



2022 Annual Report

American Women for International Understanding



Kat Fotovat & Maggie Sabbag, IWOC Celebration 2022

A Message From Our President

Our mission, to improve international understanding through personal connection, is central to our work. Truly personal connection with women globally became possible again in 2022, and AWIU enthusiastically re-entered the world with initiatives and activities crucial to our mission.

We hosted a live International Women of Courage (IWOC) Celebration in Los Angeles, followed months later by a re-launch of our Career Opportunities in International Relations (COIR) symposium in Washington, D.C. These events were testimonies to our perseverance and to a revival of feeling our power and potential in person.

In honor of our 15 years of supporting the Secretary of State's International Women of Courage, AWIU received the U.S. Department of State's Gender Champion Award. The award was presented to AWIU at the 2022 IWOC Celebration by Kat Fotovat, Senior Official to the Secretary of State, Office of Global Women's Issues (above).

Revitalizing one of our flagship programs, we sent a Delegation (the first since 2019) to Guatemala, where stirring encounters with female-led non-profits gave rise to many ideas for grants and partnerships. In 2022, AWIU funds were awarded to International Women of Courage, as well as 14 Grantee organizations. In their reports to us ([link on page 6](#)), leaders of these organizations paint a picture of meaningful improvements in the lives of women and children in their communities.

A year into our strategic plan, we welcomed new members, diversified our income, and improved coordination among committees. We also began to benefit from increased integration across our programs, and, throughout 2022, we re-envisioned the Passports to the Future program ([page 8](#)).

These initiatives all speak to building connections and sharing resources, not only for AWIU, but for our wider community of Grantees, Women of Courage, Passports, partnering companies and non-profit organizations. The truly personal connection is what matters most.

