

**1 BILLION  
RISING** 2023

# ONE BILLION RISING 2023 “RISE FOR FREEDOM”

CREATE THE NEW CULTURE OVER 1,200 RISINGS IN 99 COUNTRIES

## ASIA/MIDDLE EAST:

Japan  
Taiwan  
Hong Kong  
Macau  
Mongolia  
Philippines  
Cambodia  
Indonesia  
Myanmar  
Singapore  
India  
Bangladesh  
Nepal  
Sri Lanka  
Pakistan  
Bhutan  
Thailand  
Maldives  
Dubai  
UAE  
Egypt

## EUROPE:

United Kingdom  
Croatia  
Italy  
Portugal  
Poland  
Germany  
Netherlands  
Austria  
Serbia  
Cyprus  
Ireland  
France  
Belgium  
Czech Republic  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Kosova  
Macedonia  
Montenegro  
Bulgaria  
Belarus

## Ukraine

Greece  
Estonia  
Finland  
Hungary  
Iceland  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Malta  
Romania  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Turkey

## AFRICA:

Democratic Republic  
of Congo  
Eswatini  
Zimbabwe

## South Africa

Ghana  
Nigeria  
Mali  
Cameroon  
Namibia  
Togo  
Malawi  
Uganda  
Lesotho  
Sierra Leone  
Botswana  
Gabon  
Kenya  
Zambia  
Rwanda

## NORTH AMERICA/

## SOUTH AMERICA:

Mexico  
Guatemala  
Jamaica

## USA

Canada  
Brazil  
Honduras  
Bolivia  
Haiti  
Argentina  
Peru  
Uruguay  
Chile  
Costa Rica  
Paraguay

## OCEANIA:

Fiji  
Solomon Islands  
New Zealand  
Kiribati  
Vanuatu  
Tonga  
Australia  
Marshall Islands

## SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF RISINGS PER COUNTRY:

Out of more than 1,200 risings in 99 countries, these countries had a significant number of national risings:

- PHILIPPINES: 200 +
- GERMANY: 154
- INDIA: 100 +
- USA: 70 +
- MEXICO: 40 +
- ITALY: 30 +
- AUSTRIA: 30 +
- POLAND: 30 +
- SRI LANKA: 20 +
- NEPAL: 20 +
- SERBIA: 16 +
- ESWATINI: 11 +
- + and counting....

### 2022:

Over 80 countries rose  
900 Rising events

### 2023:

Over 99 countries are rising  
1,200 Rising events and counting



# LOCAL FOCUS OF THE RISINGS

As in every year, activists across the globe localized the call to RISE FOR FREEDOM and Create The New Culture, in the context of ending violence towards women, gender diverse people, girls and the Earth with self-determined and specific regional, national and community based issues.

## SOME EXAMPLES OF THEIR RISE FOR FREEDOM CAMPAIGNS INCLUDE:

**RISE** FOR THE FREEDOM OF LOVE **RISE** FOR THE FREEDOM FROM VIOLENCE, RAPE, POVERTY, EXPLOITATION AND SHAME **RISE** FOR FREEDOM FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS TO AUTONOMY **RISE** FOR FREEDOM FROM ULTRA CONSERVATIVE AND OPPRESSIVE MOVEMENTS AND GOVERNMENTS **RISE** FOR WOMEN'S FINANCIAL FREEDOM **RISE** FOR WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES **RISE** FOR LGBTQI+ AND MINORITY WOMEN **RISE** TO PROTECT VULNERABLE GROUPS FROM DISCRIMINATION **RISE** TO ENSURE UNIVERSAL ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS REGARDLESS OF PHYSICAL, BIOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL DIFFERENCES **RISE** FOR FREEDOM OF BODILY AUTONOMY AND INTEGRITY **RISE** FOR FREEDOM AND SAFETY TO LIVE IN IMMUNOCOMPROMISED BODIES **RISE** FOR ECONOMIC FREEDOM **RISE** TO END SEX FOR GRADES IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS **RISE** FOR MIGRANTS RIGHTS **RISE** FOR WORKER'S RIGHTS **RISE** FOR THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN **RISE** FOR FOOD, LAND AND CLIMATE JUSTICE **RISE** FOR WOMEN'S LAND OWNERSHIP **RISE** FOR SAFE WORK SPACES WITHOUT SEXUAL COERCION **RISE** FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS' RIGHTS TO LEADERSHIP **RISE** FOR THE FREEDOM OF CREATIVITY AND EXPRESSION, FOR HEALING AND CARING **RISE** FOR DIVERSE VOICES **RISE** FOR FREEDOM IN COMMUNITIES **RISE** TO CHANGE SOCIO-CULTURAL PRACTICES THAT HAVE LIMITED FREEDOMS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS **RISE** TO DECLARE GBV AS A NATIONAL CRISIS **RISE** FOR MENTAL FREEDOM **RISE** FOR NEW SPACES OF FREEDOM **RISE** FOR WIDOW'S RIGHTS **RISE** FOR LAWS FOR THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND LGBTQI+ **RISE** FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND EVERYONE EMBRACED - **RISE** IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE WOMEN OF IRAN, AFGHANISTAN, SYRIA, PALESTINE AND ALL OPPRESSED WOMEN WORLDWIDE



