# WOMEN'S DECLARATION INTERNATIONAL USA, INC



**ANNUAL REPORT 2024 Published January 2025** 

## WDI USA 2024 Annual Report

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#### **Introduction**

The U.S. <u>chapter</u> of Women's Declaration International (WDI USA) is pleased to share our 2024 Annual Report with signatories, supporters, and donors. We have had a productive year of advancing the <u>Declaration</u> on Women's Sex-Based Rights throughout U.S. law and policy.

# Board Composition and Volunteer Staffing Changes

2024 was a year of big changes for WDI USA's leadership team and volunteer program.

Megan Rose served on the board of directors and as vice president from 2023 to the spring 2024, having served as our development director since 2021. We are grateful to Megan for all her hard work on Project Reckoning. She mailed copies of Kara Dansky's 2023 book *The Reckoning: How the Democrats and the Left Betrayed Women and Girls* to every member of the U.S. House and Senate, as well as the chiefs of staff and legislative directors of the Senators and the chiefs of staff of the Representatives.

Kara Dansky served on the leadership team of our organization from its inception in 2020 until August of 2024, when she stepped down as president and board member. She continues to volunteer with us as our legal expert.

Elizabeth Chesak joined the board and succeeded Dansky in the role of president in August.

Karla Mantilla served on the board from August to October 2024.

WDI USA would like to thank Elizabeth Chesak for her service as Chief of Staff from 2023 to 2024. We welcomed Kristin Zebrowski to that position in August of 2024.

WDI USA worked to strengthen our volunteer program in 2024. Our efforts included increasing the frequency of volunteer networking meetings from monthly to weekly, seeking out State Contacts, and increasing volunteer diversity. Volunteers were encouraged to share their interests, skills, and talents at meetings, with an eye toward encouraging women to take action in their own communities.

## Legal Advocacy

In 2024, WDI USA continued its legal advocacy before the U.S. Courts of Appeals by filing an *amicus* <u>brief</u> in *Olympus Spa v. Armstrong* in April. Olympus Spa is a women-only spa located in Lynnwood, Washington, not far from Seattle. It is a traditional Korean spa where nudity is expected (and sometimes, required), and it had a strict female-only policy. A man named Caleb Wilvich who calls himself a woman named Haven was denied entry because he's male. He brought the spa before the Washington State Human Rights Commission, claiming that the spa's female-only policy violated the Washington state Law Against Discrimination (WLAD). He won there because state law defines the phrase "sexual orientation" to include "gender identity." The spa then sued the state human rights commission in federal district court, which ruled against the spa for the same reason. In its decision, the district court used the phrases "transgender women" and "transgender women with male genitalia" uncritically and without definition.

The spa appealed to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, where WDI USA filed its *amicus* brief. The Lynnwood Times covered our brief, quoting former president (and legal counsel) Kara Dansky elaborating on argument number two of the brief: "If the District Court is correct that Washington State law requires Olympus Spa to admit naked men into a nude women's spa it's very difficult to see how the state of Washington, including local law enforcement agencies, can also enforce criminal laws that include voyeurism and indecent exposure. We just wanted to advise the court and really encourage the court to consider that argument." The 9th Circuit heard oral arguments in the matter on November 18. WDI USA was there for the arguments and to hold a <u>rally</u> outside the courthouse in support of women and girls. No ruling had been issued by the time of this writing.

This year, WDI USA submitted its first amicus briefs before the U.S. Supreme Court.

The first two were in the cases of <u>West Virginia v. BPJ</u> and <u>Little v. Hecox</u>. These cases are virtually identical, legally and factually.