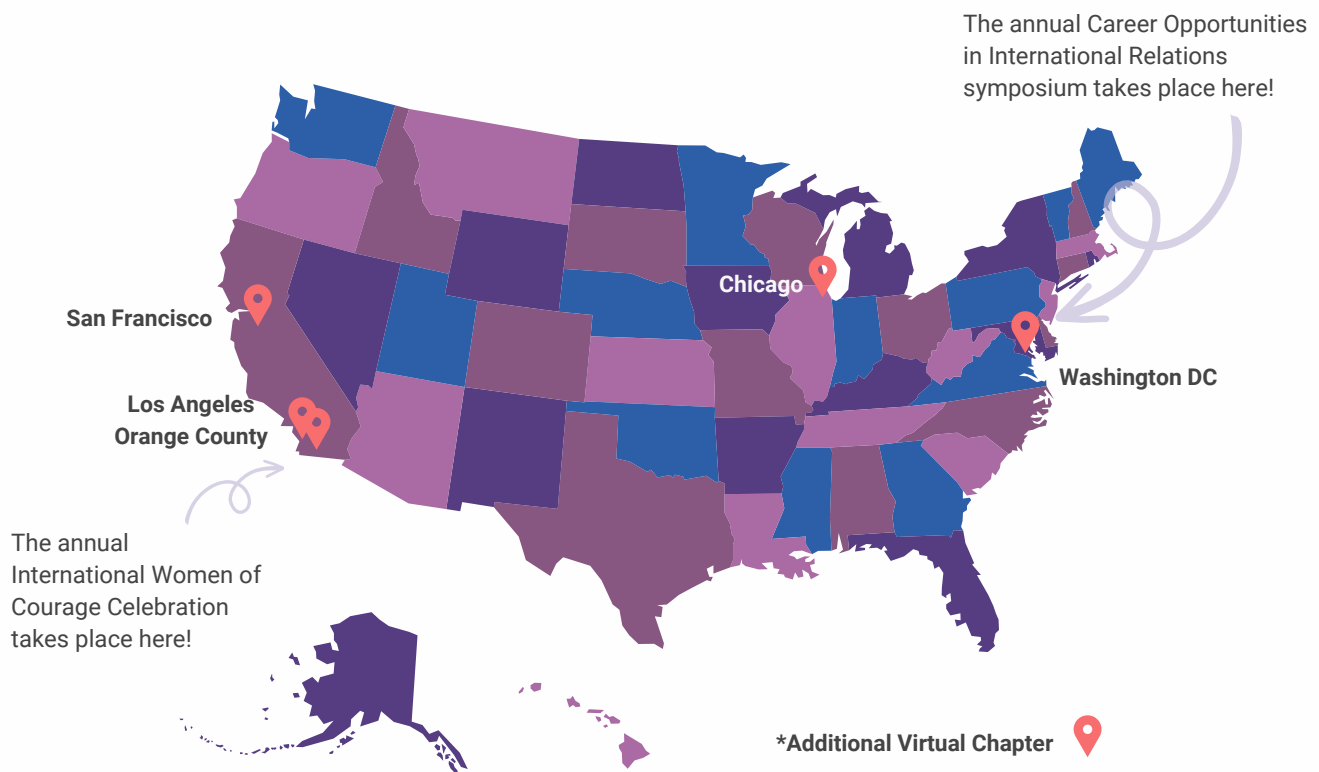
Maggie Sabbag, President, AWIU

Our History



Cuba Delegation, 2002

- 1968 AWIU began with a focus on international learning and connection through study, symposia, and travel. That year, an AWIU delegation of American women leaders traveled to the U.S.S.R. to meet with members of the Soviet Women's Committee, the first such group to do so in decades. Dozens of delegations have followed.
- 2008 The Grants program is founded to support projects that improve the lives of women globally, have an impact beyond the immediate need, and focus on health, education, and entrepreneurial development.
- AWIU hosts the first International Women of Courage (IWOC) Celebration, in collaboration with the Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues at the U.S. Department of State.
- 2010 AWIU launches the Passports to the Future program, to provide opportunities to young women, typically students or those just beginning careers in international fields. To date, some 55 young women have participated.
- 2014 AWIU launches the Career Opportunities in International Relations (COIR) symposium in Washington, D.C. COIR brings together young women and leaders in international relations for practical advice, inspiration and networking.
- 2020 AWIU hosts first AWIU Conversation, a zoom series to educate and connect members with each other, Grantees, IWOCs, friends and leaders on international issues.
- 2022 AWIU is proud to receive the Gender Champion Award from the Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues at the 15th Annual International Women of Courage Celebration.



Active Chapters

AWIU currently has six active chapters where members engage with each other, plan events, and learn about global issues. Other chapters are under development as interest grows nationally.

AWIU Chapter members come together to organize annual events, such as the International Women of Courage Celebration in Los Angeles, and the Career Opportunities in International Relations symposium in Washington, D.C..

Our Programs

American Women for International Understanding programs include: Delegations, Passports to the Future, Career Opportunities in International Relations symposium, Micro-Grants, and the International Women of Courage Celebration. In 2022, these programs impacted the lives of 123 AWIU members, 26 youth participants, 12 International Women of Courage, and over 500 women through our micro-grants.



AWIU members visited 12 local non-profits and women's cooperatives on the Guatemala 2022 **Delegation**.



The 2022 **COIR Symposium** on the topic of "Women Rising: Navigating World Challenges" brought together students, **Passports to the Future**, women leaders, and local recruiters.



AWIU **Grant** recipients trained 300 women worldwide on income-generating activities. Read more on page 6.



The 15th Annual **International Women of Courage Celebration** honored exceptional women leaders and their contributions to the advancement of human rights and women's equality.

Delegations

Since inception AWIU has sent 65 delegations, visiting over 100 countries. Several delegations broke ground as the first group of American women permitted to enter a country in decades: the U.S.S.R. in 1968, China in 1973, Saudi Arabia in 2002, and Libya in 2009. Our delegations promote understanding between the U.S. and the host country on a personal level.

AWIU delegations meet with leaders in government, business, and charitable organizations and embassies, institutions, historical sites and private homes. Information is shared upon return via presentations and digital communication.

The 2022 delegation to Guatemala saw AWIU members meeting with local organizations, leaders, and women's groups. Participants had an extraordinary experience exploring the country. Read more in the [Guatemala Delegation Report](#).



Members of Tejidos Cotzal weaving cooperative visited with AWIU members in October, 2022, on the shore of Lake Atitlan. Widowed by Guatemala's 35-year civil war, four women founded the non-profit in 1996 so they could feed their families. Tejidos Cotzal has received three AWIU micro-grants.

Grant Program

AWIU has awarded almost \$380,000 in micro-grants since 2008 to non-profit organizations that train and empower women and girls in the areas of leadership, health care and education. Our recent focus has been on women-owned businesses in developing countries. Annual grants are also awarded to the U.S. Secretary of State's International Women of Courage. Read more about the Grants program in the [2022 Grants Report](#).



International Women of Courage

Since 2008, AWIU has collaborated with the Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues at the U.S. Department of State to recognize women around the globe who fight for human rights and the advancement of women's equality. AWIU is honored to host the annual International Women of Courage Celebration, where we celebrate and support these extraordinary women.

