



CIFC

CORSTON INDEPENDENT
FUNDERS' COALITION

FUNDING WOMEN'S ACCESS TO JUSTICE:
THE CORSTON INDEPENDENT FUNDERS'
COALITION 2021 - 2024

**Enabling justice for
women and girls**

FUNDING WOMEN'S ACCESS TO JUSTICE: THE CORSTON INDEPENDENT FUNDERS' COALITION 2021- 2024

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1. INTRODUCTION, SCOPE, AND AIMS OF THIS DOCUMENT

1.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE CORSTON INDEPENDENT FUNDERS' COALITION (CIFC)

The Corston Independent Funders' Coalition (CIFC) is a collaboration of grant-making trusts and foundations who originally coalesced around the publication of the 2007 Corston Report to press for the full implementation of its recommendations. In March 2006, Baroness Corston had been asked by the Home Office to conduct a review of *'women in the criminal justice system who have particular vulnerabilities'*, prompted by the tragic suicides of six women at HMP Styal. Her resulting report – The Corston Report¹ – and its recommendations were framed by her belief that *"it is timely to bring about a radical change in the way we treat women throughout the whole of the criminal justice system, and this must include not just those who offend but also those at risk of offending. This will require a radical new approach, treating women both holistically and individually – a woman-centred approach."*

The CIFC has had various iterations and members since its formation in 2008.

From 2008-12 it collaborated with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ's) Women's Policy Team to set up and run the £5.2 million pooled public sector and independent funders' fund – the Women's Diversionary Fund (WDF). The focus of the WDF was to enable a well-funded nationwide network of women's centres which had the mandate to support justice-impacted women and also women 'at risk' of involvement in the justice system² – the recommendation at the heart of the Corston report.

Since 2012, the CIFC has not had pooled funds, but various members have collaborated in a range of partnerships to support work and organisations that are core to the realisation of the Corston vision, which remains as relevant today as it was almost 20 years ago. For example, in 2015, several members financially supported the establishment of Agenda Alliance³ – an alliance of 100+ members with a focus on how intervening early for women and girls with multiple unmet needs can stop problems escalating, end cycles of trauma and harm, and enable all women and girls to thrive. And in 2019, several members contributed to seed fund the establishment of the National Women's Justice Coalition⁴ – an alliance of 26 women's organisations from across England and Wales that shares a collective mission to drive systemic change to reduce the stigmatisation of women and girls in contact with the criminal justice system and improve outcomes for them.

Changes in the CIFC's most active and longstanding personnel in 2023 triggered a member review of the Coalition's purpose and future potential, with the resulting adoption in June

¹<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20130206102659/http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/corston-report-march-2007.pdf>

² For ease of reading, this report shortens 'justice impacted or at-risk of involvement in the justice system' to 'justice-impacted or at-risk'.

³ <http://www.agendaalliance.org>

⁴ <https://wearenwjc.org.uk/>

2024 of a revised Statement of Purpose.⁵ A new part-time role – Coalition Development Manager – was also funded by The JABBS Foundation for Women and Girls (JABBS) and the Barrow Cadbury Trust for two years from October 2023 to help reinvigorate the CIFC and operationalise the new Statement of Purpose. As part of that process, members decided that it would be useful to map their recent and current grant-making to develop a stronger sense of their funding ecosystem and to provide opportunities for improved collaboration and impact, hence this document, which has three aims and three key audiences:

- CIFC – to support the Coalition to make strategic decisions about how we work collectively (whilst providing useful insights into the funding landscape for individual organisations involved in CIFC and their place within it).
- Women and girls’ organisations – to provide transparency and help further conversations about our combined funding.
- Other funders – to generate questions, challenges, ideas, and routes to explore with independent and other funders more widely.

During this re-development phase, the Coalition has engaged in some co-funding – £1.97 million – to support strategic alliances and initiatives, and to scale best practice:

- Howard League for Penal Reform: Production of a review exploring public opinion on prisons and sentencing, with a view to informing the Independent Sentencing Review, and dissemination of the review’s findings to key audiences – £80k co-funded by The Bromley Trust, Henry Smith Foundation, Treebeard Trust.
- Prison Reform Trust: Resetting the approach to women's imprisonment – a solution orientated initiative looking at the barriers and challenges to significantly reducing the women’s prison population, including what can be learned from the Youth Custody Estate – £60k co-funded by Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Triangle Trust 1949 Fund, JABBS.
- Agenda Alliance: A fundraiser to enable the CEO and Deputy CEO of this key sector network to focus on strategic direction and vision including in relation to key government priority to reduce violence against women and girls (VAWG) by 50% and reduce school exclusions – £40k funded by JABBS.
- Agenda Alliance: A strategic grant to pull together the evidence base and build a strong coalition of voices on school exclusions, absenteeism, and suspensions – including specialist organisations and girls and young women with lived experience – to create a compelling shared vision and campaign for better gender, trauma, and culturally responsive support for girls at risk of exclusion – £103,372 funded by Triangle Trust 1949 Fund.
- National Women’s Justice Coalition: Match funding core cost grants to secure the Director of Strategic Development post and for scoping/co-designing a strategic influencing programme with by/for partners for this key women's specialist service alliance – £105,458k funded by Barrow Cadbury Trust and JABBS.
- In August 2025, JABBS and the Henry Smith Foundation announced a new £3 million agreement to expand the Effective Women’s Centre Partnership made possible by the Henry Smith Foundation providing £1.5 million of matched funding for JABBS’ existing funding. The partnership, established by JABBS in 2023, is building the evidence base

⁵ www.funderscollaborativehub.org.uk/collaborations/corston-independent-funders-coalition

for the effectiveness of Women's Centres as an alternative to custodial sentences in reducing reoffending, interrupting pathways into the criminal justice system, and addressing the needs of women facing disadvantage.

- CIFC members and friends are also currently in discussion with the seven coalition partners of the Women + Remand initiative, convened by CIFC member Firebird Foundation, to see how they could best support their work to end the unjust and unsafe imprisonment of women whilst awaiting trial or sentencing. Firebird Foundation has already committed £400k to this work and CIFC friend, AB Charitable Trust, has allocated £90k.

The CIFC neither currently has a pooled fund nor a plan to develop one. Given this, and as part of our wider strategy development process, we're working out what more open and equitable access to our co-funding opportunities might look like in the future and how we might achieve that.

Current CIFC Members

The Allen Lane Foundation, Barrow Cadbury Trust, The Bromley Trust, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Firebird Foundation, Henry Smith Foundation, The JABBS Foundation for Women and Girls, Liz Hogarth (Independent), Treebeard Trust, and Triangle Trust 1949 Fund.

Current CIFC Friends

A B Charitable Trust, The Bishop Radford Trust, The Kurt and Magda Stern Foundation, National Lottery Community Fund, and The Robertson Trust.

Further information about the CIFC can be found at:

www.funderscollaborativehub.org.uk/collaborations/corston-independent-funders-coalition

1.2 SCOPE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This report collates, presents, and provides top level commentary on CIFC member grant data from 2021 to February 2025.⁶ Grant data of CIFC Friends is not included in the mapping, but a summary of our Friends' funding programmes is – see Appendix 3.

Grant data is organised by year in five blocks as follows, grants for:

BLOCK 1: women and criminal justice (WCJ); and girls, young women and criminal justice (GYWCJ)

BLOCK 2: women and girls' rights (WGR) which are broader than CJ, including: combatting violence against women and girls (VAWG); domestic abuse (DA); sexual abuse (SA); and sex work, trafficking, and modern slavery (SWTMS)

BLOCK 3: criminal justice reform (CJR) not gender specific, including parental imprisonment

⁶ One exception to this is that data from Triangle Trust's 1949 March 2025 round of grants is included as the Triangle Trust only makes grants twice a year and their new grant stream for justice-impacted and at-risk girls and young women is of key importance to the funding landscape.

BLOCK 4: criminal justice services (CJS) not gender specific

BLOCK 5: family support and family justice (FS/FJ)

The thinking behind using these five blocks to organise the grant data is that, whilst the central focus around which the CIFC collaborates is women, girls and criminal justice (Block 1), our members understand the broader context within which this work sits - namely, how women and girls with unmet needs⁷ are failed by unjust systems that perpetuate cycles of trauma and harm. As such, many of our members, in addition to funding work linked to justice-impacted or at-risk women and girls, also fund across women and girls' rights more broadly (Block 2), broader criminal justice reform (Block 3) and services (Block 4), as well as early help for families and family justice (Block 5).

Many members fund beyond the issues captured in these five blocks and, indeed, on issues that intersect with CIFC's core mission – for example, climate, migration, racial justice, human rights, and poverty. However, to maintain a focus on CIFC's core mission, this data is not included in this report.

Grant data for the Coalition's core focus, Block 1, is further analysed by:

- the kind of activity it supports, such as core/unrestricted, service delivery, influencing.
- stage of the criminal justice process, such as early intervention, prevention, community sentences.
- other features of type of funding, such as whether members have specific geographic focuses, whether their grants are invitation only.⁸

Further detail about the methodology used and the definition of what is included under each of these blocks is provided in the methodology section below.

The key findings from the grant data are presented in Section 3. The full tables of the grant data are provided in Appendix 1.

For those who would like more context for the grant data, two appendices are provided:

- Appendix 2: Framing the crisis – this provides headline detail on the histories of trauma and abuse that the vast majority of justice-impacted and/or at-risk women and girls carry. It then provides the headline findings from key research reports on the funding

⁷ This report uses the term 'unmet needs' as it's the term that women and girls, consulted with by Agenda Alliance, would like their needs to be referred to as. These needs are often multiple, complex, or overlapping - for example, a woman without a home will more than likely also have other forms of disadvantage or trauma, such as mental health problems, abuse, experience of being in prison. If the woman also then identifies as having a 'protected characteristic' (for example, disability, race, religion) she is also likely to experience further disadvantage and therefore will have needs that overlap and should be met. For more information about the relationship between severity and complexity of need see page 11 <https://jabbswomenandgirls.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Research-Summaries-.pdf>

⁸ This more in-depth analysis is only provided for Block 1 to maintain a focus on the core mission of the CIFC.

of the women and girls' sector, which lay out the state of crisis and inequity of access to funding that women and girls' organisations are operating in.

- Appendix 3: Headline information about current, relevant CIFC member and friend grant programmes.

1.3 AIMS

We have three aims, each with a main audience in mind:

- CIFC – to support the Coalition to make strategic decisions about how we work collectively (whilst providing useful insights into the funding landscape for individual organisations involved in CIFC and their place within it).
- Women and girls' organisations – to provide transparency and help further conversations about our combined funding.
- Other funders – to generate questions, challenges, ideas, and routes to explore with independent and other funders more widely.

In Section 4 Next Steps, the report provides information under each of these aims in relation to what the CIFC is exploring and/or would like to talk to others about, as well as wider next steps for this work.

