

MADRE

Fall 2025

Fighting Injustice from the Ground Up—Together

speaks

Authoritarianism doesn't always announce itself with tanks in the streets. Often, it creeps into our daily lives disguised as "security," as militarized policing, as the silencing of women's voices. We see it in Afghanistan, where the Taliban have stripped women and girls of their most basic rights—barring them from school, from work, from even leaving their homes without a male escort. And we see it here at home, in communities where state violence and violence against women intertwine and where immigrants are afraid to leave their homes.

But here is what I know: authoritarianism can never fully erase people's power to resist. Across the globe, women are organizing in their neighborhoods, refugee camps, and villages to confront violence and plant seeds of peace. At MADRE, we partner with them to ensure that those seeds take root.

Funding this work is not charity—it's strategy. It's how we fight authoritarianism: by resourcing the very people building alternatives to it. When we provide long-term,

flexible support, we make it possible for women and their communities to withstand crises, to organize across borders, and to insist that their governments answer to them.

As repression spreads, our task is clear. We must stand with grassroots leaders, fund their resilience, and amplify their visions of peace and democracy. **Because the solutions to violence are already being built by those who live it—and when we invest in their leadership, we invest in a future where everyone belongs.**

Activism begins at the grassroots level, with people coming together to drive social change. Here, MADRE gathered women leaders from around the world to collaborate on strategies to make change.





With your investment, MADRE resources local leaders on the front lines in the fight for justice.

MADRE is resourcing the work of women activists in Sudan, like Zenab for Women in Development (Zenab), who are leading efforts to respond to one of the world's most severe humanitarian crises. As conflict continues to devastate the country, women and girls face the greatest burdens: they make up more than half of the 12 million people displaced inside and outside Sudan.

With 80% of hospitals in conflict areas closed, women lack access to maternal and reproductive health care, safe water, and even menstrual supplies. In response to this lack of medical care, MADRE

partner Zenab responded. Seeing pregnant women forced to walk for miles in conflict zones, sometimes giving birth on the side of the road, they worked with a youth group to transform a recreational center into a pop up maternity ward, providing a safe haven for hundreds of pregnant women to deliver their babies.

MADRE is channeling flexible, rapid-response funding directly to women-led organizations in Sudan and along its borders to sustain their lifesaving and rights-affirming work. These women activists are providing emergency food, water, and medical care; creating safe

spaces for displaced women and survivors of sexual violence; and documenting violations to advance justice. By resourcing local women's leadership and ensuring their inclusion in peace processes, MADRE is helping to build the foundations for recovery, accountability, and lasting solutions in Sudan.

1 in 4

women are at risk of
gender-based
violence in Sudan

SUPPORTING MIGRANTS ON THE US MEXICO BORDER AND THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA, IN THE MIDST OF THE DEPORTATION CRISIS

Current immigration enforcement policies are ripping families apart, and many immigrants have been deported to precarious conditions in the US Mexico borderlands. Both mass deportations and restrictions on asylum under the current administration have stranded thousands at the border. Migrant shelters throughout Mexico are overcrowded and families in crisis are forced to sleep outside, at prey to dangerous criminal groups and human trafficking. In both northern and southern Mexico, migrants—many of them women with young children, Indigenous, and/or LGBTQ+ people—are being harassed, detained, and subjected to racial profiling and extortion by heavily armed security forces.

MADRE is responding by resourcing partners in Mexico who are operating inclusive, dignified shelters for migrants, including

shelters with separate space for women and children and LGBTQ+ people – people all too often excluded from government programs. US cuts to foreign aid have devastated these local organizations that migrants depend on for safety, food, medical care, and dignity. But even in this climate of fear and shrinking resources, MADRE's partners are fighting back with courage.

MADRE partner Fondo Semillas is working alongside grassroots groups to fill the void. They are supporting emergency shelter, food, and legal and psychological support to people in transit. Organizations in Tijuana are expanding their mobile mental health programs and launching “communication labs” to amplify migrants’ voices and advocate for change. Shelters in Mexico City specifically for members of the

LGBTQ+ community are serving increasing numbers of LGBTQ+ migrants due to increasing hate speech threatening their safety, even with half the staff due to cuts in international aid. Midwives and medical volunteers are providing prenatal care and medical care for newborns on the border to families traveling from as far as Haiti and Colombia.

Amid militarization, scarcity, and discrimination, these efforts are lifelines of care and resistance. With your support, MADRE and our partners are ensuring that those forced to migrate find not only protection—but also community, hope, and the means to rebuild their lives.



Migrants share their experiences and support each other in a healing circle at a central Mexico shelter supported by MADRE partners.

MADRE

Responds with
a Roadmap to
PEACE

MADRE is responding to authoritarianism at home and abroad by uplifting solutions created by women leaders from around the world. MADRE, as part of the Feminist Peace Initiative, introduced the *Feminist Peace Playbook*, a visionary roadmap transforming US foreign policy toward peace, justice, and care.

Why It Matters

- From war and militarism to climate collapse, communities face escalating crises.
- Women, children, and marginalized people are not just victims—they are frontline leaders advancing peace, justice, and care.
- *The Feminist Playbook* offers practical steps to move away from endless war and toward sustainable peace rooted in feminist values.



MADRE advances these principles every day—through humanitarian aid, long-term partnerships, and advocacy that re-imagines peace from the ground up.

Thank you for your partnership.

Invest in
PEACE.
Invest in
MADRE.

Illinois Rep.
Delia Ramirez
speaking at the
launch of the
*Feminist Peace
Playbook* at the
US Capitol.