The 2022 International Women of Courage award recipients Rizwana Hasan (Bangladesh), Simone Sibilio do Nascimento (Brazil), Ei Thinzar Maung (Burma), Josefina Klinger Zúñiga (Colombia), Taif Sami Mohammed (Iraq), Facia Boyenoh Harris (Liberia), Najla Mangoush (Libya), Doina Gherman (Moldova), Bhumika Shrestha (Nepal), Carmen Gheorghe (Romania), Roegchanda Pascoe (South Africa), and Pham Doan Trang (Vietnam). Read more in the 2022 IWOC Celebration Highlights.

At the 2022 *IWOC Celebration*, AWIU was honored to receive the Gender Champion Award from the State Department for advancing women's issues globally. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the 2022 honorees were not able to attend the Celebration. However, AWIU was pleased to welcome four U.S.-based IWOC alumnae, pictured below.



(L to R) May Sabe Phyu, Burma, 2015; Fadia Thabet, Yemen, 2017; Arbana Xharra, Kosovo, 2015; Roya Sadat, Afghanistan, 2018

Youth Programs

Passport to the Future

AWIU's Passports to the Future program is open to women under 32 years of age. These young women, typically students or those just beginning careers in international fields, seek to learn by participating in AWIU programs under the mentorship of an AWIU member. The structured, three-track approach focuses on skills development and mentoring: students are actively engaged with our members and other programs, including International Women of Courage and grantees.

Career Opportunities in International Relations

Since 2014, AWIU has sponsored the Career Opportunities in International Relations (COIR) symposium, a one-day program in Washington, D.C. that provides young women the opportunity to engage with and learn from leaders in the field. In 2022, AWIU celebrated the re-launch of COIR after a pandemic hiatus.



What People are Saying

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Thank you to AWIU for giving women and women of color interested in International Affairs a trusted space to engage and learn from well-established leaders in the field. Our foreign policy can only benefit from having diverse individuals not only at the table, but most importantly, contributing their expertise.

Hadeil Ali, Director, Diversity and Leadership in International Affairs Project, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)

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“

COIR was a wonderful opportunity to be among women leaders from many generations. There was such an uplifting spirit of collaboration, mentorship, and mutual learning during the event. It is so important to have these spaces where women of all ages, backgrounds and interests can share knowledge, insights, and advice.

Elizabeth Boesen, Assistant Director for Public Service Initiatives, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University



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My involvement in AWIU has really helped me bridge high school and college, and sharpened my career path. My mentor, Ambassador Tatiana Gfoeller, put me in touch with other AWIU members, who have all been so helpful. AWIU is a gold mine of support.

Jessica Sobieski, AWIU Passport to the Future

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The AWIU Community

Walt Whitman said, "I am large. I contain multitudes." While a small organization in terms of membership (131) and budget, AWIU's outreach is significant and global.

Our members, located throughout the United States, share a belief in our mission and vision. They are doctors and lawyers, ambassadors and professors, teachers and executives, mothers and grandmothers, retirees, women new to the workforce and women at the peak of their careers.

Our global relationships, fostered among members, International Women of Courage, grantees, sponsoring companies, universities, the U.S. State Department's Office of Global Women's Issues, and women in the foreign service, are indispensable to our work. Through our shared beliefs, we accomplish a multitude of benefits for the women and children we touch.



Financial Highlights

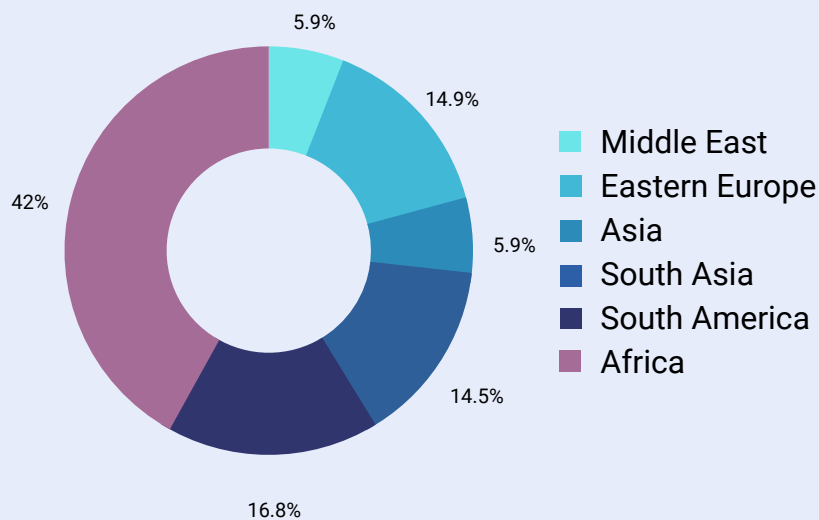
| Balance Sheet | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Assets | 2022 | 2021 |
| Cash | \$116,744 | \$96,627 |
| Investments | 388,504 | 456,507 |
| <u>Prepaid expense</u> | <u>5,122</u> | <u>553</u> |
| Total Assets | \$510,370 | \$553,687 |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | | |
| Deferred revenues | \$37,690 | \$19,918 |
| Unrestricted net assets | 409,495 | 471,774 |
| <u>Restricted net assets</u> | <u>63,185</u> | <u>61,995</u> |
| Total Liabilities & Net Assets | \$510,370 | \$553,687 |