Whilst we hope this report will be useful to fundraisers, it is not intended to be a comprehensive account of the funding streams available for those working with justice-impacted or at-risk women and girls. The following organisations and resources provide useful insights into funding streams available:

- Clinks is the national infrastructure charity dedicated to supporting voluntary organisations working with people in the criminal justice system and their families and provides an overview of available funding for criminal justice work – <https://www.clinks.org/funding-and-income>.
- For organisations working more broadly with women and girls with unmet needs, the Charity Excellence online funding directory is free to access – www.charityexcellence.co.uk/free-grant-funding-finder-directory.
- CIFC member Esmée Fairbairn Foundation also provides a list of funding directories on its website – <https://esmeefairbairn.org.uk/applications/other-sources-funding-help/>

2 METHODOLOGY

This report provides information about CIFC members' collated grant data for 2021 to end February 2025. The individual grant data for all CIFC members, other than JABBS, is available on 360 Giving.⁹ JABBS is planning to add its data to 360 Giving as part of future organisational development. For now, details of key projects and grants can be found on its website.¹⁰

⁹ <http://www.360giving.org>

¹⁰ <https://jabbswomenandgirls.org.uk/projects>

The coding system – detailed in the tables below – was created inductively with the aim of best illustrating how CIFC member grants collectively fit together and relates to our core focus of justice-impacted or at-risk women and girls. This means that some data is described differently to how it is categorised by or described in the grant programmes of individual members. For example, a Coalition member might have a grant programme or priority called ‘Children and Young People’s Rights.’ Some grants from that programme or priority that are linked to the Coalition’s core mission will have been included in the data but perhaps coded as *criminal justice reform young people or girls’ and young women’s rights* - depending on their focus. In creating the coding system, it became apparent that members have different ways of framing and describing their work, particularly their work linked to combatting violence against women and girls (VAWG). Some use VAWG as an overarching term while others, for example, differentiate funding for domestic abuse (DA) and for sexual abuse (SA). Additionally, some CIFC members fund work with perpetrators of VAWG and others do not. In general, members recognise that this kind of collective coding is an art and not a science and would welcome feedback on improvements for future iterations.

As mentioned in Section 1.2 above, more detail about how each CIFC member and friend individually frames their approach to funding justice-impacted or at-risk women and girls is provided in Appendix 3.

Acronyms used in the tables below:

W	women
CJ	criminal justice
WCJ	women and criminal justice
G	girls
YW	young women, defined variously by members as between 18 and 30 years ¹¹
GYW	girls and young women
GYWCJ	girls, young women and criminal justice
WR	women's rights
GYWR	girls' and young women's rights
VAWG	violence against women and girls
DA	domestic abuse
SA	sexual abuse

¹¹ Barrow Cadbury Trust and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation define young people as 18-25 years and Triangle Trust 1949 as 18-30 years.

SWTMS	sex work, trafficking, and modern slavery
CJR	criminal justice reform
CJRYP	criminal justice reform for young people
PI	parental imprisonment
Y	youth
YCJ	youth criminal justice

Coding system

BLOCK 1: women and criminal justice (WCJ); and girls, young women and criminal justice (GYWCJ)

Code	Description
WCJ core	Unrestricted funding and/or funding for organisational development (e.g. for monitoring and evaluation, staff learning, infrastructure) for organisations working with justice-impacted or at-risk women.
WCJ projects	Restricted funding for a specific service or project dedicated to justice-impacted or at-risk women.
WCJ research	Restricted funding for research about justice-impacted or at-risk women.
WCJ influencing	Restricted ¹² funding for influencing related to women and criminal justice. This might include advocacy, policy work, campaigning, and narrative change.
All WCJ	Totals all four women and criminal justice codes.
GYWCJ core	Unrestricted funding and/or funding for organisational development (e.g. for monitoring and evaluation, staff learning, infrastructure) for organisations working with justice-impacted or at-risk girls and young women.
GYWCJ projects	Restricted funding for a specific service or project dedicated to justice-impacted or at-risk girls and young women.

¹² Some CIFC members give funding to support influencing as unrestricted funds. Where this is the case, it is noted in the relevant tables in Section 3 below.

GYWCJ research and influencing ¹³	Restricted ¹⁴ funding for research and/or influencing related to girls, young women and criminal justice. This might include advocacy, policy work, campaigning, and narrative change.
All GYWCJ	Totals all four girls, young women and criminal justice codes.

BLOCK 2: women and girls' rights (WGR) which are broader than CJ, including: combatting violence against women and girls (VAWG); domestic abuse (DA); sexual abuse (SA); and sex work, trafficking, and modern slavery (SWTMS)

Code	Description
WR	Funding (restricted and unrestricted) for work linked to women's rights which is broader than criminal justice – for example, to fund a project or organisation where women can access housing or welfare advice or to support organisations campaigning on women's economic rights.
GYWR	Funding (restricted and unrestricted) for work linked to girls' and young women's rights which is broader than criminal justice – for example, to fund a project or organisation where girls can access education or employment advice.
VAWG/DA/SA	Funding (restricted and unrestricted) for combatting all forms of violence against women and girls, notably, male violence against women and girls.
SWTMS	Funding (restricted and unrestricted) to support women affected by sex work, trafficking, and/or modern slavery.
All WGR (which are broader than CJ)	Totals all four women and girls' rights (broader than criminal justice) codes.

BLOCK 3: criminal justice reform (CJR) not gender specific, including parental imprisonment

Code	Description
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¹³ Funding for research and influencing has been combined for young women and girls on account of the size of the dataset.

¹⁴ See footnote 12 above.

CJR	Funding (restricted and unrestricted) for criminal justice reform that is broader than/not focused on women/girls/young women and criminal justice.
CJRYP	Funding (restricted and unrestricted) for criminal justice reform that is broader than/not focused on women/girls/young women and criminal justice and which relates to young people (defined as under 25).
PI	Funding (restricted and unrestricted) for all work focused on parental imprisonment and its impact.
All CJR (not gender specific)	Totals all three criminal justice reform codes.

BLOCK 4: criminal justice services (CJS) not gender specific

Code	Description
CJS	Funding (restricted and unrestricted) for criminal justice services that are broader than/not focused on women/girls/young women.
YCJS	Funding (restricted and unrestricted) for criminal justice services that are broader than/not focused on women/girls/young women and which relates to young people (defined as under 25).
All CJS (not gender specific)	Totals both criminal justice services codes.

BLOCK 5: family support and family justice (FS/FJ)

Code	Description
Family support (not gender or CJ specific)	Funding (restricted and unrestricted) for work that supports families under strain and that is not gender or criminal justice specific.
Family justice (not gender specific)	Funding (restricted and unrestricted) for work that seeks to secure justice for families who are on the edge of or already justice-impacted.
All FS/FJ (not gender or CJ specific)	Totals both family support and family justice codes.

Other things to note about the grant data:

- Funding for 2021 may include some grants allocated under extraordinary grant programmes responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Some members went through strategic reviews between 2021 and 2025, which impacted their grant giving, including in some cases their grant priorities.
- Multi-year grant funding is recorded as one sum in the year that the grant was approved.

3. MAPPING HEADLINE FINDINGS

The focus of this report, and therefore of these findings, is on understanding the Coalition's cumulative funding picture in relation to its core focus – justice-impacted or at-risk women and girls.

The Coalition is keen to acknowledge that other independent funders who are not currently in the CIFC, as well as statutory bodies at national, regional, and local levels, also provide important funding to support justice-impacted or at-risk women and girls. The CIFC funders are one part of the funding ecosystem.

As detailed in Section 4 - Next Steps below, Coalition members hope this document will be a useful tool for supporting broader conversations about the funding required to deliver the Corston vision. Such a conversation will require an in-depth understanding of the needs of justice-impacted or at-risk women and girls, the amount of money required to meet those needs, and the appropriate role of independent funders in supporting the delivery of public services.

The data for these findings is provided in Appendix 1.

3.1 FUNDING FOR WOMEN AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND GIRLS/YOUNG WOMEN AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE – TABLE 1 IN APPENDIX 1

- Between 2021 and 2024, **CIFC members have invested £15.5 million to support justice-impacted or at-risk women and girls.** Just over £13.6 million of this funding was to support justice-impacted or at-risk women and just under £1.9 million to support justice-impacted or at-risk girls and young women.
- £6.6 million of the Coalition's funding for women and CJ since 2021 came from The JABBS Foundation for Women and Girls (JABBS) for their Effective Women's Centres Partnership – a partnership with seven women's centres and the University of Birmingham. This project includes embedding the Women's Risk Needs Assessment (WRNA), a comprehensive needs and strengths assessment for criminal justice-impacted women, and evidencing the effectiveness of women's centres as an alternative to custodial sentences, in order to help realise the Corston vision.¹⁵ The new £3 million fund agreed by JABBS and Henry Smith Foundation in August 2025 will expand this partnership to more women's centres.
- Other consistent funding for women and CJ since 2021 has been provided by The Allen Lane Foundation (£110k), Barrow Cadbury Trust (£451k), The Bromley Trust (£315k), and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation (£1.07 million).
- In 2023 and 2024, the Coalition's funding for women and CJ increased with grant making from an existing funder in this space, Henry Smith Foundation (£480k), and from two new funders, Firebird Foundation (£636k) and Treebeard Trust (£114k).

¹⁵ <https://jabbswomenandgirls.org.uk/projects/effective-womens-centres-project/>

- In contrast to 2008-12 when the CIFC collaborated with the MoJ on the Women's Diversionary Fund (WDF), which largely focused on service provision,¹⁶ between 2021-24 Coalition members, some of whom are the same and some of whom are different to 2008-12, have mainly focused on funding influencing and systems change, and building the evidence base for the effectiveness of women and girls' specialist services. The focus of Esmée Fairbairn Foundation's grant making is influencing, but their funding is provided as core/unrestricted. The Bromley Trust largely makes unrestricted grants to organisations who use insights gained from front line work to influence wider change.
- Funding has been provided for justice-impacted or at-risk girls and young women by Esmée Fairbairn Foundation (£489k), Barrow Cadbury Trust (£212k) and Triangle Trust 1949 Fund (£1.17million). The focus of Esmée Fairbairn Foundation's grant making is influencing, but their funding is provided as core/unrestricted.
- Barrow Cadbury Trust's overall focus is on structural change. The work it supports on justice-impacted girls and young women is intersectional and both influences change and seeks to embed improvements to the situations of all women involved in the criminal justice system.
- In 2024, Triangle Trust 1949 Fund set up a new funding stream exclusively focused on projects and services for justice-impacted or at-risk girls and young women (up to the age of 30). Two rounds of grants totalling £842,134 have been made and a further two have been confirmed for 2025/26.

3.2 FUNDING FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS' RIGHTS WHICH IS BROADER THAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE - TABLE 2 IN APPENDIX 1

Many CIFC members situate their grant making for justice impacted or at-risk women and girls within a broader context of support for women and girls' rights.

- **The largest amount of funding for women and girls' rights is for work linked to combatting violence against women and girls (VAWG), domestic abuse (DA), and sexual abuse (SA) – c.£18.3 million since 2021.** Approximately £16 million of this was provided by Henry Smith Foundation for service provision. Other members provide funding both for service provision and for influencing work, with the Firebird Foundation making an investment of just over £500k in 2024. Henry Smith Foundation, The Bromley Trust, and The Allen Lane Foundation also fund work largely for service provision or service provision connected to influencing, focused on women, sex work, trafficking and/or modern slavery.
- For three out of the four years, members also granted between £1 million and £1.5 million per year for holistic women's rights work, including a mix of core, service provision, research and influencing grants. Just under £675k was provided during the time period by Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and Henry Smith Foundation for holistic girls' and young women's rights work, including for care-affected girls.

¹⁶ see section 1.1 above for more information.

- As mentioned in the methodology section, there is some variation in how members describe and define their funding in relation to VAWG, DA, and SA. A small number of the services funded under these funding streams are also open to men and boys, particularly child sexual abuse survivors. The vast majority of funding is for services for victims/survivors, although some perpetrator behaviour services and influencing work is also supported.

