



**Grassroots
International**

SUPPORTING SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

**A Guide for Wealth, Financial, and Philanthropic Advisors,
Family Foundations & Prospective Donors**





Introducing GRASSROOTS INTERNATIONAL

Established in 1983, Grassroots International is a movement support organization that partners with social movements and grassroots organizations.

We partner, fund, and work in solidarity with organizations, predominantly in the Global South and the U.S., to nurture sustainable and equitable relationships between people, the Earth, and all its living systems.

We believe social movements drive transformative changes in a world steeped in multiple prolonged, intersecting crises.

Together with our donor partners, Grassroots International is building a new model of philanthropy – Solidarity Philanthropy.

Solidarity Philanthropy is an evolving framework built on principles and practices informed by the social movements we accompany, with internationalism and long-term movement accompaniment at the core. In contrast to the traditional charity, development, or top-down philanthropy-directed modes, we operate based on principles of solidarity, trust, transparency, reparative action, and the centering of movements. This involves acting out of personal and collective responsibility to dismantle the root causes of social and economic injustices and build toward a new vision.



WHAT IS A SOCIAL MOVEMENT?

Often narrowly understood in the United States as “protest groups,” social movements do more than organize marches and demonstrations.

Social movements, formed by hundreds or thousands of people and communities, work to advance transformative solutions to chronic social problems such as hunger, biodiversity loss, and violence against women. They are regional, national, and international in scale, with coordinating bodies and trained members in a variety of skills, such as health care, food production, and communications.

Led by those most impacted by systems of oppression, social movements are characterized by a belief in community self-determination and a commitment to building grassroots power, capacity, and leadership for systemic change.

WHAT MAKES GRASSROOTS INTERNATIONAL'S MODEL UNIQUE?

Our Solidarity Philanthropy approach is rooted in the long-term commitment to social movements. Communities most directly impacted by global crises, like the climate crisis, should be the drivers for us to achieve concrete solutions. They have built the critical infrastructure (social movements) to bring change at scale, and their success will benefit many beyond geographical borders. We mobilize resources and foster new relationships for them while playing a critical role as allies in philanthropic spaces.

Accompanying Movements

At the core of our approach is a dedication to accompanying social movements for the long haul and building authentic relationships with them and our supporters. Over the past 40 years, Grassroots International has established and funded enduring, trusting relationships with social movements, channeling over \$60 million to social movements globally. We and our partners are constantly learning from each other, always grounded on shared values, vision, and a common desire for social transformation.

Solidarity Philanthropy

Our praxis with social movements is mirrored in the relationship with supporters so together we can dismantle the harmful habits in philanthropy to local communities. We believe solidarity is intrinsically pedagogical and relational in its essence, and for its realization, it is necessary to establish authentic relationships between social movements and our supporters. Through our practice of Solidarity Philanthropy, we work to create the conditions for mutual learning and alignment among supporters and social movements. We aim for supporters to participate in the collective vision we create with social movements and other allies in philanthropy.

HOW DOES GRASSROOTS INTERNATIONAL CHOOSE ITS PARTNERS?

Each of our movement relationships has been forged following an extensive learning and vetting process by our board and staff. The relationships are then sustained through continuous accompaniment by dedicated staff, many of whom are from the regions where we work and have lived experience with the challenges our partners face.

Our model is “wide and deep,” working with social movements, connecting thousands of communities worldwide, and developing trusting relationships through long-term commitment. By supporting local, nationwide, regional, and international groups, Grassroots International knows its contribution will travel far — community by community, continent by continent — thanks to the solidarity web created through global social movements.

WHY IS INTERNATIONAL GIVING IMPORTANT?

Only about 5% of all the donations by US donors and funders is directed outside of the U.S.¹, while most of the wealth accumulated comes from extracting resources from those very regions and communities. International philanthropy working hand-in-hand with social movements can be a critical vehicle to address that. International giving is not only possible; it is necessary to address issues affecting everyone on Earth. Grassroots International and social movements working together have proven that we can create change on a global scale.

¹Giving USA 2024: The Annual Report on Philanthropy for the Year 2023 report



LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES WITH GRASSROOTS INTERNATIONAL

We invite donors and advisors to join our community to become co-creators of a new model of philanthropy that we call Solidarity Philanthropy. Similar to our relationships with movement partners, we want to cultivate long-term, reciprocal relationships with donors based on open communication and trust.

We seek to accompany donors on the journey of ever-deepening solidarity with social movements by offering spaces to connect through our Solidarity Encounters, Delegations, and Solidarity Philanthropy Praxis Retreats.