# VOICES FROM OBR ACTIVISTS THAT BEST DESCRIBE THE SHARED DEPTH, SCOPE, EXPANSE, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND NUANCE OF 2023 GLOBAL RISINGS:

## FROM GABRIELA (OBR PHILIPPINE COORDINATORS) AND THE GRASSROOTS WOMEN OF THE PHILIPPINES

“We commemorate 10 years of women rising, fighting, creating, dancing, connecting, inspiring, resisting, disrupting, uniting, hoping, celebrating, revolutionizing, and envisioning. We harness a decade in action and come together to RISE FOR FREEDOM! We rise for FREEDOM AGAINST VIOLENCE — a world free from hatred, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, harassment, rape, and all forms of violence against women, girls, and the LGBTQIA+ community. We rise for FREEDOM FROM EXPLOITATION. We rise for living wages, dignified work, and an end to contractual labor. We rise for the freedom of working women to come together, unionize, and strike. We rise for freedom from landlessness and hopelessness, for the protection of Mother Earth and the enjoyment of her fruits for all, and for genuine agrarian reform for women and their families in the countryside. We rise for the freedom of women to speak truth to power and for the release of every woman, girl, and LGBTQIA+ person jailed as political prisoners. We rise for FREEDOM FROM THE OLD CULTURE AND THE BIRTH OF THE NEW — a culture not of injustice and oppression, but a culture where hope, love, care, compassion, and EQUALITY IN ALL FORMS triumphs!







**FROM AFIA WALKING TREE  
(OBR JAMAICA COORDINATOR)**

“This year’s theme challenged us to consider what modality offers us the opportunity to experience and pursue freedom. The answer is LOVE. When we experience love, whether being in it, offered it or receiving it, we transcend our own boundaries, we believe in the impossible, and for a lot of us, freedom is impossible. However, when we tap into unconditional and blissful love, that exists just because we are, we realize that freedom is the opportunity and space to exist as the full human beings we know ourselves to be. This year’s theme is the first step towards freedom. It calls us to ourselves and to our communities to dream what freedom can look like, what it feels like, and who are the people standing next to us when we are free.”



**FROM KAMALA VASUKI  
(OBR SRI LANKA COORDINATOR)  
AND THE GRASSROOTS WOMEN  
OF SRI LANKA**

**“Let us Rise to cherish Love.  
Let us Rise to protect lives.  
Let us Rise to claim  
Our life is our right.  
Let us Rise for Cultures  
that do not oppress.  
Let us Rise to protect  
the humanhood  
beyond the identities of  
religions and ethnicities.  
Let us Rise for Justice.  
Let us Rise for a culture  
where love prevails.  
There won't be violence in  
a place where Love exists.”**



# EFFECT AND IMPACT THIS YEAR'S THEME HAD ON COMMUNITIES:

Many more **LGBTQI+** led Risings

More inclusion of **WORKER'S RISINGS**

Highest number of **YOUTH RISINGS** in 10 years

More **MEN** joined Risings

**INTERCONNECTEDNESS** of other social justice movements under OBR, and highlighting violence against women in the context of freedom from war, poverty, discrimination, displacement, occupation, suppression, discrimination, exploitation, exclusion

Strengthened **INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY** for the freedom from oppression from women in Iran, Afghanistan and others

The **EXPANSION AND CONNECTION** of the theme to the day-to-day struggles of the economic and health crisis

Created **NEW SOLIDARITIES** with other marginalized groups like disability groups, the elderly, refugees, internally displaced peoples

Enabled historically marginalized communities to envision what **FREEDOM** looks like, and to believe in it, where once it was very difficult to