• West Virginia has a law protecting female-only sports in schools. A male athlete challenged the law, complaining that it violated his rights under Title IX and the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. After initially ruling in the athlete's favor, the district court ruled in favor of the state (this is the only case in which a federal judge appointed by a Democratic president, in this case President Clinton) ruled in favor of the material reality of sex. The case went to the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, which reversed and ruled in favor of the male athlete. The state asked the Supreme

- Court to review the matter and WDI USA filed an *amicus* brief urging it to do so. No decision had been made by the time of this writing.
- Idaho has a law protecting female-only sports in schools. A male athlete challenged the law, complaining that it violated his rights under Title IX and the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. The district court ruled in favor of the male athlete and the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed. The state asked the Supreme Court to review the matter and WDI USA filed an amicus brief urging it to do so. No decision had been made by the time of this writing.

The only way in which these cases are factually different is that the male athlete in West Virginia has had his puberty blocked and is on estrogen, whereas the male athlete in Idaho is an adult man who went through male puberty.

In October, WDI USA filed its very first "merits" amicus brief before the Supreme Court (a "merits" brief is a brief on the substance of the arguments being put forth, as opposed to a brief urging the Court to take or not take a case).

The case is *US v. Skrmetti*. In this case, Tennessee has a law prohibiting the administration of puberty blockers and opposite-sex hormones on minors for the purpose of "enabling a minor to identify with, or live as, a purported identity inconsistent with the minor's sex; or treating purported discomfort or distress from a discordance between the minor's sex and asserted identity." A group of minors, their parents, and a doctor (represented by the ACLU) sued, alleging that the law violates their rights under the Equal Protection and Due Process Clauses of the 14th Amendment. The US government intervened in support of the plaintiffs. The district court agreed with the plaintiffs and the state appealed to the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals. As reported last year, WDI USA filed an *amicus* <u>brief</u> at that level of litigation. The 6th Circuit reversed and ruled that the Tennessee law is constitutional. Both the US and the ACLU asked the Supreme Court to review the matter and the Supreme Court accepted the US's petition. WDI USA filed an *amicus* <u>brief</u> in support of Tennessee. <u>Oral arguments</u> in that matter were held on December 4 and a decision is decided to come next June.

## <u>Legislative and Administrative Advocacy</u>

## <u>Federal</u>

In April, WDI USA sent a private email message to the Democratic Women's Caucus (DWC, which includes every female Democratic member of the US House of Representatives), regarding an appalling statement the DWC had put out about the Biden Administration's Title IX administrative rule changes. The DWC's statement omitted any reference to the fact that the rule changes erased women and girls as a sex class.

Unsurprisingly, they ignored us. So we <u>asked</u> women all over the world to: (1) Bring as much attention to the situation as possible globally by sharing it with women's groups and members of the media; and (2) Contact the DWC to share their concerns about the glaring omission in the DWC's statement about Title IX.

Elizabeth Chesak, Kara Dansky, and fellow volunteer Marian Rutigliano met with Representative Nancy Mace (R-SC) on December 4 to discuss the leftist radical feminist

critique of "gender identity" ideology and how best to protect the sex-based rights of women and girls in 2025.

## <u>State</u>

The State Legislative Advocacy Team, coordinated by Lauren Levey, is tasked with getting the Declaration and a radical feminist analysis to the attention of state lawmakers and into the permanent record of a bill's history.

The team had a record-breaking year in 2024.

They acted on 140 state bills (in 26 states), more than twice the number of 2023 actions. Twenty-three of those 140 actions consisted of sending legislators our own Save Adolescents From Experimentation (SAFE) Act model <u>bill</u>, written by Lauren Levey and Kara Dansky.

The categories most frequently acted on were use of drugs and surgeries to disguise a minor's sex; attempts to enshrine "gender identity" in law and policy; and protections of minors from online pornography.

SLA team volunteer Nancy Dockter has collected the team's 2024 data into a comprehensive table which can be accessed <u>on our website</u>. Below is a very brief excerpt showing just 2 of the 140 bills that were acted upon.