3.3 FUNDING FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM (NOT GENDER SPECIFIC) - TABLE 3 IN APPENDIX 1

- **Coalition members are also significant funders of wider criminal justice reform (£9.3 million).** Several members define themselves as criminal justice funders, as opposed to women and criminal justice funders, with a notable focus on young people.
- Criminal justice reform for young people is largely funded by Barrow Cadbury Trust through their Transition to Adulthood campaign¹⁷ and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation through their Children and Young People's Rights programme,¹⁸ with both applying strong racial justice lenses to how they work.
- Funding linked to parental imprisonment is included to reflect Firebird Foundation's growing focus on this as a lever for change.¹⁹

3.4 FUNDING FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES (NOT GENDER SPECIFIC) - TABLE 3 IN APPENDIX 1

- **Member focus on criminal justice in general is also evident** in funding of non-gender specific criminal justice services, with three members – The Allen Lane Foundation, The Bromley Trust and Henry Smith Foundation – **providing just under £4.2 million for services with adults.**
- Additionally, four members – The Allen Lane Foundation, Henry Smith Foundation, Barrow Cadbury Trust, and Triangle Trust 1949 – **funded just under £3 million for criminal justice services for young people.**

3.5 FUNDING FOR FAMILY SUPPORT AND FAMILY JUSTICE - TABLE 3 IN APPENDIX 1

To reflect member interest in prevention/early help work, data about family support and family justice funding is also included.

- **Six out of eight Coalition members provide funding for family support adding up to c.£19.3 million since 2021.** Approximately £17.3 million of this funding was provided by Henry Smith Foundation for services. In addition, Triangle Trust 1949 has provided support for kinship care and, in 2024, JABBS made an investment of £1.67 million for a family support project linked to schools.
- Three members – Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Treebeard Trust and Firebird Foundation – also fund family justice, providing c.£1.8 million over the four-year

¹⁷ <https://t2a.org.uk/>

¹⁸ <https://esmeefairbairn.org.uk/our-aims/fairer-future/children-young-peoples-rights/>

¹⁹ <https://firebirdcollective.co.uk/justice/>

period. Most of this funding is linked directly to justice-impacted families. In addition, this funding supports work:

- to achieve access to justice for excluded and disadvantaged families who might be considered to be at-risk of justice involvement
- to increase transparency in the family justice system
- concerned with the impact of the family justice system on victims of domestic abuse and children.

3.6 FUNDING SUMMARY TABLES - TABLE 4 IN APPENDIX 1

Table 4 provides details of the total amount invested by each member across all codes by year and by the Coalition by year.

OTHER LENSES ON THE GRANT DATA:

3.7 STAGE OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESS - TABLE 5 BELOW

Table 5 provides information about the stage of the criminal justice process, from prevention work to stop a woman or girl becoming justice-involved to long-term support post-sentence to promote rehabilitation, healing, and integration that each member provides funding for.

Table 5

Stage	Allen Lane	Barrow Cadbury	Bromley	Esmée	Firebird	Henry Smith	JABBS	Treebeard	Triangle	TOTAL
Prevention services	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3
Early intervention	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	7
Community sentences	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	7
In prison	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	4
Through the gate and post release	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	7
long term support - rehabilitation, healing, and integration	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	6

- CIFC member funding is focused on or close to the criminal justice system through support for early intervention, community sentences, and through the gate and post-release services, although only four members fund work in prison.
- Six members fund longer-term support for rehabilitation, healing, and integration but only three have a focus on prevention (the latter does not include influencing work).

- All of Esmée Fairbairn Foundation's funding is unrestricted and focused on organisations carrying out strategic influencing work.

3.8 HOW MEMBER FUNDING ADDRESSES INTERSECTIONAL INJUSTICE

In addition to a focus on gender justice in their funding, two CIFC members, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation²⁰ and Barrow Cadbury Trust, have racial justice priorities and funding streams, elements of which, given the racial disparity for Black, Asian, and minoritised people in the criminal justice system, are relevant to the work of the Coalition.

Five members also fund work to support refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants, some of which, given the inequalities faced by and the discrimination against migrant women in the criminal justice system, intersect with their work for a fair and just system.

Five members also have funding priorities and streams for young people, which, in addition to their focus on justice-impacted or at-risk young people (including those with parents/carers in prison), prioritise those at risk of school exclusion and/or in contact with the care system, and/or with special education needs and/or with other vulnerabilities.

In more detail:

- The Allen Lane Foundation has an overall approach to its funding that encourages or enables groups that experience marginalisation and/or discrimination to share in the life of the whole community. It has funding priorities for supporting Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities, older people, people affected by violence and abuse, and people with mental health issues.
- The Bromley Trust prioritises funding work with the most marginalised – e.g. people seeking sanctuary who are torture or trafficking survivors, women, children, or in detention, quasi-detention, or temporary accommodation.
- Firebird Foundation embeds intersectional injustices throughout its work. Alongside influencing, coalition work, and narrative change work, it includes amplifying lived experience as a lever for change, for example, through funding a DA survivor group, grassroots leaders on VAWG, and an independent collective of young people affected by parental imprisonment.
- Barrow Cadbury Trust applies an intersectional lens across its criminal justice, migration, and economic justice programmes, recognising how systems of inequality interact to shape lived experiences. Its work supports young adults, racially minoritised communities, women, and migrants through initiatives like the Transition to Adulthood (T2A) Alliance, advocacy for fair migration policies, and efforts to address structural economic barriers, particularly in Birmingham. This approach is grounded in a commitment to long-term structural change and inclusive decision-making, through the development of Lived Experience Advisors/Panels to ensure those most affected by injustice help shape strategy and policy.

²⁰ For more information see Racial justice: A review of Esmée Fairbairn Foundation's approach. <https://esmeefairbairn.org.uk/latest-news/racial-justice-a-review-of-esmees-approach/>

For more information on member and friend grant approaches and funding streams see Appendix 2.

3.9 TYPE OF FUNDING TABLE 6 AND TABLE 7 BELOW

Table 6 shows information about the type of funding each member provides in terms of core/unrestricted, or restricted for specific projects, influencing or research, as well as details of which members have a Funder Plus offer. Unrestricted/core funding can mean slightly different things for different funders. Examples of unrestricted funds are grants that may be used for any project or activity, or for general running costs, such as salaries.

Table 6

Type of funding	Allen Lane	Barrow Cadbury	Bromley	Esmée	Firebird	Henry Smith	JABBS	Treebeard	Triangle	TOTAL
Unrestricted/core/organisational development	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	8
Specific projects/services	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
Influencing	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
Research and evidence	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Funder plus	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	6

- Eight out of the nine members can make unrestricted/core and/or organisational development grants. None of these eight make solely unrestricted/core and/or organisational development grants.
- Eight out of the nine members can make grants to support research and/or evidence collation.
- All members make project and/or service specific grants, and all members support influencing work.
- Six members have Funder Plus offers ranging from support with monitoring, evaluation and learning, wider capacity-building, to convening of in-depth multi-year alliances and collectives with their grantee partners. Henry Smith Foundation will provide a Funder Plus offer in the future.
- All Coalition members can make strategic grants outside of, but linked to, their programme criteria. In general, these are given for work that they proactively seek out, often in partnership with other Coalition members.

Table 7 below provides three further lenses on members' funding programmes – the types of organisations members can fund, for how long, and whether their funding is open access.

Table 7

	Allen Lane	Barrow Cadbury	Bromley	Esmée	Firebird	Henry Smith	JABBS	Treebeard	Triangle	TOTAL
Registered charities only	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Multi-year	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
Invitation only	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	3

- Eight members can support organisations that are not registered charities.
- All members provide multi-year funding at least for some of their grants/funding programmes.
- Three members do not accept unsolicited funding requests.
- In addition, Barrow Cadbury Trust and JABBS have a specific focus on the West Midlands but also fund UK and England and Wales wide, respectively. In addition, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation supports place-based funding approaches across the UK. The Allen Lane Foundation does not fund in Greater London.

4. NEXT STEPS

4.1 NEXT STEPS - GENERAL

Pending a discussion on the usefulness of this report in relation to its stated aims, CIFC will assess if there is efficacy to repeating this mapping work of the Coalition's funding landscape in the future.

4.2 NEXT STEPS – IN RELATION TO EACH OF THE AIMS OF THE REPORT

The following section sets out areas for exploration and collaboration against the three main aims of this report.

Aim 1 - Support the CIFC to make strategic decisions about how we work collectively

Since adopting its new Statement of Purpose in 2024, the CIFC has been in a test and learn mode to ascertain the barriers, enablers, and broader systems dynamics effecting greater collaboration, and how we might collectively have the most impact in pursuit of our mission. Understanding the overlaps and gaps in our cumulative funding and where there are opportunities for innovation, experimentation, and wider collaboration is part of this process.

CIFC members therefore commit to:

- being in dialogue with each other and referencing this report when considering changing our funding priorities or programmes to be mindful of the impact on the cumulative funding landscape.
- at a minimum, exploring with our grant partners how we might achieve more streamlining of application and/or reporting processes for organisations members jointly fund. More ambitiously, exploring how we might collectively fund specific strategic initiatives in ways that are more long-term, flexible, trust-based, and movement-orientated.
- continuing to explore opportunities, where possible, to develop bilateral funding streams.
- exploring our role in what infrastructure the sector needs to build power, particularly to enable the voices and expertise of organisations led by and for racially-minoritised and migrant women to be elevated, and for good and promising practise to be mapped and shared.
- exploring options for how our collective Funder Plus offers can increase organisational/sector resilience and strategic capability.

We also note:

- the publication of *Funding Justice 3*²¹ by the Civic Power Fund. As a coalition with a strong emphasis on funding influencing work, we are grateful for the framing, data, and questions this study provides. We are using it to better understand the Coalition's influencing funding, particularly to ascertain:
 - to what extent we fund insider track, as opposed to outsider track, influencing;²²
 - to what extent we fund at the community and grassroots level as well as nationally; and
 - how our funding is spread across the sector and whether we could provide it more strategically and impactfully.
- the recommendation in the *Funding into the criminal justice voluntary sector: Mapping and understanding flows by New Philanthropy Capital*²³ about how CJ specialist funders (in CIFC's case, CJ specialist women and girls' funders) could offer support and guidance to non-CJ specialist women and girls' funders who are keen to fund in this space. We are considering how best to go about contributing to this.

Aim 2 - Women and girls' organisations: to provide transparency and help further conversations about our combined funding

Transparency and clarity are core to good practice grant making. CIFC believes it is important that the organisations supporting women and girls can easily access information that collates our members' grant priorities, approaches, and levels of funding and provides a picture of the cumulative funder landscape. Part of our rationale for producing and sharing this report is, therefore, to enable us to think about, and to be in conversation with the sector about what good looks like in terms of our funding ecosystem.

CIFC is already in conversation with Agenda Alliance and the National Women's Justice Coalition – two of the main specialist alliances working with justice-impacted or at-risk women and girls – and is keen to hear from others in the women and girls' sector about:

- the usefulness of this grant mapping report, including how grant data has been coded and how it could be improved
- how the report could be more useful, including what's missing
- thoughts on the headline findings
- priorities for CIFC action, including with stakeholders outside of the Coalition – (see Aims 1 and 3)

²¹ <https://fundingjustice.civicpower.org.uk/report/funding-justice-3/>. Grant data from five CIFC members and 2 CIFC friends is included in *Funding Justice 3*

²² Funding Justice 3 uses the following definitions which draw on The Ayni Institute Foundational Theories of Change - 'inside track' - i.e. via legislation, policy, fiscal changes, strategic litigation, or changes to corporate practice; 'outside track' - structure organising – power building, in communities either defined by geographic location or thematic concern (e.g. worker rights, racial justice) and mass protest – activism, direct action, street-level mobilisation – see <https://fundingjustice.civicpower.org.uk/report/funding-justice-3/methodology/>

²³ <http://www.thinknpc.org/resource-hub/funding-criminal-justice-voluntary-sector/>

- anything else you'd like to tell us in relation to this report

In recognition of the inherent power dynamics between the Coalition and the sector, an online feedback form based on the five questions above has been provided, with the option to complete it anonymously - <https://forms.office.com/e/9t8AQy9LeS>

CIFC does not currently have any pooled funding. The Coalition is exploring how to utilise our funding agilely to collectively bolster current and emerging strategic initiatives, recognising that pooled funds often require significant infrastructure costs to distribute funds effectively. That said, the CIFC is open to exploring opportunities for pooled funding in the future, should learning from this first stage of aligned funding evidence a need, and subject to CIFC capacity to deliver. To date, some members have been able to jointly fund specific pieces of strategic work where there has been a mutual interest (see 1.1. above). We hope to do more of this and are currently proactively seeking out these opportunities (we are not accepting unsolicited requests for funding).

