



CONNECTED WOMEN LEADERS

End of Year Letter
2023



As we approach the year's end, Project Dandelion x Connected Women Leaders (CWL) is energized for 2024, ready to continue our work and expand our vibrant community of Dandelions. Before we transition, let's celebrate five remarkable achievements of 2023 within our network. These highlights are markers of our collective progress and set the stage for an invigorating start to the coming year. Embracing these moments allows us to reset and refocus, gearing up for the exciting journey ahead.

1. EVENTS

- Hosted panels and sessions at ten global events
- Over 50 global leaders connected to become Dandelions
- Over 100 Partner organizations join Project Dandelion
- More than 2,000 supporters raise their hands to be Dandelions

WOW Festival: CWL joined a panel on the climate crisis with Mary Robinson, Hindou Omarou Ibrahim, Jude Kelly, Mikaela Loach, and others. They launched Project Dandelion, rallying 800+ attendees to action.

Bellagio Convening: CWL met at Rockefeller's Bellagio Center, refining Project Dandelion's strategies, and secured our first wave of seed funding, thanks to supporters Funke Opeke and Liz Sheehan.

TED Events: CWL brought Project Dandelion to TED Countdown and TEDWomen, showcasing the link between climate and gender justice, addressing the communication crisis in the climate movement. You can watch how we illustrated this connection [here](#).

Women Deliver: We led a groundbreaking panel on women in climate, engaging 6,500+ attendees, organized a philanthropic breakfast, and raised another round of seed funding with support from leaders like Mona Sinha, Latanya Mapp Frett, Ellen Dorsey, Cristina Ljungberg, and Junemarie Justus.

Africa Climate Summit: CWL hosted a successful event, gathering 100+ global climate leaders, sharing wisdom, and capturing content for the Project Dandelion campaign. You can watch more about our activation [here](#).

Omega Institute Convening: CWL partnered with Carla Goldstein, gathering 20 influential women leaders sharing perspectives as storytellers, front-line activists, and the networked on the importance of listening and learning as we activate for change. We also connected with funder and Dandelion Susan McPherson and thank her for her support.

UNGA/Climate Week: Project Dandelion marched with 75,000+ people to End Fossil Fuels. CWL hosted a successful reception at The Rockefeller Foundation, expanding the Dandelion movement. Peggy Dulany and the Skoll Foundation joined in supporting the campaign and became Dandelions.

Reykjavik Global Forum: Project Dandelion received the Power, Together Award from Women Political Leaders, recognizing impactful collaborations. Watch Mary's acceptance speech [here](#).

Unite for Climate Solutions Summit: Co-hosted by SHE Changes Climate and others, together we emphasized women's collective power for climate solutions. Mary Robinson's dialogue with Sultan Al Jaber made headlines, emphasizing the importance of phasing out fossil fuel. You can see a clip of the coverage from Democracy Now [here](#).

2. DANDELION PINNINGS

Throughout this year's events, our Project Dandelion team had but one goal: Seed More Dandelions. To be a Dandelion means:

You prioritize justice, recognizing that the least responsible are the most impacted / you're not afraid to call out who is responsible.

You center the voices & experiences of women, inclusive of women of all backgrounds and gender expressions. We want them to know we've 'got their back'.

You operate with clarity & focus, recognizing the urgency of the crisis and avoiding distraction by "solutions" that don't actually meet the moment.

You value community and know the power of collective action.

You believe in the possibility of a brighter future and move with expansive imagination about the world we can build together.

Here are just a few Dandelions that have sprouted in 2023.



3. PROJECT DANDELION ACTIVATES AROUND COP28

With [WRTHY's](#) incredible support, Project Dandelion launched its first public activation during the Unite for Climate Solutions Summit. This involved an open invitation for women leaders, climate advocates, and social justice champions to join forces for a safe climate for all. The activation occurred in two phases: Unite and Mobilize.

Unite: From November 21st, over 100 partner organizations and 2,000+ Dandelions declared their commitment to a climate-safe world. There's still time to join—explore our [Toolkit for details](#).

Mobilize: Now in phase two! Project Dandelion unveiled a one-click public pressure tool—a Twitter/X Widget on projectdandelion.com, which allows users to pressure global leaders to follow through on their commitments made at COP28 and accelerate climate action.

4. IMPACT REPORT

We've created two impact reports this year for review.

CWL/Project Dandelion Impact Overview 2023: This deck, [linked here](#), shares more information about our in-person activations, our key partnerships, and our overall reach.

Project Dandelion Launch Impact Report: This deck, [linked here](#), shares how many Dandelions posted, shared, and amplified the Project Dandelion message online. Spoiler alert - it reached over 400 million people! Special thanks to the Rockefeller Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, without whom our activations would not have been possible.

5. COMING SOON: WOMEN'S NETWORKS WHITE PAPER

In partnership with The Rockefeller Foundation, Connected Women Leaders is developing a new white paper. It will explore the unique utilization of the CWL network and the networking practices of women within it. This qualitative research blends survey findings with informal interviews. Women's networks interested in participating or contributing insights can contact us at emily@connectedwomenleaders.com for details. Stay tuned for updates.

Thank you for your continued support and investment in Connected Women Leaders and all our various ventures. From our team to yours, Happy Holidays.



Pat Mitchell, Hafsat Abiola, Ronda Carnegie
Co-Founders of Connected Women Leaders
Co-Leads of Project Dandelion