

# Access Power Foundation

## Who We Are.

Access Power Foundation is a non-profit foundation based in Canada that wishes to support grass roots Congolese efforts to advance women and reach a solution to the violence in the east.

Our funding is raised by private and public fundraising campaigns in Canada. Funds are to be used for loans, grants, and resource assistance to native Congolese organizations that are creating change and advancing civil society, particularly for the benefit of women, within Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

## Our Mandate.

As a federally incorporated non-profit foundation, our stated objects are to:

Increase women's participation in the public sector

Increase economic sufficiency of women

Foster leadership of women and girls

Provide resources for protection of women and girls at risk of extreme sexual violence

Provide resources for socioeconomic and psychosocial reintegration of survivors of extreme sexual violence

Provide resources for gender sensitization for men and boys

Provide resources for psychosocial recovery for men and boys exposed to extreme sexual violence against women and girls

The Foundation will support activities and projects that are directed at these objects. In the case of DRC, our primary focus will be on efforts that are ultimately directed at addressing gender-based violence in eastern DRC.

Access Power Foundation /  
La Fondation Access Power



## PROFILE OF ORGANIZATIONS / PROJECTS WE WISH TO SUPPORT.

### Key Assessment Criteria:

- Do you represent a grass roots Congolese effort?
- Are you an individual or organization that may be too small or off-target for larger NGO's to support?
- Are you an advocacy or activism organization?
- Do your efforts advance women's leadership in some way?
- Are your efforts directed at resolving gender based violence in eastern DRC, or empowering or protecting women facing violence in eastern DRC?
- Are your efforts directed at gender sensitization or social reintegration of males involved in or exposed to gender-based violence?
- Are you based in eastern DRC, or elsewhere in DRC?

While the above criteria are neither exhaustive nor prohibitive if not all are satisfied, they are key factors that will be considered.

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## The Vision.

While the conflict in eastern DRC has continued for many years and has received media exposure worldwide, an end to the situation does not appear to be within sight. Despite a multiplicity of international NGO's, MONUC, and local women's and peace initiative organizations, the lack of security and government intervention, and the oppression of local citizens, continues. One of the most critical and pressing aspects of the situation is the extreme sexual atrocities perpetrated on women and girls.

We believe the Congolese people themselves are in the best position to assess what is needed. The solutions need to be initiated by the Congolese, and we wish to provide resources to Congolese initiatives in order to assist this process. We also believe a key part of the solution is to have women taking leadership of the situation. By advancing women's participation and leadership in the process, a model for women's lives being primary, and not secondary, is created. The Foundation aims to serve as an enabler, who fosters women's "response-ability" within DRC.

## Tactics.

Our model is essentially one of "microdevelopment"; developing grass roots efforts to advance women's security, economic sufficiency, and participation in civil society. This might take the form of direct organizational funding, supporting a microlending organization, or other means of resourcing. We will also undertake our own initiatives within Canada and the U.S., for advocacy and awareness campaigns for those working for a better future in DRC.

If you represent an organization or group that fits within our vision and criteria, please contact the Foundation or go to [www.accesspower.org](http://www.accesspower.org) for more information.



Women and girls demonstrate: Do you wish us to take up arms as well?

## LEADING WOMEN TO POWER, EMPOWERING WOMEN TO LEAD

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