STATE	DATE INTRODUCED	LINK TO BILL	TOPIC	WDI ACTION	BECAME LAW?	STATUS IF PROCESS INCOMPLETE
California	2/13/24	AB 2442	Expedites licensure of providers who administer hormones and surgeries to disguise sex	Opposing testimony	NO (governor veto)	
California	1/23/24	SB 959	Provides services and resources for the administration of hormones and surgeries to disguise sex	Opposing testimony	NO	Pending committee approval

In addition to the SLA Team's work shown in the table, the WDI USA board did a series of targeted mailings in an effort to persuade New York voters to reject Proposition 1 on the November ballot. Unfortunately, this ballot initiative passed, with the result that "gender identity" will be enshrined in the New York State Constitution, making it more difficult to undo than a regular bill passed in the state legislature.

## Corporate

In September, the WDI USA board made a <u>written public comment</u> in September to Meta Platforms regarding its policies on bathrooms, sports, and free speech.

## Caucuses

## Lesbian Caucus

A new project undertaken by the WDI USA Lesbian Caucus in 2024 was the establishment of a Lesbian Coming-Out Group, reported on <a href="here">here</a>. The group met for about ten weeks. The Lesbian Caucus plans to run another limited-time group beginning in June 2025.

The Lesbian Caucus authored the following articles during 2024:

- The WDI USA Lesbian Caucus writes to the US Department of Education
- Fine-Tuning the Boundaries of Lesbian Spaces
- Why Are Lesbians Hated? (Part I)
- Lesbian Bar Stories: A Pride Gift From the WDI USA Lesbian Caucus
- To What Extent is Lesbian Culture Consistent with Radical Feminism?
- Building Real-Life Lesbian Community: A Practical Guide
- Effects of Butch/Femme on Lesbians
- The 4B Movement Arrives in the US: Effects on Lesbians and the Women's Liberation Movement
- Why Are Lesbians Hated? (Part II) And What We Can Do About It

The Lesbian Caucus conducted this <u>video interview</u> of author/publisher Susan Hawthorne (of Spinifex Press).

Additionally, Lesbian Bill Of Rights International (LBORI), of which the WDI USA Lesbian Caucus is the founding member, authored the following articles:

- How Laws on Hate Speech and Hate Crimes Affect Lesbians
- Open Letter to UNAIDS by LBORI

Finally, Lauren Levey, coordinator of LBORI, represented LBORI in person at the WDI international conference in London in July, and gave a <u>talk</u> describing LBORI's purposes and body of work to that audience.

#### Black Women's Caucus

The Black Women's Caucus conducted a number of informative videos and articles this year. With the valuable input from Kristin and Dana, Lorraine Nowlin interviewed prostitution abolitionist <u>Vednita Carter</u> in March. She spoke about the sex-trade and its horrific impact on Black women. In April, the Caucus interviewed a birth worker, <u>Umi Rey</u> who spoke on the intrusion of Gender Identity Ideology on maternal healthcare. Kristin Z facilitated the Caucus' statement on <u>Preserving Sports and Spaces for Women and Girls</u>. In May, Lorraine penned

a statement highlighting the <u>Connecticut State Representative Black and Latino Caucus</u> members unwavering stance to ensure that mothers are addressed respectfully as mothers.

Lorraine Nowlin represented WDI USA at the WDI Convention in London, July 2024. She presented information on the <u>Work of WDI USA</u> and <u>the Black Women's Caucus</u>. Lorraine also participated in an interview with Sybilla Claus, editor of the book <u>Gender Rebels</u>. It was published in the Netherlands in September 2024.

## Desisted & Detransitioned Women's Caucus

The mission of the Desisted & Detransitioned Women's Caucus (DDC), launched in December 2023, is to advocate for women and girls who previously believed they had a so-called "gender identity" by sharing their own stories and learning from the women who came before them, as stated in the DDC's <u>introductory</u> post:

"Many of the older feminists we talk to express that had they been born in this era, they would very likely have been pushed to attempt to change their sex in response to their nonconformity with sex-based stereotypes. They want to help us because they see themselves in us. This cross-generational solidarity has had a profound impact on our development as radical feminists.