Aim 3 - Other funders: To generate questions, challenges, and routes to explore for and with other independent and other funders more widely

As Appendix 2 lays out, there is a crisis of funding or lack of funding both for the women and girls' sector overall, as well as specifically for organisations supporting justice-impacted or at-risk women and girls. The CIFC is therefore looking to explore ways of increasing and/or joining up funding in this space, whether that be through thinking about how our own funding could be more strategic (see Aim 1 above), encouraging new independent and other funders to get involved in women and girls' justice, and/or building alliances with funders who focus on women and girls' rights more broadly and/or the adjacent issues of, for example, mental ill health, trauma, poverty, and early help for families.

CIFC therefore:

- encourages other funders who fund work with women and girls with unmet needs to use this document in their internal strategy reviews and to feedback to us on its usefulness, how it could be improved, and their thoughts on its findings.
- requests that other funders who are thinking of moving into funding justice-impacted or at-risk women and girls speak to CIFC as part of developing their strategy so that we can share our expertise and learning.

CIFC is also actively interested in (and in some cases already participating in) conversations with other funders both independent and statutory, at national, regional and local levels about:

- how to increase service provision and/or core funding for specialist services for women and girls with unmet needs.
- how to de-silo funding for justice-impacted women and girls and funding for combatting VAWG, recognising that many justice-impacted women and girls are also victims of abuse and violence.
- best practice in local/regional whole system approaches, models, and funding flows for supporting women and girls with unmet needs at the earliest possible opportunity,

as well as the opportunities, barriers, and costs of scaling up/rolling out this best practice more widely.

- what a budget for women and girls with unmet needs might look like across government departments i.e. what mechanisms in government would enable joined-up working across budgets, departments, and disciplines, and a cost-benefit analysis for this.
- what evidence, models, data are missing to clearly articulate what good looks like in terms of vibrant, sustainable funding for specialist services for women and girls with unmet needs, including how to combine independent and statutory funding.
- how to achieve better understanding of the issues facing girls with unmet needs and what data may be needed to enable this.
- how best to provide preventative support for girls and young women with high risk factors for becoming justice-impacted.
- how in the face of increasing cultures of misogyny, male violence, and deep racism nationally and internationally, we can play our part in strengthening an inclusive feminist movement.

In addition, CIFC is always open to having conversations with other funders, including other funder collaborations, about how our work may align and how we might learn from each other and collaborate more. Please contact the CIFC Coalition Development Manager, Beth Crosland: beth.crosland.cifc@jabbswomenandgirls.org.uk

In keeping with the Coalition's wish to increase service provision and/or core funding for specialist services for women and girls with unmet needs, the following boxes provide short case studies of two previous funding streams that were important to, and well-received by, women and girls' organisations.

Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Initiative – Comic Relief co-funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and the UK's Devolved Administrations 2018-2021

The Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Initiative was **a £4million fund to support organisations across the UK doing work to support women and girls, raise awareness of the issues, champion change and equality, and tackle harmful behaviour.** It made targeted investments in UK women's organisations, providing frontline services to women and girls affected by gender-based violence and multiple disadvantage. The focus was on trauma-informed services, approaches, and partnerships to reach the most marginalised women and girls, addressing inequalities and responding to the complex needs resulting from their experiences.

Many women's centres and specialist services benefitted from this funding. For example, the 2020 report, *The Case for Sustainable Funding for Women's Centres* (see Appendix 2 for more information) profiles the income sources for six women centres. These profiles show that Comic Relief grants from this programme constituted a mean total of 4.05%, and a median total of 3.65% of these six centres' overall income during this period. In the case of one centre, the grant accounted for 11.5% of the centre's overall funding.

Women and Girls Initiative - The National Lottery Community Fund 2016-2023

The Women and Girls Initiative was a £44.7million investment which supported 62 projects across England. It aimed to help strengthen the women and girls' sector through:

- increased provision of holistic, person-centred approaches for women and girls;
- an increased role and voice for women and girls in co-producing services;
- a greater number of women and girls being supported through the provision of improved specialist support; and
- better quality of evidence for what works in empowering women and girls.

Grant holders were funded to support and empower women and girls facing a wide range of issues such as violence, abuse, exploitation, and multiple and complex needs.

Many women's centres and specialist services benefitted from this funding. For example, the 2020 report, *The Case for Sustainable Funding for Women's Centres* (see Appendix 2 for more information) profiles the income sources for six women centres. These profiles show that National Lottery grants from this programme constituted a mean total of 9.78%, and a median total of 7.3%, in relation to the six organisations' overall income during this period. In the case of one centre, the grant accounted for 26% of the centre's overall funding.

For more information: www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/insights/documents?q=&programme=women-and-girls-initiative&portfolio=&doctype=

APPENDIX 1: THE GRANT DATA

Acronyms used in the tables below:

W	women
CJ	criminal justice
WCJ	women and criminal justice
G	girls
YW	young women, defined variously by members as between 18 and 30 years ²⁴
GYW	girls and young women
GYWCJ	girls, young women and criminal justice
WR	women's rights
GYWR	girls' and young women's rights
VAWG	violence against women and girls
DA	domestic abuse
SA	sexual abuse
SWTMS	sex work, trafficking, and modern slavery
CJR	criminal justice reform
CJRYP	criminal justice reform for young people
PI	parental imprisonment
Y	youth
YCJ	youth criminal justice

²⁴ Barrow Cadbury Trust and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation define young people as 18-25 years and Triangle Trust 1949 as 18-30 years.

TABLE 1

TABLE 1A MEMBER GRANTS FOR BLOCK 1 2021- WOMEN & CRIMINAL JUSTICE (WCJ); AND GIRLS, YOUNG WOMEN & CRIMINAL JUSTICE (GYWCJ)											
				These codes break down the All WCJ code				These codes break down the All GYWCJ code			
		All WCJ	All GYWCJ	WCJ core	WCJ projects	WCJ research	WCJ influencing	GYWCJ core	GYWCJ projects	GYWCJ research & influencing	
2021	Allen Lane	21,400	-	-	21,400	-	-	-	-	-	
	Barrow Cadbury	93,500	-	-	28,500	40,000	25,000	-	-	-	
	Bromley	40,000	-	-	-	-	40,000	-	-	-	
	Esmée	300,000	-	-	-	-	300,000	-	-	-	
	Firebird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Henry Smith	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	JABBS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Treebeard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Triangle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	TOTAL 2021	454,900	-	-	49,900	40,000	365,000	-	-	-	

TABLE 1B MEMBER GRANTS FOR BLOCK 1 2022

				These codes break down the All WCJ code				These codes break down the All GYWCJ code			
		All WCJ	All GYWCJ	WCJ core	WCJ projects	WCJ research	WCJ influencing	GYWCJ core	GYWCJ projects	GYWCJ research & influencing	
2022	Allen Lane	13,000	-	-	13,000	-	-	-	-	-	
	Barrow Cadbury	52,500	-	27,500	-	-	25,000	-	-	-	
	Bromley	75,000	-	75,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Esmée	-	120,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	120,000	
	Firebird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Henry Smith	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	JABBS	140,165	-	99,045			41,120	-	-	-	
	Treebeard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Triangle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	TOTAL 2022	280,665	120,000	201,545	13,000	-	66,120	-	-	120,000	

TABLE 1C MEMBER GRANTS FOR BLOCK 1 2023

				These codes break down the All WCJ code				These codes break down the All GYWCJ code		
		All WCJ	All GYWCJ	WCJ core	WCJ projects	WCJ research	WCJ influencing	GYWCJ core	GYWCJ projects	GYWCJ research & influencing
2023	Allen Lane	11,455	-	-	11,455	-	-	-	-	-
	Barrow Cadbury	142,250	62,000	92,250	-	-	50,000	-	-	62,000
	Bromley	100,000	-	60,000	40,000	-	-	-	-	-
	Esmée	470,000	-		20,000	-	450,000	-	-	-
	Firebird	25,000	-	25,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Henry Smith	300,000	-	120,000	180,000	-	-	-	-	
	JABBS	8,248,610	-	5,926,485	735,432	1,441,693	145,000	-	-	-
	Treebeard	82,000	-	-	82,000	-	-	-	-	-
	Triangle	-	198,740	-	-	-	-	-	198,740	-
	TOTAL 2023	9,379,315	260,740	6,223,735	1,068,887	1,441,693	645,000	-	198,740	62,000

Note: JABBS figures for core in 2023 include Funder Plus.

TABLE 1D MEMBER GRANTS FOR BLOCK 1 2024

				These codes break down the All WCJ code				These codes break down the All GYWCJ code			
		All WCJ	All GYWCJ	WCJ core	WCJ projects	WCJ research	WCJ influencing	GYWCJ core	GYWCJ projects	GYWCJ research & influencing	
2024	Allen Lane	64,097	-	-	64,097	-	-	-	-	-	
	Barrow Cadbury	162,780	150,000	20,000	9,780	-	133,000	150,000	-	-	
	Bromley	100,000	-	100,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Esmée	300,000	369,090	-	-	-	300,000	-	-	369,090	
	Firebird	611,000	-	540,000	71,000	-	-	-	-	-	
	Henry Smith	180,000	-	180,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	JABBS	2,020,700	-	1,035,458	766,585	65,600	153,057	-	-	-	
	Treebeard	32,000	-	-	32,000	-	-	-	-	-	
	Triangle	20,150	970,506	-	20,150	-	-	-	867,134	103,372	
	TOTAL 2024	3,490,727	1,489,596	1,875,458	963,612	65,600	586,057	150,000	867,134	472,462	
	TOTAL 2021 - 2024	13,605,607	1,870,336	8,300,738	2,095,399	1,547,293	1,662,177	150,000	1,065,874	654,462	

Note: Firebird Foundation grants for 2024 are multi-year (2 or 3 years) but sums have to be approved each year.