SOLIDARITY ENCOUNTERS

Solidarity Encounters are virtual events that offer donors the opportunities to hear directly from our social movement partners about their analyses of systems of oppression and their visions for transforming those systems. Previous encounters have addressed Haiti's security situation, community-led agroecology, false solutions and climate justice framework, healing justice in Black and Palestinian liberation movements, and more.



INTERNATIONAL DELEGATIONS

International Delegations are site visits to Grassroots International partners and offer donors, advisors, and their family members an opportunity to see firsthand the work of Grassroots International and its partners. Participants have a chance to meet with organizers as well as farmers, fisherfolk, and other community members. Previous delegations have included visits to Brazil, Palestine, and Puerto Rico.



SOLIDARITY PHILANTHROPY PRAXIS RETREATS

Solidarity Philanthropy Praxis Retreats are multiple-day gatherings for donors and advisors interested in in-depth learning about the work of social movements and grant-making strategies of Grassroots International. You will hear directly from movement partners and our Program Team members and have the opportunity to exchange ideas with other donors.



WAYS TO GIVE



Donate Online

Donate once or make a recurring monthly gift using your credit card through our website.

grassrootsonline.org/donate

Donate by Check

Please make checks payable to Grassroots International and mail them to:

Grassroots International
867 Boylston Street
Suite 500 #1721
Boston, MA 02116

Donate by Electronic Fund Transfer

Please email development@grassrootsonline.org for electronic fund transfer instructions. We recommend this option only for gifts of \$5,000 or more.

Donate from a Donor Advised Fund (DAF)

To donate from a DAF, you can request a grant distribution through your DAF sponsor to

Name: Grassroots International
Address: 867 Boylston Street, Suite 500 #1721
Boston, MA 02116
Tax ID: 04-2791159

When you make a donation through a DAF, we would greatly appreciate it if you or your advisor would email development@grassrootsonline.org to let us know to expect the donation, so we can connect the donation with you when we receive it.

See FAQ section on next page for additional questions.

Donate Crypto

Through our partnership with FreeWill, you can donate crypto by visiting freewill.com/smartgiving/grassroots/crypto.

Donate Stocks

Transferring stock electronically is the easiest and quickest way to process your gift. Please provide your broker with the following information:

Account Name: Grassroots International
Account Number: 672-335983
Custodian: National Financial Services
DTC Number: 0226
Tax ID: 04-2791159

Please note that when you donate stocks, your name does not typically accompany the transfer of shares. So that we can properly and promptly process and acknowledge your donation, please email development@grassrootsonline.org with the following information:

Donor(s):
Stock symbol:
Number of shares:
Institution transfer is coming from:
Any restrictions on the use of this gift? If yes, please specify:
Other notes:



Questions

Email development@grassrootsonline.org with any donation-related questions.

Leave a Planned Gift in your Will

Grassroots International accepts gifts by will. You may leave Grassroots International a stated dollar amount, a percentage of your residual estate, or a specific asset. If you have named us in your will, please email development@grassrootsonline.org to let us know. How to name Grassroots International in your will:

Legal name: Grassroots International

Address: Grassroots International, 867 Boylston Street, Suite 500 #1721, Boston, MA 02116

Tax ID: 04-2791159

The following language may be useful: "I give and bequeath to Grassroots International, 867 Boylston Street, Suite 500 #1721, Boston, MA 02116, [the sum of _____ Dollars (\$____)] [_____ % of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate], to be used for its general charitable purposes."

Additionally, Grassroots International has partnered with FreeWill, a platform that allows our donors to make free, legally binding wills and to list Grassroots International as a beneficiary of that will if they wish. To take advantage of this free resource, please visit freewill.com/grassroots.

Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA

If you are over age 70½, you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA. Because the gift goes directly to the charity without passing through your hands, the dollar amount of the gift may be excluded from your taxable income up to a maximum of \$100,000 annually, with some exceptions. Please consult your tax advisor for information regarding your specific exceptions.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What designations can I make with my donation?

There are ways that you can designate donations over the threshold of \$5,000. Under the Internal Review Service (IRS) regulations, Grassroots International can accept designations to countries, regions, and thematic areas in which we currently work.