Gave deeper, more contextualized **UNDERSTANDING** of what freedom means – economically, culturally, mentally, politically, spiritually, emotionally, physically

Connected the current challenges of women and the world, to the **HOPE** for a future

**ACTIVISTS AND COMMUNITIES** embraced the freedom theme because of the realization that while it is their right, it is constantly under threat

Gave people a **DEEPER RESPONSIBILITY** to defend it, and to do so in solidarity

**RAISED THE CONSCIOUSNESS** regarding economic freedom, financial freedom and the urgent need to rise to end poverty

**RAISED THE CALL** to allow women access to hold more political positions

Connecting the freedom theme to the freedom to **OPENLY TALK** about sexuality and women's bodies

Highlighted the **PERILOUS SITUATION** most communities are in because of climate change, climate crisis and environmental destruction and how this directly relates to their freedom

Highlighted **INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVISM** as key to freedom – with more knowledge and skills transfer between generations of activists taking place

Highlighted **INTERSECTIONAL ACTIVISM** also as crucial for freedom – the theme paved the way for more cooperation and collaboration between groups, of men and boys, bridging many gaps

**CONNECTING** the concept of “freedom” to community, shared lived realities, solidarity, responsibility, care, love, and interconnectedness: “How does your choice affect someone else’s freedom.”

**FROM RADA BORIC (OBR CROATIA AND OBR EUROPE REGIONAL COORDINATOR):** “The continuation and persistence of the women’s struggle to defend their freedom and expend it (and the freedom of others), is here to stay. The theme of freedom resonated perfectly, since women face attacks on their freedom daily, concerning especially, their reproductive and sexual rights, and also the different restrictions on their freedom and creative potentials in all spheres of life.”



# HIGHLIGHTS OF RISINGS AND CREATIVE RESISTANCE ACTIONS:

**SINGAPORE** Performance of self-written monologues by girls age 16 and above on the themes of sexual violence, gender roles, stereotypes and abuse. Led by the newly formed OBR Youth Wing of Singapore.

**JAPAN** Dance events across the country with the themes: “Let’s Dance and Open the Door to Freedom”/ “Freedom of Self Determination”. Issues highlighted are poverty, single parent families, single mothers, discrimination against women, and support for pregnant teenage girls.

**HONG KONG** Thousands of domestic and migrant workers from all across Asia and their local Hong Kong allies held a big in-person 7-hour dance event - rising for freedom from discrimination and exclusions, and for justice.

**INDONESIA** Youth risings took place in schools in 17 provinces of Indonesia - rising to end sexual abuse in schools, particularly in Islamic boarding schools, and Rising for Land, Food and Climate Justice.

**MYANMAR** The main rising was led by IDP (Internally Displaced Peoples), women, children and youth - rising for freedom for women and youth activists who are in prison as political prisoners, and for those who are fleeing border areas to other countries because of political oppression and suppression.





**INDIA** Risings focused on migrant labor, women farmers, as well as on adults with disability issues and the issue of multiple sexual identities, with a foundational focus on violence. 28 states held creative and artistic events focusing on the themes of communal violence, issues of rights and entitlements of the marginalized communities, the taking of resources and land, and of land appropriation – including a Mountain Arts Festival where music, theatre and arts workshops were held.

**BANGLADESH** Community level risings included dancing, songs, posters and traditional art. The big open-air program had women drummers going around streets and districts with a rally procession, singing, dancing, with feminist artists and feminist songs.

**CAMBODIA** Held writing, art and film challenges with the theme: “Right To Rise For Freedom” – asking the accountability and transparency from their government on its promise of ending gender-based violence. Main artistic rising was led by gender diverse participants with the theme “Rise for the Freedom of All Diverse Girls and Women” – promoting the recognition of the rights, freedom and self-expression of diverse girls and women and gender diverse people.

**NEPAL** Conducted sessions in 50 districts on violence against women and girls and collated a list of their concerns that were brought to local administrations. The main risings included dancing, art and theatre on the streets showing possible remedies at the local level. Held a series of OBR podcasts on the issues of land rights, feminism, violence, and patriarchy, and held discussions in 20 colleges.

**PAKISTAN** Conducted a seminar and poster competition among students from the departments of Gender Studies, and Psychology at Rabel Pindi, the only women’s university in the country. Held different rising activities with women’s shelters in the capital of Pakistan and Punjab. To this day, it is prohibited for women to dance and sing on the streets, which is why they held their risings inside universities.

