



WHO WE ARE

XminusY Solidarity Fund is an independent and progressive funding organisation based in the Netherlands. We provide financial and political support for social movements and grass roots groups all over the world in their struggle for social justice and political emancipation. A few thousand individual people in the Netherlands donate the XminusY funds. This means that we are fully independent from government funding, churches, political parties or other institutions, and free to determine our own political position and strategy. This independent position is reflected in the choices we make in our work.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

XminusY works from a global perspective: we consider it important not only to support the struggle for social change in far away countries, but also in our own society. Even in our globalised world, economic and political decisions are mainly taken in the North, while much of the repercussions are felt elsewhere. For us, supporting initiatives for change in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe is tightly connected with the responsibility for initiating campaigns and actions in our own country and by participating in international networks. Our activities are aimed at providing information about the groups we support and organizing actions to influence the public opinion and political decision-making. Another important part of our work is aimed at injustices that take place in our own society.

WHO WE SUPPORT

XminusY gives grants to groups and organisations all over the world to organise activities aimed at social justice and political emancipation. In our support we give priority to grass roots social movements instead of institutionalised NGO's. Groups and organisations supported by XminusY often operate within the margins of their own societies. Their work is either too politically sensitive or too radical to gain the official status and recognition necessary to guarantee structural funding by governmental or other mainstream sources. The support of XminusY can be the first impulse for groups in starting new initiatives aiming for social change.

IN WHAT WAY WE SUPPORT

The involvement of XminusY with the activities and organisations it supports extends further than mere financial support. We are generally well informed on most groups that we support and groups who find themselves in trouble can rely on us coming to their aid. One of the best means at our disposal is the use of publicity. Publicly allying us with an organisation's political position, organising debates and campaigns and writing articles can provide much-needed support.

WHAT WE DO SUPPORT

XminusY supports actions and campaigns from grass roots groups and social movements:

- which contain a clear political component in the struggle for social justice and political emancipation;
- which have a perspective for concrete actions to stimulate political discussions in the media, among policy-makers or in public opinion;
- which, because of their radical character, have difficulty finding support with more mainstream (funding) organisations, i.e. unionists, policy makers, development organisations and others are not willing to take up the issue;
- which are carried out with minimal interferences by other intermediary organisations.

Some examples of projects our section East, which includes the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and the Middle East, has supported in recent years:

- Campaign against Arms Trade, Nesehnuti, Czech Republic □ 2,480
- Campaign 'Sexism non-stop', St. Petersburg Centre for Gender Issues, Russia □ 500

- Anti nuclear Action and Training Camp, Ecodefense, Russia € 2,000
- Cyanide Trail Campaign against Gold Mine Rosia Montana, PATRIR, Rumania € 3,000
- Construction Mobile Solar Unit, Green Action, Israël € 4.000
- Campaign against GMO law, Za Zemiata, Bulgaria € 1.600
- Protests during European Economic Forum in Warsaw, WA29, Poland € 1.000

AND WHAT WE DO NOT SUPPORT

XminusY is a small organisation and our financial contributions are limited. This should be taken into account when submitting requests. Our maximum grant is a few thousand Euros and we prefer to finance projects in which our contribution makes up a substantial part of the total.

- In general, we are not eager to finance general office expenses, unless they are clearly only the initial costs or some sort of emergency costs.
- Conferences, research-projects, educational trips and other travel expenses are also very low on our priority list, except when these activities are essential to or enhance the work of an organisation which would itself qualify for a grant from XminusY.
- We prefer not to finance activities, which have already taken place.
- Children's projects, health projects and income-generating projects are also outside our criteria.
- Cultural projects, unless they have a strong political component are also excluded.

HOW YOU CAN APPLY

Requests for support can be submitted either by regular post or e-mail. They should contain some background information and include a fairly detailed budget. Languages spoken and written at the XminusY office are English, Dutch, French, Spanish and German. In case there is no one in your organisation who speaks any of these languages it is also possible to submit them in Russian. In general we expect information on the following subjects:

- What does your organisation do and why is that important given the particular (political) context?
- What are the aims of your organisation, what does it hope to achieve and what has it achieved until now? (Reports on past activities are appreciated)
- A description of the activities you request funding for in particular should be given, together with a detailed plan of how they are to be carried out.
- Are you working together with other organisations?
- A detailed budget, especially on the activities we are being asked to support, is requested, together with a list of other donors and funds where financial support is requested.
- Official verification of your organisation or other proof of its existence (e.g. references) is helpful, though not required.
- What do you expect from XminusY: financing, or also political support?

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN MIND

- XminusY has a small office with a few paid staff members. Some 40 unpaid volunteers and experts do the main work of evaluating the project proposals and maintaining contacts with our partners throughout the world.
- You should allow at least 6 weeks for a decision on your request. If the information you have provided is insufficient we may contact you for more information before making a final decision, which can prolong the procedure.
- If you happen to visit the Netherlands, and you'd like to come and see us, please make an appointment in advance to visit our office. Please note that we are not able to finance your visit to the Netherlands.

XminusY Solidarity Fund

De Wittenstraat 43-45 | 1052 AL Amsterdam | The Netherlands
 Tel. +31 20 6279661 / Fax +31 20 6228229 / xminy@xminy.nl
www.x-y.org