| Income Statement | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Revenue | 2022 | 2021 |
| Contributions | \$20,245 | \$17,457 |
| Delegations | 35,298 | - |
| Programs | 194,860 | 156,255 |
| <u>Membership Dues</u> | <u>26,285</u> | <u>29,321</u> |
| Total Operating Revenue | \$276,688 | \$203,033 |
| Expenses | | |
| Grants | \$84,140 | \$100,000 |
| Delegations | 35,640 | - |
| <u>Other Programs</u> | <u>87,980</u> | <u>63,398</u> |
| Total Programs | 207,760 | 168,398 |
| <u>Management & General</u> | <u>62,259</u> | <u>41,964</u> |
| Total Operating Expense | \$270,019 | \$210,362 |
| Net Operating Income | \$6,669 | (\$7,329) |
| Investment Gain/Loss | (67,758) | 53,882 |
| Change in Net Assets | (\$61,089) | \$46,553 |

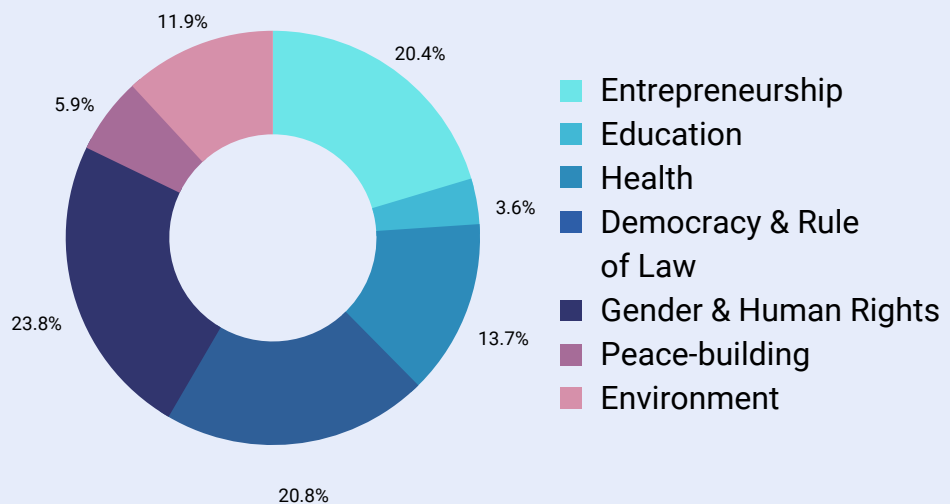
Grants Breakdown

In 2022, AWIU funded 11 International Women of Courage and 14 small organizations, worldwide.

Grants by Region



Grants by Topic



Our Future

The future beckons at AWIU. Our mission to build international understanding through personal connection remains central to all we do. We continue to focus on deepening our impact through increased membership, improved communication, and more integrated and innovative programs.

We are building an International Women of Courage (IWOC) Alumnae group. Our goal is to create a virtual network and sounding board for the more than 180 women of this esteemed community, and to help them forge relationships with other powerful women who walk their path and share their concerns. We are also connecting AWIU grantees via social media and structured conversations for similar relationship-building and problem-solving opportunities.

We have embarked upon a new vision for the Passports to the Future program. In an inaugural cohort planned throughout 2022, 14 young women worked closely with AWIU mentors, IWOCs, and grantees on research, reports and multi-media projects designed to teach them skills, serve the needs of the women and organizations they focused on, and produce “portfolio” pieces for careers in international relations. The second cohort starts in the fall of 2023.

Our future also includes the following exciting plans: the creation of new AWIU chapters to expand upon the expertise and capacity of our volunteer sisterhood; broadening our communications efforts to ensure relevancy and to engage a new generation of members and friends; deepening AWIU's partnerships with both the State Department and sponsoring companies to expand organizational possibilities and outreach; and mentorship training for our members, to share the richness and experience of this pool of professionals with a new generation of women who aspire to promote global understanding.

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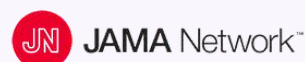
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