**SRI LANKA** Creative events in 20 districts included a kite festival, community dancing, street plays, traveling theatre caravan, songs and local discussions, celebrations of women, cycling procession, art events, painting sessions, men discussion groups, publishing of a booklet of 10 years of OBR and traditional performances. Risings also took place in tea plantations led by plantation women and in local communities led by women workers.



**MONGOLIA** Organized a “Freedom for Women” demonstration with civil society organizations, which included a women’s march and the dancing of OBR’s “Break the Chain”. The main rising event in the central square focused on women’s rights to emotional freedom, sexual freedom, financial freedom and physical freedom.

**TAIWAN** A runway fashion show was held which encouraged women and gender diverse people to express the meaning of freedom using their bodies and design.

**PHILIPPINES** Gabriela chapters, community groups and government departments nationwide held over 200 various creative risings that led up to events across the country - rising for freedom and celebrating 10 years of OBR. Community risings were led by grassroots women, women workers, women farmers, teachers, LGBTQI+ communities, youth and indigenous groups. The Main Manila Rising was a huge artistic rising concert featuring bands and artists. Youth Risings with thousands of participants in over 100 colleges in schools also led this year’s actions. Major risings also took place in the Houses of Senate and Congress and the Philippine Supreme Court.

**NEW ZEALAND** Migrant women led the OBR in Auckland highlighting migrant issues; the rising was organized by a 16 year old migrant girl (who began organizing OBR when she was 14).

**AUSTRALIA** Multiple risings took place across the country – with one of the highlights being the Byron Bay rising at the beach once again at sunrise, along with performances of “Vagina Conversations” – an original play featuring some of Byron Shire’s powerful and creative women who gathered to share personal stories.

**ESWATINI** Community level risings took place using sports, dance and art to engage the youth. The main rising focused on the theme of what freedom means to them as their government pushes back on their freedoms. Their OBR Convention showcased speeches, art, songs, dancing, drumming and their own original OBR Africa dance.







**SOUTH AFRICA** Held a huge event with singing and dancing, with SA indigenous groups, community groups and LGBTQI+ communities, as well as groups working with sex workers. Their focus was to look at freedom and how their government is currently load shedding causing havoc to their lives – with no water and running water. And how this is impacting the communities and everyday life.

**MALAWI** The main event highlighted rising to be free from sexual harassment, patriarchy, and early marriages.

**GHANA** Rising focused on freedom of abuse against the youth – with discussions with police and the health department, community women and youth – which culminated in art and dancing.

**LESOTHO** Rising celebrated the passing of the Domestic Violence law which has been ongoing for the past 15 years. The main rising also highlighted the rights of widows – with a TV program where they discussed domestic violence, discrimination and violence against widows, and trafficking.

**UGANDA** The main rising event focused on rising for economic and financial freedom. As well as addressing the mental health challenges women face as a result of economic violence. A march took place through communities and in marketplaces where a lot of women work, with women dancing and carrying OBR placards to encourage women to not give up on their financial and economic dreams. March included speakers who are survivors of violence.

**CAMEROON** This year's theme was "Grab your financial and mental freedom". The focus was on university students who have had to endure sexual harassment, including succumbing to sexual advances to earn grades. Another issue highlighted was young girls having to give their bodies for secure jobs. The main rising included speeches, a Break the Chain flash mob (which they have translated and recorded locally in French), talks and more dances.

**TOGO** OBR Togo focused on financial and social freedom and also rising in solidarity with the Northern part of Togo which is experiencing terror attacks now.

**ZAMBIA** OBR Zambia's theme continued to be rising to end child marriages. This year demanded the full implementation of the laws. The main rising consisted of various schools meeting and youth dancing – and holding government departments to task about what they have to offer so that young children will no longer be violated. The focus was also on rising for financial freedom, and the full implementation of the GBV Act, the gender and equality act.

**MALI** Held a youth leadership empowerment event where the focus was the free and open discussion on leadership: on being the next generation of leaders – with live music, songs and dancing. They also held a discussion on female entrepreneurship in Mali, on how to be resilient in the face of successive economic crises in the country.

**NIGERIA** Rose with the Ministry of Art and Culture in Kwara State, as well as with the women and girls in Lagos, to amplify young people's voices.