TABLE 2

TABLE 2A MEMBER GRANTS FOR 2021 FOR BLOCK 2 - WOMEN AND GIRLS' RIGHTS (WGR) WHICH ARE BROADER THAN CJ, INCLUDING: COMBATting VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG); DOMESTIC ABUSE (DA); SEXUAL ABUSE (SA); AND SEX WORK, TRAFFICKING AND MODERN SLAVERY (SWTMS)

Figures for All WCJ & All GYWCJ are also included for ease of reference

				These codes break down the All WGR code					
		All WCJ	All GYWCJ		WR	GYWR	VAWG/DA/SA	SWTMS	All WGR
2021	Allen Lane	21,400	-		28,568		55,745	32,621	116,934
	Barrow Cadbury	93,500	-		140,000				140,000
	Bromley	40,000	-				5,000	25,000	30,000
	Esmée	300,000	-		727,000	320,000	398,000		1,445,000
	Firebird	-	-						-
	Henry Smith	-	-		499,300		2,919,900	284,100	3,703,300
	JABBS	-	-						-
	Treebeard	-	-						-
	Triangle	-	-						-
	TOTAL 2021	454,900	-		1,394,868	320,000	3,378,645	341,721	5,435,234

TABLE 2B MEMBER GRANTS FOR 2022 FOR BLOCK 2

Figures for All WCJ & All GYWCJ are also included for ease of reference

					These codes break down the All WGR code					
		All WCJ	All GYWCJ		WR	GYWR	VAWG/DA/SA	SWTMS	All WGR	
2022	Allen Lane	13,000	-		21,696		56,972	27,000	105,668	
	Barrow Cadbury	52,500	-		30,000				30,000	
	Bromley	75,000	-		60,000		105,000	165,000	330,000	
	Esmée	-	120,000		293,100		170,000		463,100	
	Firebird	-	-				130,000		130,000	
	Henry Smith	-	-		196,200	147,600	3,592,400	330,000	4,266,200	
	JABBS	140,165	-						-	
	Treebeard	-	-		58,000		25,000		83,000	
	Triangle	-	-						-	
	TOTAL 2022	280,665	120,000		658,996	147,600	4,079,372	522,000	5,407,968	

TABLE 2C MEMBER GRANTS FOR 2023 FOR BLOCK 2

Figures for All WCJ & All GYWCJ are also included for ease of reference

These codes break down the All WGR code									
		All WCJ	All GYWCJ		WR	GYWR	VAWG/DA/SA	SWTMS	All WGR
2023	Allen Lane	11,455	-				106,117	20,000	126,117
	Barrow Cadbury	142,250	62,000		30,000				30,000
	Bromley	100,000	-		135,000		20,000	10,000	165,000
	Esmée	470,000	-				200,000		200,000
	Firebird	25,000	-				127,000		127,000
	Henry Smith	300,000	-		673,800	207,000	4,439,850	550,400	5,871,050
	JABBS	8,248,610	-						-
	Treebeard	82,000	-		300,000		200,000		500,000
	Triangle	-	198,740						-
	TOTAL 2023	9,379,315	260,740		1,138,800	207,000	5,092,967	580,400	7,019,167

TABLE 2D MEMBER GRANTS FOR 2024 FOR BLOCK 2 FIGURES FOR ALL WCJ & ALL GYWCJ ARE ALSO INCLUDED FOR EASE OF REFERENCE

				These codes break down the All WGR code					
		All WCJ	All GYWCJ		WR	GYWR	VAWG/DA/SA	SWTMS	All WGR
2024	Allen Lane	64,097	-		7,500		61,720	18,247	87,467
	Barrow Cadbury	162,780	150,000		141,150				141,150
	Bromley	100,000	-		60,000				60,000
	Esmée	300,000	369,090		700,000				700,000
	Firebird	611,000	-				516,000		516,000
	Henry Smith	180,000	-		412,190		5,083,240	229,900	5,725,330
	JABBS	2,020,700	-						-
	Treebeard	32,000	-		140,000		132,500		272,500
	Triangle	20,150	970,506						-
	TOTAL 2024	3,490,727	1,489,596		1,460,840	-	5,793,460	248,147	7,502,447
	TOTAL 2021 - 2024	13,605,607	1,870,336		4,653,504	674,600	18,344,444	1,692,268	25,364,816

TABLE 3

TABLE 3A MEMBER GRANTS FOR 2021 FOR BLOCKS 3, 4 AND 5 FIGURES FOR ALL WCJ & ALL GYWCJ ARE ALSO INCLUDED FOR EASE OF REFERENCE

BLOCK 3: criminal justice reform (CJR) not gender specific, including parental imprisonment

BLOCK 4: criminal justice services (CJS) not gender specific

BLOCK 5: family support and family justice (FS/FJ)

			These codes breakdown the All CJR code				These codes breakdown the All CJS code			These codes breakdown the All FS/FJ code		
2021	All WCJ	All GYWCJ	CJR	CJRYP	PI	All CJR	CJS	YCJS	All CJS	FS	FJ	ALL FS/FJ
Allen Lane	21,400	-	5,000			5,000	156,744	9,000	165,744	6,000		6,000
Barrow	93,500	-	174,850	626,670		801,520			-			-
Bromley	40,000	-	260,000			260,000	319,000		319,000			-
Esmée	300,000	-	495,000	1,800,000	120,000	2,415,000			-		725,000	725,000
Firebird	-	-				-			-			-
Henry	-	-				-	787,100	120,000	907,100	2,993,700		2,993,700
JABBS	-	-				-			-			-
Treebeard	-	-				-			-			-
Triangle	-	-				-			-			-
TOTAL 2021	454,900	-	934,850	2,426,670	120,000	3,481,520	1,262,844	129,000	1,391,844	2,999,700	725,000	3,724,700

TABLE 3B MEMBER GRANTS FOR 2022 FOR BLOCKS 3, 4 AND 5

Figures for All WCJ & All GYWCJ are also included for ease of reference

			These codes breakdown the All CJR code (Criminal Justice Reform)				These codes breakdown the All CJS code (Criminal Justice Services)			These codes breakdown the All FS/FJ code (Family Support/Family Justice)		
2022	All WCJ	All GYWCJ	CJR	CJRYP	PI	All CJR	CJS	YCJS	All CJS	FS	FJ	ALL FS/FJ
Allen Lane	13,000	-				-	81,076	5,870	86,946	8,640		8,640
Barrow Cadbury	52,500	-	184,000	558,400		742,400			-			-
Bromley	75,000	-	70,000			70,000	419,000		419,000			-
Esmée	-	120,000	708,585	546,900		1,255,485			-		200,000	200,000
Firebird	-	-				-			-			-
Henry Smith	-	-				-	978,000	500,200	1,478,200	4,104,500		4,104,500
JABBS	140,165	-				-	4,800		4,800			-
Treebeard	-	-	90,000	20,000		110,000			-		95,850	95,850
Triangle	-	-				-		463,240	463,240	30,000		30,000
						-			-			-
TOTAL 2022	280,665	120,000	1,052,585	1,125,300	-	2,177,885	1,482,876	969,310	2,452,186	4,143,140	295,850	4,438,990

TABLE 3C MEMBER GRANTS FOR 2023 FOR BLOCKS 3, 4 AND 5

Figures for All WCJ & All GYWCJ are also included for ease of reference

			These codes breakdown the All CJR code (Criminal Justice Reform)				These codes breakdown the All CJS code (Criminal Justice Services)			These codes breakdown the All FS/FJ code (Family Support/Family Justice)		
2023	All WCJ	All GYWCJ	CJR	CJRYP	PI	All CJR	CJS	YCJS	All CJS	FS	FJ	ALL FS/FJ
Allen Lane	11,455	-	4,000			4,000	53,900		53,900			-
Barrow Cadbury	142,250	62,000	391,700	433,650		825,350			-			-
Bromley	100,000	-	45,000			45,000	187,000		187,000			-
Esmée	470,000	-	480,000	599,381		1,079,381			-		490,000	490,000
Firebird	25,000	-				-			-		30,000	30,000
Henry Smith	300,000	-				-	210,000	180,000	390,000	3,019,800		3,019,800
JABBS	8,248,610	-				-			-			-
Treebeard	82,000	-	45,000			45,000			-	40,000	170,000	210,000
Triangle	-	198,740				-		682,586	682,586	90,000		90,000
TOTAL 2023	9,379,315	260,740	965,700	1,033,031	-	1,998,731	450,900	862,586	1,313,486	3,149,800	690,000	3,839,800

TABLE 3D MEMBER GRANTS FOR 2024 FOR BLOCKS 3, 4 AND 5 AND TOTALS FOR 2021-24

Figures for All WCJ & All GYWCJ are also included for ease of reference

			These codes breakdown the All CJR code				These codes breakdown the All CJS code			These codes breakdown the All FS/FJ code		
2024	All WCJ	All GYWCJ	CJR	CJRYP	PI	All CJR	CJS	YCJS	All CJS	FS	FJ	ALL FS/FJ
Allen Lane	64,097	-				-	4,000		4,000	7,079		7,079
Barrow Cadbury	162,780	150,000	301,150	42,380		343,530		209,220	209,220			-
Bromley	100,000	-	155,000			155,000	380,000		380,000	60,000		60,000
Esmée	300,000	369,090	300,000	675,000		975,000			-			-
Firebird	611,000	-			132,000	132,000			-		60,000	60,000
Henry Smith	180,000	-				-	603,400	210,000	813,400	7,256,850		7,256,850
JABBS	2,020,700	-				-			-	1,674,578		1,674,578
Treebeard	32,000	-	50,000			50,000			-	20,000	10,000	30,000
Triangle	20,150	970,506				-		579,817	579,817			-
TOTAL 2024	3,490,727	1,489,596	806,150	717,380	132,000	1,655,530	987,400	999,037	1,986,437	9,018,507	70,000	9,088,507
TOTAL 2021 - 2024	13,605,607	1,870,336	3,759,285	5,302,381	252,000	9,313,666	4,184,020	2,959,933	7,143,953	19,311,147	1,780,850	21,091,997

TABLE 4

TABLE 4 MEMBER GRANT TOTALS FOR ALL BLOCKS, ALL CODES BY FUNDER AND OVERALL TOTALS BY YEAR

BLOCK 1: women and criminal justice (WCJ); and girls, young women and criminal justice (GYWCJ)

BLOCK 2: women and girls' rights (WGR) which are broader than CJ, including: combatting violence against women and girls (VAWG); domestic abuse (DA); sexual abuse (SA); and sex work, trafficking, and modern slavery (SWTMS)

BLOCK 3: criminal justice reform (CJR) not gender specific, including parental imprisonment

BLOCK 4: criminal justice services (CJS) not gender specific

BLOCK 5: family support and family justice (FS/FJ)

TABLE 4A MEMBER GRANT TOTALS FOR ALL BLOCKS, ALL CODES BY FUNDER AND OVERALL TOTALS BY YEAR - 2021

		All WCJ	All GYWCJ	All WGR	All CJR	All CJS	ALL FS/FJ	Total all codes by funder	Total all codes all members by year
2021	Allen Lane	21,400	-	116,934	5,000	165,744	6,000	315,078	
	Barrow Cadbury	93,500	-	140,000	801,520	-	-	1,035,020	
	Bromley	40,000	-	30,000	260,000	319,000	-	649,000	
	Esmée	300,000	-	1,445,000	2,415,000	-	725,000	4,885,000	
	Firebird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Henry Smith	-	-	3,703,300	-	907,100	2,993,700	7,604,100	
	JABBS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Treebeard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Triangle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
					-	-	-	-	
	TOTAL 2021	454,900	-	5,435,234	3,481,520	1,391,844	3,724,700		14,484,198

TABLE 4B MEMBER GRANT TOTALS FOR ALL BLOCKS, ALL CODES BY FUNDER AND OVERALL TOTALS BY YEAR - 2022

		All WCJ	All GYWCJ	All WGR	All CJR	All CJS	ALL FS/FJ	Total all codes by funder	Total all codes all members by year
2022	Allen Lane	13,000	-	105,668	-	86,946	8,640	214,254	
	Barrow Cadbury	52,500	-	30,000	742,400	-	-	824,900	
	Bromley	75,000	-	330,000	70,000	419,000	-	894,000	
	Esmée	-	120,000	463,100	1,255,485	-	200,000	2,038,585	
	Firebird	-	-	130,000	-	-	-	130,000	
	Henry Smith	-	-	4,266,200	-	1,478,200	4,104,500	9,848,900	
	JABBS	140,165	-	-	-	4,800	-	144,965	
	Treebeard	-	-	83,000	110,000	-	95,850	288,850	
	Triangle	-	-	-	-	463,240	30,000	493,240	
					-	-	-	-	
	TOTAL 2022	280,665	120,000	5,407,968	2,177,885	2,452,186	4,438,990		14,877,694