Countries & Regions

North America
≈ United States
≈ Mexico
Latin America
≈ Mexico
≈ Guatemala
≈ Honduras
≈ Nicaragua
≈ Brazil
Caribbean Region
≈ Puerto Rico
≈ Haiti
Middle East
≈ Palestine
West Africa
≈ Ghana
≈ Mali
≈ Ivory Coast
≈ Senegal
≈ Burkina Faso
≈ Niger
≈ Nigeria

Thematic Areas

Agroecology
Anti-militarism
Black Liberation
Climate Justice
Ecological Justice
Food Sovereignty
Grassroots Feminisms & Gender Justice
Healing Justice
Human Rights
Indigenous Sovereignty & Rights
Land & Territory
Movement Building

However, Grassroots International encourages donors to offer our partners and us the flexibility to use the resources most efficiently through general support. General support allows us to allocate spending to areas with the highest opportunity or the most emergent need. Further, our partners are national and international organizations representing over 300 million people in more than 82 countries. Your donation will go a long way, touching many lives long after your contribution.

Can I direct my donation to a specific organization outside the United States?

Grassroots International does not accept donations earmarked for another organization, even for one of our long-term partners.

There are several reasons for this:

≈ As a public charity, we must exercise independent "control and discretion" over the funds we accept and spend. The IRS has long held that an organization accepting donations intended for another organization is "only nominally the donee; the real donee is the ultimate...recipient." (Rev. Rul. 66-79, Rev. Rul. 63-252).

- ≈ If a donor designates a contribution to Grassroots for another organization, the IRS does not consider it tax deductible, even though it goes through a public charity.
- ≈ For failing to exercise control and discretion over funds held for charitable purposes, Grassroots could face significant penalties from the IRS, including forfeiture of its exempt status.

By donating to Grassroots International, you can be sure your support will reach critical efforts on the frontlines, given our strong track record and expertise.

What are the advantages of giving to a public charity?

- ≈ For individuals, a gift to a public charity is deductible to the extent allowed by the IRS.
- ≈ For private foundations, a grant to Grassroots International as a public charity counts toward the payout requirement. Furthermore, when Grassroots International makes an international grant, it is not required to do an equivalency determination or to exercise expenditure responsibility as prescribed by the IRS. We have the discretion to set sensible procedures for ensuring that the grant is used for its intended purposes. This is generally less complicated and onerous than either equivalency or expenditure responsibility.

What if a donor or a private foundation wants to make an international grant?

A private foundation grant to a non-US organization requires either:

- ≈ A determination that the organization is the equivalent of a public charity; or
- ≈ The imposition of expenditure responsibility, as prescribed by the IRS.

As noted above, neither of those requirements apply to international grants made by public charities like Grassroots International.

I have a small family foundation. How can we partner with Grassroots International?

Please visit our website and contact us to schedule a conversation with a staff member. This will provide you with an opportunity to share with us about your giving plans and expectations for this collaboration with Grassroots International; to ask any questions; and to see if we are a mutual fit. After this initial conversation, we will coordinate with you on making your donation and on deepening your engagement through activities such as delegations and donor engagement groups.

What is a Donor Advised Fund?

A Donor Advised Fund (or DAF) is an account for philanthropic purposes. To open such an account, you must identify a sponsor or administrator organization that will direct your giving at your will. You can decide to whom, how much, and how often you give. You also can transfer your DAF to members of your family and dedicate a percentage or the remaining balance of your DAF as a legacy gift to Grassroots International. The administrator of your DAF will offer more information on how to transfer rights to individuals, family members, or an organization.

I want to advise a donation through a DAF. How can I make it anonymous?

We are not required to identify the advisor or fund of a donation made through a Donor Advised Fund in our public filings or reports. If you do not wish to be publicly identified, please let us know. You also have the option to request that the administrator of your Donor Advised Fund make a gift to Grassroots without naming you directly.

I want to visit partners my money supports. Is that possible?

Grassroots International organizes donor visits once or twice a year. We believe it is essential for our supporters to learn firsthand about our work, the history and method of our collaboration with donors and partners, and our partners' work. But remember, you are not funding a specific organization but our work and partnerships. However, we are committed to ensuring that you are able to hear about and witness the work of various partners to understand the overall impacts of your donations, including in cases where you have directed your donation to a particular country or thematic area.

How do I know my money is not being used for illegal activities?

As a public foundation and international grantmaker, Grassroots International has to follow regulations set by the Internal Revenue Service and the US Department of the Treasury. Our due diligence process includes following 12 steps before disbursing any funds, including gathering written information from our grantees and cross-checking it against US government databases. Most importantly, we work with organizations with long-term relationships long vetted through site visits by our program staff. Furthermore, our partners are organizations recognized by local authorities in their respective locations and undergo strict annual audits, among other required activities.



**Grassroots
International**

Grassroots International, 867 Boylston Street, Suite 500 #1721, Boston, MA 02116

617-524-1400 • grassrootsonline.org