**AUSTRIA** Held a rising with live performance art in solidarity with the women of Iran and all the oppressed women of the world. They danced Break the Chain in several locations in the city of Vienna and across the country. For their main rising, a young woman from Iran composed the piece performed at the event. A rising and OBR dancing was also held inside their Austrian Parliament.

**SERBIA** Held numerous risings including flash mobs of “Break the Chain” in many locations, self-defense workshops, a theatre play tour, and a performance of “The Vagina Monologues”.







**ITALY** OBR Italy focused on the issue of hidden violence and harassment in sports and in cinema and theatre. The main rising saw OBR activists come back to their initial OBR space – the Piazza Desa – where they first rose 10 years ago. OBR flash mobs, speeches and creative risings took place in over 40 cities across the country.

**CROATIA** The main artistic and political rising at the town square included actresses, athletes, and bands – with singing, dancing, speeches, women drummers and women on bikes. To commemorate V25, they held a performance of “The Vagina Monologues” performed by women with disabilities with a talk after, and women’s music. They also brought the campaign onto public transport, buses and trams, and held risings for the protection and freedom of Mother Earth, and rose with the women of Iran, Ukraine and Afghanistan. They also finished a 10th year OBR documentary.

**POLAND** Held a debate in the Polish parliament on changing the definition of rape to include the issue of consent to intimate contact. They have been fighting for this for several years and continue to highlight this in their risings. Local organizers across the country held dance actions to publicize this issue. They also danced “Break the Chain” in parliament.

**GERMANY** Held 154 simultaneous and synchronized risings all across the country on the same day, February 14th – and all with the shared theme of Rise for Freedom.

**GUATEMALA** Held their main flash mob at the National Cultural Center, including holding OBR actions and dancing in places where the children of the women prisoners live. OBR events also took place in 8 schools. They also re-staged “The Vagina Monologues”.

**MEXICO** In its 10th year, OBR Mexico honored indigenous artists from the 32 states of Mexico. Ran a pamphlet campaign on what freedom means to them in Mexico, particularly freedom from capitalism – which they brought to the Senate. More than 40 risings took place across the country – dancing to the Spanish version of “Break the Chain”. They also held a celebration performance of “The Vagina Monologues” at the Lebanese Theater – featuring actresses who have done the play in Mexico for the last 20 years.





**THAILAND** Held a major rising dance event and march led by LGBTQI+ communities, highlighting the issues of gender diversity, inclusion, LGBTQI+ rights and freedom.

**BHUTAN** Held major youth rising events in over 10 districts.

**BRAZIL** Community and LGBTQI+ members from Favela Da Paz held a creative dance rising, with music, art and discussions.

**USA** Held over 50 Rising events across the country with actions ranging from OBR dance events to panel discussions, Raise the Vibration original artistic works, marches, rallies, youth risings in schools, community dance events, risings in performance art schools, risings led by incarcerated women in Dallas, and artistic risings.

**JAMAICA** Held a community circle on a farm centering on what freedom through and with love would look like – which included drumming, dancing, chanting, sharing, meditation, spoken word, and honoring Mother Earth.

**NAMIBIA** Risings included several artistic events including the creation of an original song and music video called “Love Us”, a live music concert with the theme of “Rising for the Freedom To Love”, and the creation of short videos of LGBTQI+ couples talking about the need to end violence against women, girls and the earth. Their risings were led by Lesbian, Bisexual, Trans and Queer women.





**SIERRA LEONE** Held a panel discussion, engaging students and lecturers, on the issue of GBV, and in particular the issue of sex for grades amongst women and young girls.

**GABON** Held a caravan across schools and within communities where the focus was on financial freedom.

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO** Held several risings including meetings with community women about what freedom means, a conference and rising to reflect conditions of women in DRC, and what needs to be done to free women from male dominance, and a youth rising where secondary school children rose for children's education and against discrimination of girls in families and schools, and where they learned leadership skills.

**BOTSWANA** Risings included a tutu walk and health session to focus on the freedom for women to wear what they want without getting raped. Risings also included school addresses to discuss with school children how boys need to understand and respect the freedom of girls.

**UNITED KINGDOM** Communities across key cities in the UK, as well as domestic workers and migrant groups held flash mobs across the country.

**KENYA** Held a walk to petition the government to push changes in the Sexual Offense Act. The main rising included youth and community members, together with area magistrates, local leaders and police representatives to discuss women's rights.

**EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY** Held an action at the front of the European Parliament on International Women's Day (IWD) to reiterate the importance of the Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence and to be loud and united in the demand to recognize rape as sexual exploitation. Engaged with Members of the European Parliament in a photo and social media action. This message was shared with member countries of EWL and translated into all their languages. EWL also held a "fireside chat" with women in decision-making positions to discuss challenges women still face in 2023, connecting it to freedom. EWL has 31 countries as part of its membership \*26 EU member states, three candidate countries, Iceland and the United Kingdom.





# ART AS PART OF THE RISINGS....

“Art transcends status, age, knowledge and cultural barriers. It’s about coming together in the beautiful moment and working to end violence against women and girls around the world. Art is the CORE of OBR.”

- **INGRID YEH**, Garden of Hope/ OBR Taiwan coordinators

“Art heals people and gathers them together as one big solidarity, where strength and power are shown in a meaningful way to resist violence and injustice.”

- **CHANDY ENG**, OBR Cambodia Coordinator

“Art is the best way to promote the vision of OBR”

- **AIKO KASUKO KUROSAKI**, OBR Austria Coordinator

## EXAMPLES OF ART AT RISINGS:

Dancing • Drumming • Singing • Painting • Theatre • Performance Art • Spoken Word • Open Mic • Poetry • Poster Design Competitions • Costumes during marches • Music Videos • Original Songs • Original Dances • Original Choreography for “Break The Chain” • Healing Circles • Traditional Dances • Forum and Street Theatre • Cultural Dances • Concerts • Performances • Artistic Festivals • Films • Storytelling • Improvisational Street Art • Visual Art • Social Media Art • Banners • Posters • Creation of Murals • Kite Festival • Writing and publishing • Rap • Comedy • Honoring OBR artists.



# **OBR 10<sup>TH</sup> YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

## **AND HOW THE CAMPAIGN HAS CREATED LONG LASTING CHANGES**

Everyone celebrated 10 Years of OBR in a huge and significant way, alongside “RISING FOR FREEDOM” this year. This is general feedback shared by most.

“In 10 years of OBR, countries in Africa are building partnerships with local organizations, companies, government departments, the police, local government, schools and universities to amplify the OBR call. OBR in Africa, throughout these 10 years, has contributed to lobbying for enactment of laws, law reform, and establishing sustainable initiatives for women and girls at all levels. It is a strong movement in Africa. It is currently the only campaign that does not discriminate against any person and believes in solidarity – not competing with other campaigns.”

**- COLANI HLATJWAKO**  
OBR Africa Regional Coordinator

# OBR HAS...

- **EMPOWERED WOMEN** in the communities from being victims to survivors to leaders
- Been a venue and platform where the **MOST MARGINALIZED** women have been able to exercise their rights and to participate
- Increased the spectrum with which activists can **INTERACT** with women, girls and LGBTQI+ in community on issues
- **ENCOURAGED** people from all communities to join
- Encouraged people to think and has **PROMOTED THINKING**
- Given women the platform, the **CONFIDENCE** and the belief to advocate for their issues
- Every year, given **NEW INSIGHT** into new and creative ways and innovative strategies to be able to pass the OBR message and vision to communities
- Been adopted by **MANY GROUPS** – mostly groups that do not depend on big funds from companies
- Formed many women's **COALITIONS** and alliances
- Enabled those who have participated to commit to being **AMBASSADORS** of women's rights
- Given **SPACE FOR MEN** to change from being perpetrators of violence against women, to protectors of women's rights in their families and communities
- Created **STRONGER BONDS** and friendships among women who participate, inspiring new collaborations and initiatives in the advancement of women's rights and freedoms
- **INSPIRED GOVERNMENTS** to run similar creative and political campaigns on national levels
- Brought **POWER** to the people – what was initially brought by NGO's or organizations and groups, now are led by people in the communities
- Created **NEW LEADERS** – from the youth risings that get stronger and bigger each year
- Brought **CONNECTION**, inspiration and aspiration
- Become a platform for **KNOWLEDGE SHARING** – particularly intergenerationally
- Broke open many cultural and social **TABOOS**
- **UNITED** instead of divided countries and regions
- Been an **AMPLIFIED VEHICLE** for many closed doors to open on the ground – politically, socially, culturally
- Built stronger and **BIGGER NETWORKS**, and united social justice movements – which has brought attention to local and national governments
- Influenced **NATIONAL POLICIES** on law, national decision-making and local leaders
- **CHANGED LAWS**
- Created **BETTER DYNAMICS** for local media to have a GBV sensitive approach on reporting on issues
- Enabled women's **PARTICIPATION** in leadership and decision-making from the community to national level
- Been recognized as a vital part in **CIVIL SOCIETY**, engaging different feminist and social justice groups – becoming a stronger and stronger voice for communities.
- Modelled what **SOLIDARITY** looks like – because it also regularly joins and supports other campaigns and events
- Created nation-wide, **INCLUSIVE AND INTERSECTIONAL** movements
- Given strength, hope, joy, creativity, inspiration and determination to local campaigns, in the face of every adversity, because of its global vision, global solidarity and **GLOBAL INTERCONNECTEDNESS**