TABLE 4C MEMBER GRANT TOTALS FOR ALL BLOCKS, ALL CODES BY FUNDER AND OVERALL TOTALS BY YEAR - 2023

		All WCJ	All GYWCJ	All WGR	All CJR	All CJS	ALL FS/FJ	Total all codes by funder	Total all codes all members by year
2023	Allen Lane	11,455	-	126,117	4,000	53,900	-	195,472	
	Barrow Cadbury	142,250	62,000	30,000	825,350	-	-	1,059,600	
	Bromley	100,000	-	165,000	45,000	187,000	-	497,000	
	Esmée	470,000	-	200,000	1,079,381	-	490,000	2,239,381	
	Firebird	25,000	-	127,000	-	-	30,000	182,000	
	Henry Smith	300,000	-	5,871,050	-	390,000	3,019,800	9,580,850	
	JABBS	8,248,610	-	-	-	-	-	8,248,610	
	Treebeard	82,000	-	500,000	45,000	-	210,000	837,000	
	Triangle	-	198,740	-	-	682,586	90,000	971,326	
	TOTAL 2023	9,379,315	260,740	7,019,167	1,998,731	1,313,486	3,839,800		23,811,239

TABLE 4D MEMBER GRANT TOTALS FOR ALL BLOCKS, ALL CODES BY FUNDER AND OVERALL TOTALS BY YEAR - 2024

		All WCJ	All GYWCJ	All WGR	All CJR	All CJS	ALL FS/FJ	Total all codes by funder	Total all codes all members by year
2024	Allen Lane	64,097	-	87,467	-	4,000	7,079	162,643	
	Barrow Cadbury	162,780	150,000	141,150	343,530	209,220	-	1,006,680	
	Bromley	100,000	-	60,000	155,000	380,000	60,000	755,000	
	Esmée	300,000	369,090	700,000	975,000	-	-	2,344,090	
	Firebird	611,000	-	516,000	132,000	-	60,000	1,319,000	
	Henry Smith	180,000	-	5,725,330	-	813,400	7,256,850	13,975,580	
	JABBS	2,020,700	-	-	-	-	1,674,578	3,695,278	
	Treebeard	32,000	-	272,500	50,000	-	30,000	384,500	
	Triangle	20,150	970,506	-	-	579,817	-	1,570,473	
	TOTAL 2024	3,490,727	1,489,596	7,502,447	1,655,530	1,986,437	9,088,507		25,213,244
	TOTAL 2021 - 2024	13,605,607	1,870,336	25,364,816	9,313,666	7,143,953	21,091,997		78,386,375

APPENDIX 2: FRAMING THE CRISIS

This section of the report provides some context for situating the mapping of CIFC member grant data. First, it sets out the wider context of the histories of trauma and abuse that the vast majority of justice-impacted or at-risk women and girls carry. It then provides the headline findings from key research reports on the funding of the women and girls' sector, which lay out the state of crisis and inequity of access to funding that women and girls' organisations are operating in.

The work of women and girls' organisations must also be situated in the overall context of the polycrisis,²⁵ which includes the impact and reverberations of long-term chronic underfunding of public services, an increasing attack on women and girls' rights, and the rise of misogyny globally. In addition, for racially minoritised and migrant women, girls, and their families, the rise of the far right more generally – including the 2024 and 2025 racist, Islamophobic, and anti-migrant violence – and the ever-deepening climate crisis increase the violence they experience.

Unjust systems that fail women and girls with unmet needs

The focus around which the CIFC collaborates is on enabling women and girls' access to justice through supporting women/girl-centred, holistic, and trauma-responsive approaches to diverting women and girls from crime. However, our members understand the broader context within which this work sits – namely, how women and girls with unmet needs are failed by unjust systems that perpetuate cycles of trauma and harm.

The research paper by the Women, Crime & Justice Research Group at The University of Birmingham, *Women's Risk Needs Assessment Validation Series: Exploring Needs Profiles in Criminal Justice-Involved Women*^{26 27} examines the WRNA (Women's Risk Needs Assessment)²⁸ validation project and outlines the needs and strengths of women who attend women's centres across England and Wales.

²⁵ Polycrisis (from the French polycrise), a term originally coined by French philosopher and sociologist Edgar Morin in his 1993 book *Terre-Patrie*, describes a complex situation where multiple, interconnected crises converge and amplify each other, resulting in a predicament that is difficult to manage or resolve.

²⁶ Summers, R., Pemberton, S., Holdsworth, E., Long, J., Mackenzie, K. & Ruprai, D. (2024) "Exploring Needs Profiles in Criminal Justice Involved Women", Birmingham: University of Birmingham
<https://jabbswomenandgirls.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/EWC-Exploring-Needs-ProfilesV2.pdf>

²⁷ For more information about WRNA see <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/social-policy/departments/social-policy-sociology-criminology/research/projects/2023/women-crime-justice> and <https://jabbswomenandgirls.org.uk/resources/research-summaries/>. WRNA is not currently validated for working with girls.

²⁸ Adoption of the WRNA - a comprehensive gender-responsive risk, needs, and strengths assessment, designed specifically to be used with criminal justice involved women - is being pioneered by seven women's centres in partnership with The University of Birmingham and CIFC member, The JABBS Foundation for Women and Girls through the Effective Women's Centres Partnership.

The key findings of the paper regarding justice-impacted and at-risk women's mental health needs and experiences of trauma are stark:

- **Mental health:** 81.4% have a mental health diagnosis or referral and 80.2% take prescribed emotional medication, with 57.1% having attempted suicide and 28.3% having required psychiatric hospitalisation. Women entering the women's centres are 4.28 times more likely to experience common mental disorders (81.4% vs 19%) and 8.56 times more likely to attempt suicide (57.1% vs 6.67%) compared to the general population.²⁹
- **Trauma:** 80.8% of women experienced physical or sexual abuse at some point in their lives, with childhood trauma being particularly prevalent. Childhood sexual abuse affected 37% of participants, while 48% experienced childhood physical abuse. Adult victimisation continued to be significant, with 67.8% experiencing physical abuse as an adult, and 38% experiencing adult sexual abuse. The prevalence of abuse among women accessing support through women's centres is 4 times higher than in the general female population.³⁰

The concluding analysis being that *'while justice involved women face significant and complex challenges, there are clear opportunities for intervention, particularly when services can address multiple needs simultaneously while building on existing strengths and protective factors. The consistent patterns across chapters and analyses provide a robust evidence base for developing integrated, trauma informed services that address both immediate needs and long-term recovery goals.'*

A metanalysis³¹ by the same team at the University of Birmingham of the trends in 71 interventions extracted from 64 papers involving justice-involved women also shows that:

- **gender responsive interventions are up to 42% more effective** in reducing recidivism compared to gender neutral intervention, even when controlling for several covariates.
- from the subgroup analysis, **interventions of 12+ months in length were approximately 12% more effective than interventions 0-6 months**, indicating that length of intervention is likely to be a significant factor, given the complexity of needs (such as trauma, mental health, and substance use) faced by many justice-involved women that often sit in the background behind 'criminogenic needs'.³²
- likewise, the analysis evidenced that **'therapeutic community rather than non-therapeutic community interventions demonstrate greater effectiveness in reducing**

²⁹ NHS Digital. (2014). Adult psychiatric morbidity survey: Survey of mental health and wellbeing, England, 2014 [online]. <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/adult-psychiatric-morbidity-survey/adult-psychiatric-morbidity-survey-survey-of-mental-health-and-wellbeing-england-2014> [Accessed 5th September 2025]

³⁰ Office for National Statistics. (2022). Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview: November 2022 [online]. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/domesticabuseinenglandandwalesoverview/november2022> [Accessed 5th September 2025]

³¹ [Examining the Effectiveness of Interventions for Criminal Justice-involved Women: A Meta-Analytic Review](#)

³² Jason, L. A., Salina, D., & Ram, D. (2016). Oxford recovery housing: Length of stay correlated with improved outcomes for women previously involved with the criminal justice system. *Substance Abuse*, 37(1), 248–254.

recidivism for CJI [criminal justice involved] women. These findings align with the principles of the gender-responsive approach, pointing to the importance of positive connections to others for recovery; to rebuild lives through peer relationships. Interventions focused on multiple needs were significantly (39%) more effective for women than cognitive skills-based (least effective) interventions...based on the information provided about these interventions, it could be speculated that CBT [cognitive behavioural therapy] used in isolation may be less effective for CJI women and lends credence to the suggestion that multimodal approaches are more effective for this group.'

The funding crisis - the women and girls sector overall

The 2023 research report, *Mapping the UK Women and Girls Sector and its Funding: Where Does the Money Go?*³³ for Rosa the UK Fund for Women and Girls, showed that the women and girls' sector is not getting the investment it needs or deserves and is in urgent need of investment and support. Its headline findings revealed that, in 2021, **'a total of £4.1 billion worth of grants was awarded to charities, but the women and girls sector received just 1.8% of these.'**

'In addition, one third of all grants for 'women and girls' focussed activity – worth £24.7m – went to organisations with no specific focus on women and girls.' The report concluded that this shows a 'worrying lack of priority for organisations tackling complex and systemic issues faced by women and girls in the UK.' A further key finding emphasised the relatively high dependence on volunteers in the sector.

A subsequent 2025 survey of the women and girls' sector, *Underfunded, under resourced and under the radar: the state of the women and girls' social sector*³⁴ commissioned by Rosa and carried out by Pro Bono Economics further highlights the tremendous pressure organisations are under, including from:

- a highly competitive funding environment;
- staffing challenges; and
- rising demand and rising complexity of demand.

The main results of the survey show:

- more than 9 in 10 organisations experienced an increase in demand for services in the previous year.
- 52% cite funding sources as their top concern.
- 59% do not have sufficient staff to meet their organisation's objectives.

³³ Conducted by The Centre for Regional, Economic and Social Research (CRESR) at Sheffield Hallam University and commissioned by Rosa, the National Lottery Community Fund, and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
<https://rosauk.org/publications/mapping-research//>

³⁴ <https://rosauk.org/publications/underfunded-under-resourced-and-under-the-radar-the-state-of-the-women-and-girls-social-sector/>

- 26% of Black and/or minoritised women and girls' organisations cite rising costs as a top concern.

The funding crisis - specialist services for justice involved women

Women's centres are specialist community-based support services for women with multiple unmet needs, including women involved in or at risk of involvement in the criminal justice system. The holistic, woman-centred integrated approach they offer was recognised as being critical to the systems change proposed by Baroness Corston in the seminal Corston Report of 2007.

The 2020 report, *The Case for Sustainable Funding for Women's Centres*,³⁵ was produced by The Women's Budget Group in collaboration with Women in Prison, Brighton Women's Centre, Anawim – Birmingham's Centre for Women, The Nelson Trust, and Together Women. It evidences the '*staggering savings*' that can be made by investing in women's centres, alongside the financial cost of the current model and its failure to address the root causes of women's offending, leading to a '*revolving door*' of imprisonment". Key findings include:

- '*a place at a women's centre ranges from £1,223 to £4,125 per woman depending on needs, whilst a place in prison costs £52,121.*
- '*it is estimated that £1.7 billion is spent on issues linked to female offending, whilst in the long term £2.84 is saved for every £1 spent on women's centres.*
- '*the Women's Centre Model shows one centre making a saving of £18 million [to the public purse] over a 5-year period.'*

It's important to note that since this modelling was published in 2020, significant inflation has occurred on an annual basis and changes to national insurance contributions have combined to make the cost of delivering services more expensive. Additionally, many women's centres have anecdotally reported year-on-year increases to both the complexity and severity of the needs of women presenting at services, which increases the cost of effective support. Finally, this modelling did not account for all aspects of wrap-around support such as accommodation.