The ideology of 'gender identity,' in addition to annihilating the sex-based rights of women and girls, alienates women and girls from one another by encouraging them to interpret their experiences through the lens of an ever-expanding list of made-up 'identities' rather than through the lens of women as a sex class. The damage this has done to the women's liberation movement is huge – but some of us are pushing back.

Through writing, videos, and speaking engagements, we will share our stories and increase our understanding of them through a radical feminist lens. It is our hope that by amplifying the voices of those who deprogrammed from 'gender identity,' we will contribute to the dismantling of this ideology."

In February, DDC coordinator Elizabeth Chesak had a <u>letter to the editor</u> published in response to Pamela Paul's *New York Times* article "The Debate Over Transgender Care and Detransitioning." This marked the first time WDI USA has appeared in the pages of the *New York Times*.

In March, DDC member Céline Calame told her story of detransitioning – and how St. Louis Children's Hospital whistleblower Jamie Reed changed her life – in the piece "Céline's Story," which was later republished on Colin Wright's Substack, Reality's Last Stand.

Also in March, the DDC published the <u>Desisted & Detransitioned Women's Bill of Rights</u>, which describes the rights, reality, and political potential of desisted and detransitioned women, consistent with radical feminist principles.

In June, the DDC released a <u>statement</u> regarding Arizona SB 1511, the "Detransitioner Bill of Rights," and asked Declaration signatories to urge Governor Katie Hobbs to sign the bill into

law. (Unfortunately, she did not.) Coordinator Elizabeth Chesak was also <u>published</u> in the *Arizona Daily Independent* regarding the bill.

In August, Elizabeth Chesak interviewed <u>Maia</u>, a 25-year-old Israeli-American writer, researcher, and public speaker. Maia discussed learning to accept herself as a lesbian, finding community with other desisted and detransitioned women, connecting with her Jewish roots, and how living through war caused her to rethink her life plans.

In September, the Desisted & Detransitioned Women's Caucus spoke at the third WDI USA National Convention, "Amplifying the Women's Liberation Movement," with members Elizabeth Chesak and Fern Lopez speaking in person, and Céline Calame making an appearance via Zoom.

# Public Education

We posted a series of X ads throughout the month of June for Pride month, algorithmically targeted to users similar to existing followers of TERF-y users, reminding them that "lesbians don't have penises." By June 30th, we had made 263,684 impressions total. One of the ads is depicted below.



In August, Lorraine Nowlin interviewed Nancy Docktor about her enlightening report called No Longer Women Only: How 'Gender Identity Ideology' Has Changed Women's Shelters. It focuses on how domestic violence shelters are increasingly allowing men into shelters that are supposed to keep women safe from abuse.

#### Public Actions

March 8th

Kara Dansky and Irene Lawrence attended an NCAA action protesting "Sadie" Schreider, a man, competing against women in DIII track and field championships in Virginia Beach, VA.

May 12th-14th

Several WDI USA volunteers joined other women's groups for a rally and press conference

in support of the plaintiffs in <u>Westenbroek v. Kappa Kappa Gamma (KKG)</u> at the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver. In this case, six sorority sisters sued their sorority for admitting a man. WDI USA filed an <u>amicus brief</u> in this case. The rally and press conference were organized by the Independent Women's Forum, who represent the plaintiffs, to coincide with the oral arguments being held inside the courthouse. Some of the other groups in attendance included the Women's Liberation Front and a group of more than 450 KKG alumni (both of which have also filed amicus briefs in support of the plaintiffs). Kara spoke on behalf of WDI USA and is quoted <u>here</u>.

#### June 15th

Kara Dansky and Lauren Levey spoke at School Board meetings in favor of Resolution 248, which called for a review of New York City's policy that allows children to play sports in accordance with their "gender identity.". At one meeting, transgender ideologues erupted into humming, heckling, yelling, hissing, and coughing, and blocked the microphone whenever a Community Education Council member for District 2 or an attendee with whom they disagreed spoke.