## “OBR IS OUR BREATH.

It is integrated into our bodies. In Indonesia, over these last years, it has spread far and wide across the country, especially in rural areas where it now belongs to the peasant women, plantation workers, indigenous people, minority groups, youth, and all the marginalized people at a grassroots level.”

- **TRIANA KURNIA WARDANI** (OBR Indonesia Coordinator)

“The OBR campaign, in the last few years, has built strong linkages with different communities who feel deep ownership and love for the campaign in their own ways, and strongly believe in the campaign to be the tool to change the world from violence to love.”

- **IRENE GAROES** (OBR Namibia Coordinator)

## WHAT TO RISE FOR IN 2024:

Rise to end violence against women (cisgender and transgender), gender diverse people, girls and Earth – with these suggested themes and focus:

**RISE** For Freedom **RISE** To End Patriarchy **RISE** For Mother Earth, the Environment and Climate Justice **RISE** For Food Sovereignty **RISE** To End Harmful Cultural Practices and Narratives **RISE** For A Culture of Non-Violence **RISE** For Global Solidarity **RISE** For Equality In Every Aspect of Life **RISE** For All Rights **RISE** To End Impunity **RISE** For Diversity and Inclusion **RISE** To End Poverty and Economic Exploitation **RISE** To End Marginalization



# SHOULD WE CONTINUE WITH THE CAMPAIGN?

**A RESOUNDING YES!**

## WHY?

Patriarchy has not been dismantled yet,  
and we have not yet gained full freedom.

Because we are creating the new culture,  
which is creating the new world.

“Violence against women is the Apartheid of the world. We need to continue to Rise For Freedom, Freedom of our bodies, Freedom from oppressive laws and oppressive cultures. We must continue to Rise for women to occupy governments and lead communities, lead provinces, and lead countries.”

**- LUCINDA EVANS**

OBR South Africa Coordinator





# TO PERFECTLY ARTICULATE THE EMBODIMENT OF THE HEART OF A RISING, ON OBR'S 10<sup>TH</sup> YEAR, AND WITH "RISE FOR FREEDOM" AS THE THEME...

**FROM JAGORI GRAMEEN – OBR INDIA NATIONAL SECRETARIAT**

"The second edition of the OBR Swara Mountain Arts Festival 2023 held from 11th - 15th April at Jagori Rural truly brought together and celebrated multiple identities - those with special abilities and diverse gender identities, artists from various corners, our friends from different parts of the world, community members, women, children, youth - and thus included everyone in raising voice and rising together for Freedom. Freedom from inequality, from discrimination, from injustice and oppression of all kinds & Freedom to express and be ourselves the way we are. . . spreading love and humanity in the world.

Imbibing the spirit and guidance of Saint Kabir, the festival was successfully able to weave together inclusivity, intersectionality and activism for rights and freedom. Through workshops on different art forms - music, theatre and creative storytelling, the participants at the festival learnt to use 'Art' for telling their own story as well as raising their voice for social justice and equality. There were evening celebrations on each day of the festival and we saw a diverse range of performances including singing, dances, poetry, clowning, and theatre which were a perfect culmination and crescendo taking the festival's freedom message and hope to its peak. I hope that this journey continues to touch many more hearts and lives in the future and the magic of 'Swara' reaches every corner of the world!"

*"Swara" is derived from the Sanskrit word "Svar" which means sound. There are different forms of sound. But the sound which is soothing to the ear and which is musical is known as swara.*



# RISE FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

In late June, when the US Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, taking away the right to abortion and opening the floodgates for states across the country to ban abortion and most immediately affecting the 13 states with trigger laws – Arkansas, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming, V-Day and One Billion Rising activists took to the streets and across online platforms to protest, support and advocate for the bodily autonomy and freedom. V-Day joined the collective actions together with groups including Planned Parenthood, MoveOn, Women's March, UltraViolet and more to demand control over our bodies, our lives, and our futures.