It also revealed how these services '*are at risk of closure for lack of secure funding*'. The core section of the report (from pages 16-23) analyses the funding sources of six women centres, looking at percentage make-up from central and local government and from trusts and foundations and other funding streams. It concludes that their funding is both complex (three of the centres had to manage 20+ separate funding streams) and precarious, not least because of the short-term nature of much of the funding.

Since the publication of that report, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has commendably increased its funding to these services, initially through a one-year women's centres core costs grant round. This was followed by a three-year grant round for three programmes of work: core costs, interventions, and whole systems approaches. These grants were then extended for a further year from April 2024 and again by a further year in January 2025. In addition, HMPPS

³⁵ <http://www.wbg.org.uk/publication/the-case-for-sustainable-funding-for-womens-centres/>

designed a separate women's category in the commissioning of the Commissioned Rehabilitative Services (CRS) in 2020, with a requirement for these contracts to be led or delivered in partnership with women's centres or specialist women's services.

Coverage of women's centred services is, however, by no means England/UK-wide and a picture is emerging of:

- contract values being too limited and not yet allowing for full cost recovery.
- commissioned services not being holistic or long-term enough.
- open market tendering conditions and processes significantly disadvantaging and excluding smaller, specialist by/for led women's organisations.
- a lack of ringfenced funding for, and significant restrictions to, core costs is forcing women's organisations to continually adapt and innovate. This is contrary to evidence that demonstrates that the Women's Centre Model works and simply needs sustainable investment to deliver outcomes for women and girls.

In May 2025, The National Women's Justice Coalition (NWJC) in partnership with The Women's Budget Group UK produced a follow up briefing paper, *The Women's Centre Model - the Financial Case for Alternatives to Prison*.³⁶ As well as reiterating the evidence of the Women's Centre Model in reducing reoffending and its cost effectiveness, particularly in relation to custodial alternatives, it highlighted the ongoing extreme financial precarity and insecurity for women's centres. In particular:

- 77% of the women's organisations that make up the NWJC had not yet secured sufficient funding to cover their forecasted 25/26 expenditure, with the average funding shortfall amounting to £756,826.
- only 7.7% of these organisations said that statutory funding provides for Full Cost Recovery 'most of the time', with 50% saying it 'sometimes' does, 19% saying 'rarely', and 23% stating that it 'never' does.
- increases to operational costs have not been reflected or matched in grant giving and funding allocations. For example, the cost-of-living adjustments to MoJ contracts for 2025-26 peaked at 2.5%. This was not in line with current inflation rates and falls considerably short of increases to operational costs for women's organisations, specifically resulting from the employer National Insurance Contribution (NIC) increase, rising energy costs, and increases in salaries due to changes in the minimum wage.

The funding crisis – advocacy, narrative change and the women and girls' sector

In early 2022, a group of funders³⁷ commissioned what became the *Routes to Power report*³⁸ to understand the opportunities for small and grassroots women's organisations to catalyse

³⁶ <https://wearenwjc.org.uk/nwjcwbgbriefing/>

³⁷ Comic Relief; Esmée Fairbairn Foundation; Lloyds Bank Foundation for England & Wales; National Lottery Community Fund; Pilgrim Trust; Rosa UK; Smallwood Trust; Women's Fund for Scotland.

³⁸ Full report available at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V3TPkLcstNy3q9WHhWpGLSzzMCKfn9ZS/view>

change for women. The report analysed what currently works well and where more support is needed. Its overall aim was to understand *‘what women’s organisations need to increase opportunities for transformational change, and what we and other funders could do to support this.’*

The research had a particular focus on hearing from marginalised and minoritised communities and on *‘identify[ing] routes to power and influence for small and/or grassroots women’s organisations, and the barriers that impact the sector’s ability to influence change at a policy level.’* In an introduction to the report the commissioning funders noted that, whilst the views in the report are of the participants and the research team and are not necessarily shared by all the funders involved, the report contained important and not always comfortable insights, particularly about connectivity and power dynamics and the impact of their own practices. The funders involved also noted that they were pleased to see a comprehensive list of recommendations for funders’ action which they would reflect on and hope to make real progress on some of the issues raised.

The report detailed a context in which *‘the vast majority of interviewees reported chronic underfunding, and constant firefighting of multiple crises, all of which draws attention away from the possibilities of investing in longer-term solutions work.’* The headline findings of the report included:

- *‘The people with most power over the sector sit outside it: the mainly male commissioners, policy makers, politicians and others who hold decision making power over the lives of women, and who constrain the space in which women’s organisations can operate. That said, within the women’s voluntary and community sector (WVCS) itself, some groups do hold substantial power, relative to others. According to multiple accounts, there’s an issue around how power is concentrated with bigger organisations, which are invariably led by white, able-bodied, middle-class women. This power operates to disadvantage smaller organisations – for example, in funding, including funding that is intended to target support to racially minoritised communities.’*
- *‘The issues facing women are so deeply interconnected, it is difficult – and not always helpful – to separate them. Organisational siloing of issues may help with communications work, and identifying winnable objectives, but often does not meaningfully address problems or their root causes.’*
- *‘At the UK level, interviewees communicated a strong sense that the WVCS has not recently been successful overall in achieving change. Some pointed to examples of policy and legislative gains (or averting things from getting worse) but the overall picture is of an increasingly challenging rearguard defence of rights and livelihoods³⁹ ... And again, more marginalised and disadvantaged women may be less able to assert their rights.’*
- *‘Policy lobbying work is an important part of the mix but can typically provide only a narrow route to influence. We [authors of the report] think it makes sense to consider how this work can be complemented by a greater emphasis on strategies focusing on*

³⁹ Many cited the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) sector as relatively effective and successful, with some key relative strengths, including some positive mentions of the End Violence Against Women (EVAW) coalition.

shifting power and on addressing attitudes, behaviours, norms and values. These are necessarily long-term investments. The logic is that, over time, this work can shift the context in which policy making takes place, to move it to more favourable ground, particularly for more disadvantaged groups.'

APPENDIX 3: HEADLINE INFORMATION ABOUT CURRENT, RELEVANT CIFC MEMBER AND FRIEND GRANT PROGRAMMES

CIFC Member / Friend	Approach to funding justice-impacted or at-risk women and/or girls	Dates for current funding programmes/strategy development processes	Other linked funding programmes	To find out more
MEMBERS:				
The Allen Lane Foundation	<p>The Foundation has been a keen supporter of penal reform and funded groups working with offenders for many years.</p> <p>Since the end of 2024, we focus our penal reform funding solely on organisations supporting female offenders, and those in prison for violence against women.</p>	Ongoing	<p>People with mental health issues</p> <p>People affected by violence or abuse.</p>	https://allenlane.org.uk/offenders-and-ex-offenders
The Barrow Cadbury Trust	<p>Criminal Justice Programme</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing and promoting evidence of effective policy and practice for young adults at all 	In 2025-26 we are focussing most of our resources on ensuring our evidence base is accessible to and used by criminal justice professionals. We	<p>Migration Programme</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To inform public policy, promote workable policies in relation to 	https://barrowcadbury.org.uk/our-work/criminal-justice/

	<p>stages of the criminal justice system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amplifying the voices of young adults, women and racially minoritised communities within the criminal justice system • Supporting initiatives that focus on gender equality and race equality within a criminal justice context. <p>Gender and race</p> <p>Gender and race equity are integrated into our programme. Women, and wider society, are badly served by the current criminal justice system. People from racialised groups are over-represented at every stage of the criminal justice system and have worse outcomes than other groups.</p> <p>By working with expert partners, gathering evidence and showing how change can be made, we work towards the fair treatment of all people to reduce crime and the current waste of human potential.</p>	<p>will also, with others, be creating a blueprint for a future young adult justice system. We continue to support established partnerships, such as the National Women's Justice Coalition, and the Corston Independent Funders' Coalition, and Action for Race Equality to name a few, working on improving women's justice and reducing disproportionate representation of racially minoritised people in the criminal justice system.</p> <p>Because our priorities are so specific, we will largely be proactively identifying partners and are not currently open to unsolicited applications. We may invite applications for specific strands of work at some stage as gaps and needs emerge. Please sign up to our e-news and our socials to keep in touch.</p>	<p>immigration and integration and promote the fair and dignified treatment of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To broaden and deepen the public debate on migration and integration and ensure that it draws on shared values as well as evidence • To promote greater understanding within communities, with a focus on extremism, prejudice and discrimination as they affect asylum seekers, refugees and migrants. <p>Economic Justice Programme</p> <p>Through our Economic Justice programme we are supporting the movement against economic injustice in Birmingham. By 'movement' we mean people and organisations who share the same broad aims for change (reducing economic injustice) but who may have very</p>	
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			<p>different approaches. We will be focusing on three types of activity: personal empowerment to enable people to influence policy and practice; campaigning and advocacy for change; and supporting organisations building alternative approaches. Take a look at the Economic Justice Brum website</p> <p>Social Investment</p> <p>We aim to both develop the social investment market <i>and</i> promote social justice through our social investments. In developing the market we promote our values, including sharing our expertise in areas such as measuring social impact.</p> <p>Our aim is to be supportive and collaborative from initial contact to the repayment of any investment, ensuring that the investment meets the needs of the investee organisation and leaves it in a sustainable financial position.</p>	
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<p>The Bromley Trust</p>	<p>Prison Reform The Bromley Trust's vision is of a society that treats people humanely and respects their human rights and dignity. We fund specialist charities that are helping to bring about positive social change through their work with marginalised people in the justice system.</p> <p>Our Prison Reform grants programme currently focuses on funding charities working to bring about a more humane and effective UK prison system that supports people's rehabilitation. Successful applicants will be using the expertise developed through their direct frontline work with people in prison to have a wider impact and help bring about improvements to policy or practice in this area.</p>	<p>Completed a strategy development process in 2023</p>	<p>Human Rights grants programme currently focuses on funding charities working to protect the dignity and rights of people seeking sanctuary (refugees and asylum seekers) in the UK. We have a particular interest in supporting work around immigration detention.</p> <p>When considering applications of equal merit, we may give priority to those: Working with the most marginalised – e.g. people seeking sanctuary who are torture or trafficking survivors, women, children, or in detention, quasi-detention, or temporary accommodation.</p>	<p>https://www.thebromleytrust.org.uk/our-approach</p>
<p>Esmée Fairbairn Foundation</p>	<p>Gender justice is one of five funding priorities towards Esmée's strategic aim to secure a Fairer Future.</p> <p>We believe gender justice requires changes to systems, policy and practice so that everyone's rights are recognised and protected.</p> <p>We work with others to ensure that women and girls can live in safety and</p>	<p>Current strategic plan runs until 2027.</p> <p>https://esmeefairbairn.org.uk/about-esmee/strategy/</p>	<p>Three other funding priorities in our strategic aim for A Fairer Future:</p> <p>Children and Young People's Rights - This particularly includes those at risk of school exclusion or in contact with the care or youth justice system, along with earlier support for disabled young</p>	<p>https://esmeefairbairn.org.uk/our-aims/fairer-future/gender-justice/</p>