#### June

Kara Dansky and Irene Lawrence spoke at events in Chapel Hill, NC, Washington DC, and Virginia Beach, VA during the Our Bodies, Our Sports: Take Back Title IX Summer 2024 Bus Tour, which visited 30 states in 30 days, holding rallies with distinguished athletes, coaches, and activists fighting to keep women's sports female-only. The bus was vandalized at one point, but all the events were well-attended, high-energy, and brought together women from across the political spectrum.

## July 13th-15th

Seven WDI USA volunteers gathered in Milwaukee to protest in favor of women's abortion rights during the Republican National Convention. WDI USA also put up billboards in advance of both conventions: "Abortion is a Woman's Sex-Based Right" in Milwaukee before the RNC, and "Only Women Need Abortions" in Chicago before the DNC.



Billboard in Milwaukee paid for by Women's Declaration International, USA, a proabortion rights group. (Raw Story photo)

# September 14th

Irene Lawrence spoke about violence against incarcerated women at the <u>Women's UpRaising</u> in Philadelphia, an event hosted by WoLF to bring awareness to the pervasiveness of violence against women.

## September 27-29th

Board member Irene Lawrence and several other WDI USA volunteers participated in a <u>protest</u> at the American Academy of Pediatrics Conference in Orlando, FL, from September 28th-29th with a broad coalition of groups telling the AAP to stop the medical transition of children. A highlight was lesbian Lauren Leggieri <u>disrupting</u> Admiral Levine's speech!

#### November 1st

WDI USA volunteers hosted in-person actions in solidarity with German women protesting a new "self-ID law" which went into effect on November 1, in Washington, DC, Chicago, IL, Atlanta, GA, San Francisco, CA, Portland, OR, and New York, NY. A video compilation of actions from around the world is <a href="here">here</a>.



#### November 17th-18th

WDI USA hosted two events in Seattle around the case of *Olympus Spa, et al. v. Armstrong*. The first event was a <u>panel at the Seattle Public Library</u>, which many Antifa <u>came out to protest</u>. The panel was attended by 100 people and included moving presentations by former WDI USA President Kara Dansky, Korean-American veteran and politician Susanna Keilman, founder of Sovereign Women Speak April Morrow, women's rights activist and educator Amy Sousa, detransitioner Elle Palmer, and environmental advocate Carol Dansereau. All the women spoke to the harms of gender ideology specifically for women in Washington state. The second event was a <u>press conference</u> following oral arguments in that case.

#### December 4th

WDI USA joined a broad coalition of organizations including the LGBT Courage Coalition, Do No Harm, Partners for Ethical Care, LGB Alliance, DIAG, WoLF, and other groups opposed to child medicalization in an action on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court during the oral arguments in the U.S. Supreme Court case *United States v. Skrmetti*, which centers on a Tennessee ban on the medicalization of children (often euphemistically referred to as "gender affirming care"). WDI USA filed an amicus brief in this case.

# 2024 Convention: Amplifying the Women's Liberation Movement

In 2022, we launched our first annual convention in Washington, D.C., titled "Reigniting the Women's Liberation Movement." The goal was to draw on the successes of the second-wave feminist movement of the 1960s and 70s. By the convention's conclusion, the consensus among attendees was that we had succeeded in reigniting the movement. Building on that foundation, in 2023, we convened in downtown San Francisco for "Accelerating the Women's Liberation Movement," focusing on advancing the momentum established in the previous year.



This year, the focus shifted to amplifying the movement. The 2024 convention, titled "Amplifying the Women's Liberation Movement," was held from September 20-22 in Midtown Atlanta. This gathering of radical feminists aimed to increase the reach and impact of the women's liberation movement through collaboration and exchange of ideas, information, and skills.

The convention opened on Friday with a focus on community building and advancing women's sex-based rights in political spaces. A panel discussion titled "Protecting Women's Sex-Based Rights as a Democrat in Today's Environment" featured Val Applewhite, Regina

Barrow, Maud Maron, and Jenny Poyer-Ackerman, facilitated by Kara Dansky. The day concluded with a structured networking session to foster connections among attendees.