We are an anti-violence movement. Forced pregnancy is a form of violence. Lack of access to reproductive healthcare is a form of violence. The ruling will most impact poor people and communities of color.

**THIS IS OUR WORLD  
AND THESE ARE OUR BODIES.  
YOU HAVE UNLEASHED  
OUR FURY,  
OUR SOLIDARITY,  
OUR UNITY.  
WE WON'T GO BACK.**

**#RISEFORREPRODUCTIVEJUSTICE #UNTILTHEVIOLENCESTOPS**







# RISE WITH THE WOMEN OF IRAN

V-Day and One Billion Rising stood in solidarity with Iranians who took to the streets in large-scale protests across the Islamic Republic of Iran in response to the murder of Mahsa Amini. Iranian women asked that we amplify the stories of women on the ground in Iran, that we show our solidarity and support, and that we RISE for and with the women of Iran. One Billion Rising activists and coordinators spoke out in solidarity across social media platforms and more.

V-Day called on activists to create videos in solidarity, join rallies and share widely and loudly about the injustices taking place in Iran and the radical, fierce protests that Iranian women on the ground are leading. We called on our network to call their elected officials and demand that they speak out against the Islamic Republic of Iran's human rights violations.

Now more than ever our solidarity is essential. RISE with the women of Iran!

As a global activist movement to end violence against women, gender expansive people and girls, we stand with the women of Iran against the Islamic Republic of Iran's brutal oppression of women.

Now more than ever our solidarity is essential.  
 Women of the world have our eyes on Iran.  
 Global Solidarity with the Women of Iran



# EARTH DAY

Every day we RISE for Climate Justice & Mother Earth. We amplify the connections between the exploitation of women and the exploitation of the earth. The global climate crisis impacts communities around the world. Women and girls suffer the most in terms of long term loss of livelihood, forced migration, trafficking and other climate related conflicts. Indigenous populations everywhere have suffered gravely – displaced and forced to flee and relocate – making them the world's first climate refugees.

This Earth Day, we renew our call for justice against the aggressive greed and global exploitation of nature and people that deepen the inequalities of wealth and power. We RISE for Mother Earth and for the restoration of dignity, integrity and respect towards the Earth and to all people of the world who have been violated by policies and programs that cause environmental degradation and plunder.



# RISING IN THE MEDIA ACROSS THE GLOBE

Risings receive ongoing coverage, from November during 16 Days of Activism and continuing through Earth Day, with coordinators center stage in major outlets in their countries. Events gather communities and generate global news coverage.

This is a small snapshot of some of those stories:

## SC backs One Billion Rising campaign

Neil Jagan Sarmelas - The Philippine Star  
February 10, 2023 | 13:00am



In Republica

## Rep tv



In Bari flash mob against violence against women: 'A message for everyone on Valentine's Day's Day'

## Filipino women rise for freedom

February 12, 2023



TAOS NEWS

## Empowering youth at One Billion Rising V-Day celebrations



PeoplesPost

## V-Day makes a splash

February 13, 2023

## Women march against violence



## TAMIL GUARDIAN

## my KOLKATA

## World's Employment

## Kolkata schools show solidarity for One Billion Rising global campaign



## ONE BILLION RISING

## La piazza di Parma ha ballato per il Billion Rising 2023 pensando alle donne iraniane- Foto



## One Billion Rising campaign held in Madurai

February 14, 2023 11:57 am / Updated February 15, 2023 12:38 pm IST - MADURAI



Millions raised on the evening One Billion Rising event organized at Gandhi Memorial Museum in Madurai on Tuesday (February 14).

## Violence against women, in the square of Spain a flash mob dedicated to the 'Iranian sows'

The event in the square (plaza) for the annual anniversary with One Billion Rising, the international movement founded by #MeToo, took place



## One Billion Rising Vienna - Rise for Freedom

14.02.23 - Sabine Schaub



(2023) von Fabrice Erbstein One Billion Rising Vienna)

## PUNE NEWS : One Billion Rising rally spreads awareness on violence prevention

February 12, 2023



## Only 'yes' means consent, One Billion Rising in Kulu for the seventh time

2023-02-14 19:27:58



Only 'yes' means consent, One Billion Rising in Kulu for the seventh time

## Only 'yes' means consent, One Billion Rising in Kulu for the seventh time

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