	<p>fulfil their potential, and that transgender and non-binary people's voices are heard.</p> <p>Our funding supports work towards the following long-term outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender based violence is reduced through the delivery of preventative work. • Trans and non-binary people's rights are recognised and protected. • Policy, practice, and the law better meets the needs of women experiencing multiple challenges and discrimination. • The negative impacts of the criminal justice system on women and their families are reduced. <p>Our overarching impact goals for our work towards A Fairer Future are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved systems, policy and practice • Organisations are strengthened to use their power to tackle systemic injustice and inequity • Organisations work together and build movements to tackle systemic injustice and inequity 		<p>people and those with special education needs.</p> <p>Through everything we do, we commit to supporting young people who have known injustice in their lives to drive change, reimagine and create a fairer future.</p> <p>Racial Justice – The historic under-funding of organisations led by people experiencing racial inequity has undermined progress toward this ambition. Our efforts need to be rooted in a better understanding of the interconnected nature of racial inequity and injustice across all parts of our strategy.</p> <p>Migrant Justice - The power and leadership of those with experience of migration, asylum and detention are essential to achieve a society where migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have the tools and resources to understand and advocate for their rights, have their rights protected and can live in safety.</p> <p>Working in partnership, we will support the development of a</p>	
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			just legislative framework, a less polarising public narrative and on ensuring that migrants have access to legal help that enables them to secure their rights.	
Firebird Collective	<p>Firebird Collective's mission is to pursue gender justice and equality for women and children. Through the alignment of capital from investments to grants, we strive to create deeper impact for our partners and society.</p> <p>The Foundation has three core areas of work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • women's justice including the impact of parental imprisonment on children, violence against women and girls, and family court reform • raising the bar for women and girls in sport <p>Complemented by investments from Firebird Impact Ltd, we evolve policy and practice by deploying capital for impact and financial return, whilst always aligned to our joint mission of gender justice and child rights.</p>	Firebird is a start-up, so strategy is evolving and agile, with new areas of work aligned to gender justice equality opening up in health and the arts.		https://firebirdcollective.co.uk/

<p>Henry Smith Foundation</p>	<p>In June 2024, we closed our Improving Lives and Strengthening Communities grants. We awarded most of our funds through these programmes, making other grants alongside them – including in partnership with other funders.</p> <p>In June 2025, we launched our new strategy, Elevate Your Impact, to fund organisations supporting people through three key life transitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting started – supporting families to give their young children a strong start • Building independence – helping young people move into adulthood with confidence, skills and hope • Safer futures – supporting people to rebuild their lives after abuse, displacement or prison <p>In each funding priority, we run grant programmes with clear aims and criteria.</p> <p>Grant programmes most relevant to the CIFC are in the Safer Futures priority area.</p> <p>Domestic Abuse:</p>	<p>Our strategy launched in June 2025 and runs until 2030: https://henrysmith.foundation/strategy/</p>	<p>Getting started – We fund organisations that support families during pregnancy and the first five years of a child’s life.</p> <p>Building independence, helping young people move into adulthood with confidence, skills and hope – We fund work that helps young people build resilience, raise aspirations and feel equipped for the next stage of life. We also support work that joins up fragmented services and pushes for policies that reflect the real experiences of young people.</p>	<p>https://henrysmith.foundation/</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People live free from abuse and fear • People can rebuild their lives and recover from trauma • Support is accessible, compassionate and designed around people's needs • Services and systems are shaped by the experiences of survivors <p>Leaving Prison:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People are prepared for release and supported into the community • Support is trauma-informed, focused on people's strengths and needs • Fewer people return to prison • Policies are shaped by lived experience and designed to reduce harm <p>Our flexible funding supports immediate needs and long-term change. This means we back organisations delivering frontline support and those working to improve systems that shape people's lives.</p>			
The JABBS Foundation for Women and Girls	We strive for a world where all women and girls lead free, safe and flourishing lives within a fair society.	Current strategy runs until 2029		https://iabbswomenandgirls.org.uk

	<p>We emphasise the strengths and abilities of women and girls, enabling them, their families and communities to realise their full potential.</p> <p>Intervention Themes - Improving support for, and addressing injustices impacting, women, girls, their families and their communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme 1: Women’s centres and specialist support: Enabling women’s centres and other specialist women’s support services, to be as effective as possible, to provide brilliant support to more women and girls and help the sector attract long term and sustainable investment. • Theme 2: Early help for families and communities: Funding and evidencing ‘early help’ models of community support for women, girls and their families, to influence local and national early help and family support policy. • Theme 3: Reimagining criminal justice: Investing in initiatives 			
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	<p>that spread best practice nationally in community rehabilitation and other multi-disciplinary models that support women and girls caught in the criminal justice system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme 4: Adaptive partnerships: Entering into partnerships nationally and in Birmingham to bridge short-term funding gaps or innovative ways of working, for initiatives supporting women and girls. 			
Treebeard Trust	<p>Treebeard makes a small number of grants each year across a number of social and environmental issues, and 'Justice' is a core theme for the Trust.</p> <p>We have funded a range of initiatives in the criminal justice system - these have primarily focused on women and the UK family justice system. We have also made a number of impact investments, with a focus on employment and training post custody. We are reviewing our criminal justice funding approach for 2025-26. We will be directing grants to both frontline and reform/policy initiatives across the criminal justice</p>	<p>Currently revising our grant strategy, which will stretch into the second half of 2025 and will see us consolidate our grant portfolio into a smaller number of larger grants (rather than move away from the issues and sectors we have always worked in). While we support existing grantees through this process, we are not making new grants in the very near term.</p>	<p>Violence against Women and Girls</p> <p>Refugees and Vulnerable Migrants</p>	<p>https://www.treebeardtrust.org/justice</p>

	system and any new areas of focus will be highlighted on our website.			
Triangle Trust 1949 Fund	Our focus for 2024 and 2025 is on young women and girls with a history of offending or who are at a high risk of registering a first offence.	<p>We are currently closed for applications and will re-open in September 2025 for a further round of funding for young women and girls with a history of offending or who are at a high risk of registering a first offence.</p> <p>Whilst future funding may also be focused on working with young men, applications for work with young women and girls will be prioritised.</p>	We make a small number of strategic grants annually that support work that aims to make an impact on reoffending or first offences at a systemic level. These grants are by invitation only and partners are identified through the development of deep relationships with sector experts and issues identified through current research.	https://www.triangletrust.org.uk/apply-funding/apply-for-funding
FRIENDS:				
A B Charitable Trust	<p>The Criminal Legal System and Penal Reform</p> <p>What would good look like? An equitable system, which considers individual needs and potential, places a focus on harm prevention, and</p>	<p>Current strategic framework runs till 2027. https://abcharitabletrust.org.uk/about-us</p>	The human rights framework in the UK – We support organisations that work to uphold, enhance and implement the human rights protection frameworks in the UK, defend civic space and hold the	https://abcharitabletrust.org.uk/grant/the-justice-system-and-penal-reform

	<p>prioritises holistic support and rehabilitation.</p> <p>Individuals who come into contact with the criminal legal system, particularly those from marginalised and racialised communities, face multifaceted challenges, exacerbated by a system which is overcrowded and unable to meet their needs.</p> <p>Civil society organisations play a key role in supporting individuals, as well as shining an independent light on the system and holding the state to account.</p> <p>We fund organisations that work with people either within the criminal legal system, or at imminent risk of coming into contact with the system, and that support individuals to resettlement successfully in the community.</p> <p>We particularly want to support organisations that are actively working to promote a just and equitable system.</p> <p>We aim for our funding to have an impact on the most marginalised and excluded communities.</p>		<p>Government to account around human rights protections. Occasionally, we support organisations that support an enabling environment for human rights.</p> <p>Access to justice is a fundamental concept that underpins democracy and human rights. Many people experience multifaceted problems that may have an unrecognised legal solution. We support organisations that promote access to justice through the provision of specialist legal advice and representation, by which we mean the delivery of specialist advice relating to the resolution of a legal problem where the advice is tailored to the individual's circumstances, normally including end-to-end casework through to representation.</p> <p>Migrants and Refugees - People who move to the UK often have to navigate a complex and hostile legal and policy environment, facing numerous barriers which undermine their ability to live with dignity.</p>	
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			We support organisations working to achieve a just and supportive environment for people who migrate to the UK, are refugees or people seeking asylum. This includes work to deliver services, policy, advocacy and influencing, campaigning, narrative change, and community organising.	
The Bishop Radford Trust	<p>The Bishop Radford Trust is a Christian grant maker that supports Christian charities and churches in the UK and internationally.</p> <p>Our Prison Strategy: We are passionate about helping churches increase engagement with their local prison, to bring hope to the most marginalised in society.</p>			https://bishopradsfordtrust.org.uk/prison-grants
The Kurt and Magda Stern Foundation	<p>We are funders working to transform lives and systems for those with traumatic pasts and uncertain futures.</p> <p>Throughout our work, we are committed to the pursuit of social justice and equality of opportunity.</p>	Our aim is for KMSF to continue to evolve in response to a shifting socio-economic landscape and help to shape that shift in a positive way. We want to model philanthropy that empowers its beneficiaries and amplifies their voices above our own. Our vision is for a society where	Our mission is underpinned by our charitable objects, which are set out in full in our Articles of Association and delineate the sectors in which we work. They are drafted widely to include areas such as, but not limited to, human rights, conflict prevention and resolution, the promotion of religious or racial harmony, equality and diversity, the	https://kurtandmagdastern.org

		compassion, empathy and fairness are integral to its fabric and functioning, where the importance of acknowledging and addressing trauma in all its forms is fully understood, and where no one is deprived of opportunity due to inequality.	advancement of education and access to education, the relief of those in need, criminal justice and mental health.	
National Lottery Community Fund	<p>Our purpose: We support activities that create resilient communities that are more inclusive and environmentally sustainable - activities that will strengthen society and improve lives across the UK. It starts with community.</p> <p>Our community-led missions and what we'll achieve by 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We'll support communities to come together. • We'll support environmentally sustainable communities. • We'll enable children and young people to thrive. • We'll enable people to live healthier lives. 	<p>Current strategy – It starts with community runs from 2023-2030.</p> <p>https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/about/our-strategy/strategy-overview</p>		<p>https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/news/blog/2025-01-06/welcome-to-2025</p> <p>and</p> <p>https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/media/documents/Missions-Framework-guide.pdf?mtime=20240923144041&focal=none</p>

<p>The Robertson Trust</p>	<p>We are here to prevent and reduce poverty and trauma in Scotland, by funding, supporting, and influencing solutions to drive social change.</p>	<p>Current strategy runs from 2020-2030.</p> <p>https://www.therobertsontrust.org.uk/about-us/our-strategy</p>	<p>Running through our objectives are our thematic priorities which define how we will contribute to change.</p> <p>Financial Security: We want to see a Scotland where people are financially secure and able to live lives free of poverty and poverty-related trauma. We want to support greater income adequacy and security, reduced cost of living pressure, and strengthened safety nets to ensure people are lifted out of and do not fall into poverty.</p> <p>Education Pathways: We want to see an education system in Scotland that acts as a pathway out of poverty. We want to support solutions that enable those experiencing poverty and trauma to access and participate in education, developing skills, capabilities, resilience and achievements that will help them thrive.</p> <p>Work Pathways: We want to see a Scotland where paid work is a more reliable route out of poverty. We want to</p>	<p>https://www.therobertsontrust.org.uk/funding/who-and-what-we-fund</p>
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			<p>contribute to tackling the drivers of in-work poverty and to removing barriers so that more people can access fair work.</p> <p>Nurturing Relationships: We want to see a Scotland where people, families and communities can thrive and not be trapped in cycles of poverty and trauma. We want to support nurturing relationships within families and communities, to help break the cycle between persistent poverty and intergenerational trauma, and support recovery.</p>	
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