Saturday's programming explored bridging gaps within the women's liberation movement while critiquing gender ideology and addressing intersectional feminist concerns. Highlights included the panel "Building Bridges to Amplify the Women's Liberation Movement," featuring Dr. Suzanne Forbes-Vierling, Mary Elizabeth Castle, Alexandra Renée, and Denice Traina, facilitated by Kristin Zebrowski on behalf of the Black Women's Caucus. Amy Sousa presented "Sublimating Sexism: Critiquing the DSM-5 Diagnosis of Gender Dysphoria," and Lauren Levey facilitated a discussion for lesbians on "Lesbian Culture and Radical Feminism."

Joanne Parrent delivered the keynote address, "We Are Still the 4th World: How the Current Trans Movement Uses the Playbook of the 1970s Left to Attack Today's Feminists." Additional sessions included "Sexism and Gender Ideology in Progressive Social Movements" by Nassim Nobari, "The LGBT Movement and Transgender Ideology" by Karla Mantilla, and "I'm Not Like Other Girls': Tumblr, Fanfiction, and the Online Subculture Telling Straight Girls They're Trans" by Melissa Nurczynski. Young women and same-sex attracted women also had opportunities to engage in focused breakout discussions.

On Sunday, the convention turned its attention to intergenerational collaboration and reflections on detransitioning. MaryLou Singleton delivered a powerful presentation on "Fetal Personhood Laws as a Threat to Women's Liberation." Concurrently, the panel "Women Across Generations Discuss Women's Liberation," was facilitated by Kara Dansky and featured radical feminists from four generations - Marian Rutigliano (Boomer), Lorraine Nowlin (Generation X), Irene Lawrence (Millennial), Elizabeth Chesak (Generation Z), and Katherine Kinney (Generation Z).

Members of the WDI USA Desisted and Detransitioned Women's Caucus, including Elizabeth Chesak, Fern Lopez, and Céline Calame, shared their experiences in the final panel of the convention. The day concluded with a structured speak-out and closing remarks from convention coordinators Kara Dansky, Kristin Zebrowski, and Elizabeth Chesak.

Survey feedback from attendees reflected an overwhelmingly positive experience, praising the convention's organization, engaging content, and valuable networking opportunities. The breakout sessions, keynote speakers, and discussions on detransition and women's rights resonated strongly with participants. Suggestions for improvement included extending session lengths, enhancing pre-convention communication, and addressing logistical concerns such as hotel affordability and parking.

Recordings of the convention are available <u>here</u>.

The 2024 convention successfully amplified the Women's Liberation Movement by fostering collaboration, addressing critical issues, and inspiring continued action. We look forward to building on this momentum in future gatherings. We are hard at work planning our 2025 convention, which we plan to call "Growing the Women's Liberation Movement."

# <u>Giving</u>

WDI USA is an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff, outside fundraising contractors, or office spaces. As such, we are able to put the majority of the gifts we receive directly towards our programming work to support the sex-based rights of women and girls. In 2024, 89% of our revenue went directly towards programming expenses.

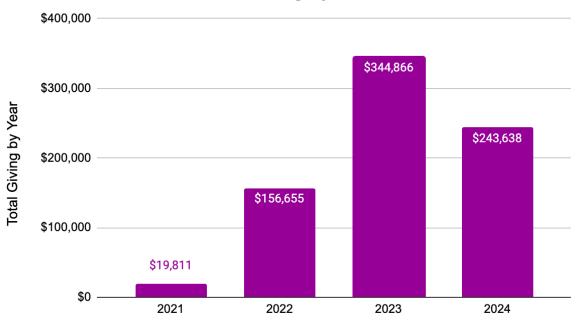
In December of 2024, two generous donors each pledged to make a gift matching up to \$10,000 of what was raised by other supporters. Thanks to Nathalie Pettus, another anonymous donor, and the 78 other individuals, we were able to raise \$30,872 over the course of the week of Giving Tuesday.

