the ecosystem of transformative movements across the US Southeast that advance the human rights of women, girls, and LGBTQI people. This includes organizations working on issues such as racial justice, worker's rights, reproductive justice, and immigrant rights.

We have prioritized building partnerships in Atlanta, Georgia, and New Orleans, Louisiana, two major cultural and political centers where alliances exist among a critical mass of likeminded groups. We support grassroots and regional organizations working locally across the US Southeast. We also fund a select group of national organizations and intermediaries that work in direct partnership with Southern-led organizations to strengthen existing movement infrastructure.



OBJECTIVES

Our US Southeast strategy aims to:

- Strengthen local, state, and regional organizations that take an intersectional and collaborative approach to building the infrastructure for women's rights and LGBTQI rights movements
- Build the capacities of organizations that advance the human rights of marginalized women, girls, and LGBTQI people in the US Southeast using strategies that include civic engagement, base building, and strengthening the leadership of women and LGBTQI people of color
- Invest in regional learning exchanges to share strategies and build networks
- Enable strategic communications approaches that elevate Southern voices to shift local, regional, and national narratives about women's rights and LGBTQI rights
- Increase philanthropic resources available to innovative, intersectional, grassroots organizations led by marginalized women, girls, and LGBTQI people in the region while bringing a gender justice lens to philanthropic discussions within and about the US Southeast



GRANTEE PARTNERS

9to5 Georgia

A Better Balance – Southern Office

BreakOUT!

Coalition of Immokalee Workers

Forward Together

Groundswell Fund

LGBTQ Racial Justice Fund

Mississippi Low-Income Child Care Initiative

National Advocates for Pregnant Women

National Domestic Workers Alliance

National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health

Racial Justice Action Center

Restaurant Opportunities Center of New Orleans

Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative

Southerners on New Ground

Tahirih Justice Center

US Human Rights Network

Women Engaged

Women with a Vision

MISSION

Poverty. Climate change. Access to justice.
Healthcare. Land rights. Migration.

There are no issues that don't touch the lives of
women, girls, and LGBTQI people.

And no one is better at creating solutions than
those most affected by the problems.

Foundation for a Just Society supports innovative,
intersectional, grassroots strategies that meet
immediate needs while igniting long-term,
structural change in communities and regions that
have been overlooked by philanthropy.

We support the entire ecosystem of transformative
movements — across issues and regions — by
following the lead of marginalized women, girls,
and LGBTQI people who catalyze change every
day in their communities and countries.

We share resources to strengthen the movements
that create a world where all people are valued
and lead self-determined lives.

For more information or to sign up for
our newsletter, please visit fjs.org.