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**June 30, 2022**

# PEACE DEVELOPMENT CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY WITH

# REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS ADVOCATE, SUSAN YANOW

AMHERST, MA – The Peace Development Fund (PDF) marked the conclusion of its 40th Anniversary year by hosting an event celebrating women’s leadership and activism in the peace and justice movements at its Amherst office.

The 40th Anniversary event highlighted the contributions of women leaders on the heels of the recent Supreme Court decision curtailing women’s reproductive rights. The crowd gathered to hear from **Susan Yanow** of **Women Help Women USA: Self Managed Abortion Safe and Supported**. Susan is a longtime reproductive justice activist and was the founding executive director of the **Abortion Access Project**. Her organization is one of hundreds of organizations who have received funding and capacity-building support over PDF’s history.

*“PDF has supported women’s rights and reproductive health through our advocacy as well as in our grants and fiscal sponsorship program. In our 40-year history, we have given almost $2.5 million to organizations doing this work; $650,000 of it just since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic,”* remarked Tricia Lin, PDF Board of Directors member and Director and Professor of the Women’s Studies Program at Southern Connecticut State University,

As an organization with a longstanding community commitment to empowering women and championing their rights, PDF is looking for opportunities to aid groups fighting to protect women’s access to reproductive healthcare through their DeColores Grants, which provide rapid response funding for immediate needs. For decades, PDF has promoted women's rights to bodily autonomy and safe, effective healthcare through work with grassroots organizations dedicated to these causes.

*The* [*Peace Development Fund’s*](https://www.peacedevelopmentfund.org/) *mission is to build the capacity of community-based organizations through grants, training, and other resources as partners in human rights and social justice.*\*\*\*