We are extremely grateful to all the donors, small and large, who make this important work possible. In 2024, our median donation was only \$52, and our mean donation was only \$20.

With gratitude for every gift, we would especially like to thank those who participate in our WIN Giving program, some of whom are recognized below, and all of whose recurring gifts make it possible for us to plan our work more effectively.

Virginia Dale Nancy Dockter Olivia Keister Anonymous Man Nathalie Pettus Brianna Pressley Kellus Stone

# Total Giving by Year

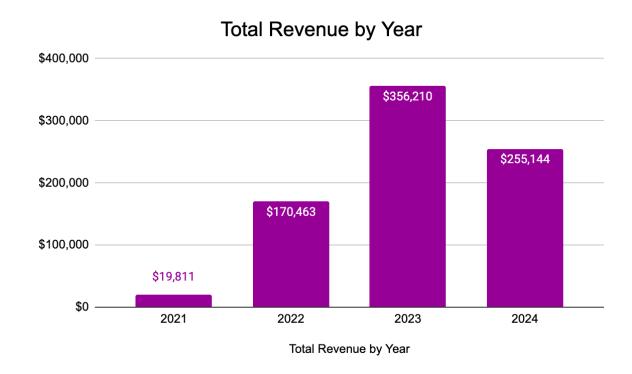


UNRESTRICTED DONATIONS	\$243,638
Recurring	\$19,100
Non-recurring	\$34,537
Grants & Contracts	\$190,000

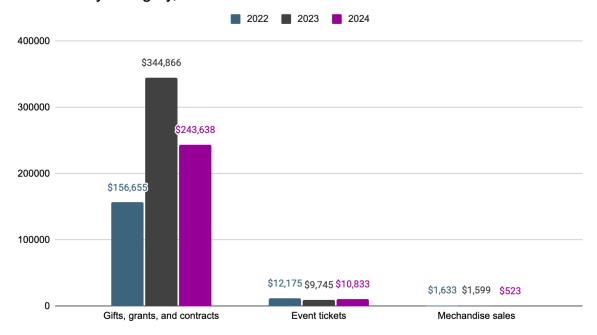
# Financial Information

In 2024, ongoing fundraising efforts allowed WDI USA to continue work on core programming. We were able to cover legal fees for the submission of four *amicus* briefs; hold public events and demonstrations; send copies of *The Reckoning* to every member of the U.S. House and Senate; host our annual convention; and much more.

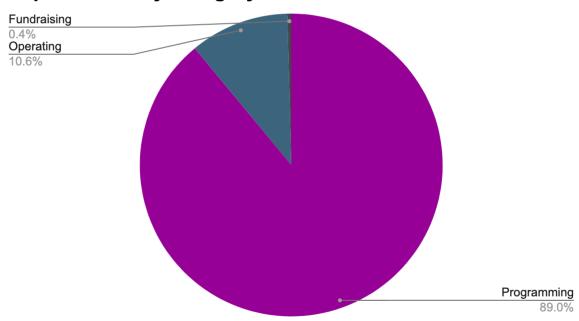
As an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff or physical offices (and therefore minimal overhead costs), WDI USA is able to put donors' contributions to work as directly and efficiently as possible: in 2024, program expenditures accounted for 89% of total expenditures.



# Revenue by Category, 2022 vs 2023 vs 2024



# **Expenditures by Category: 2024**



# **Conclusion**

2024 was a productive year for the movement to protect the sex-based rights of women and girls. In 2025, we look forward to creating public awareness campaigns linked to existing events (such as International Women's Day); becoming a 501(c)3; increasing our digital impact through graphic design, SEO, and live webinars; and actively featuring the work of our Lesbian, Black Women's, and Desisted & Detransitioned Women's Caucuses in media

and campaigns. We will continue to speak out about male violence against women and girls; reproductive autonomy; the harms of prostitution, pornography, and surrogacy; and the threats "gender identity" poses to women and girls as a sex class.