

## **#ShiftthePower: A Manifesto for Change**

Global Fund for Community Foundations organised a Symposium called [the Pathways to Power: New Ways of Deciding and Doing](#) in November 2019. As a part of this, a working Manifesto for Change was drafted which built on conversations since 2017.

Further updates and information on the manifesto can be found [here](#).

The draft Manifesto states:

*If we want to create a genuine alternative to existing ways of deciding and doing, we need to:*

- 1. Embrace a vision of a “good society” built around core values of equality, democracy and sustainability and a set of organizing principles based on global solidarity and distributed leadership.*
- 2. Cast off the restrictive framework of “international development,” which is defined by money and power and which creates artificial barriers between communities and movements in the global north and south.*
- 3. Move away from a system that is preoccupied with quick “solutions,” and is premised on and organized around the transfer of funds. Change how we approach, and seek to measure, the notion of success.*
- 4. Creatively find ways to unlock the inherent power of communities in determining their own development course – however they define it – and let the language of “beneficiaries” and “recipients be a thing of the past.*
- 5. Move away from “building capacity” as defined by external actors and requirements, towards community organizing and movement building, where “capacity” equates to relevance, rootedness, and constituency.*
- 6. Ensure that external funding recognizes, respects, and builds on local resources and assets, rather than over looks, undermines, or displaces.*
- 7. Expand our horizons beyond money as the central driver of change, and place greater value on other kinds of infinite non-financial assets and resources (knowledge, trust, networks etc)*
- 8. Change the language we use so that it enables new ways of working and thinking, rather than constrains them. And challenge the dominance of English.*
- 9. Change ourselves. We need both humility and boldness, and to be ready to challenge our own power and to listen to and work with others.*

*In short, we want a future that is negotiated, participatory, and widely owned, and which is developed through values and processes based on movement generosity rather than the success or failure of one organization over others.*