

October's edition of FundWell is curated by [Elevate Children Funders Group](#)

Hello FundWell community,

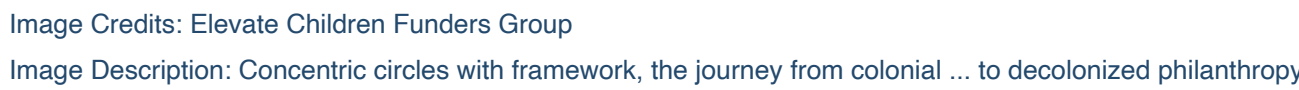
Decolonizing philanthropy begins with a simple truth: we cannot address the root causes of harm without transforming the power dynamics, structures, and practices within philanthropy itself.

The [*Framework to Decolonize Child & Youth Philanthropy*](#) by the [Elevate Children Funders Group](#) and [Adeso](#) reminds us that traditional philanthropic models often reproduce colonial hierarchies — concentrating decision-making in the hands of a few and limiting the agency of those most affected. Decolonization calls us to unlearn those patterns, redistribute power, and reimagine relationships grounded in trust, humility, and shared learning.

This transformation requires more than institutional change — it demands human change. It asks us to listen deeply, to center the voices of partners, children, and young people who are closest to the work, and to make space for collective leadership. As the *Weaving a Collective Tapestry* toolkit reminds us, participation becomes meaningful when those with lived experience lead, not when they are simply consulted.

At its heart, decolonizing philanthropy is about collective healing. When funders act with transparency and respect, when communities are able to define their own priorities, and when wellbeing is seen as a shared responsibility — transformation is possible.

Sheela Bowler
Director of Network Engagement
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FundWell Essentials

- [Framework to Decolonize Child & Youth Philanthropy](#) by the [Elevate Children Funders Group](#) and [Adeso](#): A practical guide for funders to shift power across four levels — individual, relational, institutional, and ideological — while deepening equity and community leadership. [Read the framework](#) and [complete the workbook](#)!
- [Weaving a Collective Tapestry: A Funders Toolkit for Child and Youth Participation](#) (Elevate Children Funders Group, 2022) Co-created with youth leaders, this guide shows how funders can meaningfully share power with young people — moving from tokenism to authentic participation that supports collective wellbeing.
- [Decolonising Philanthropy](#) by Peace Direct This short guide, based on wide-ranging research with philanthropists and local actors across 51 countries and 6 continents, paints an urgent portrait of how philanthropic systems currently reproduce colonial logics — and how they might shift into models grounded in trust, collaboration and wellbeing.

Talking Points: pick one and start a conversation!

... What funding practices have you seen that either support or harm the wellbeing of changemakers and communities? How can our organization's wellbeing practices interrupt — rather than reinforce — colonial patterns of control or extraction?

💬 How might our funding models reflect *care and courage* — redistributing resources in ways that repair historical imbalance and shift decision-making power toward communities most affected?

... What would it take for our funding and governance structures to ensure that those closest to the work — grassroots partners, children and young people, communities — have real power in shaping decisions and leading change?

How can we build relationships of *trust and accountability* that honor local leadership and lived knowledge — moving from compliance and control toward collaboration and wellbeing?

Words on Wellbeing

“To decolonize is to repair relationship — with self, with each other, and with the world we’ve inherited.”

— *Framework to Decolonize Child & Youth Philanthropy (ECFG, 2023)*

COMING SOON!

Looking to go deeper? Explore our [Philanthropy x Wellbeing Hub](#).

How does your funding organisation define wellbeing? Does it support wellbeing for its stakeholders? [Reflect and share here, in the Funders + Wellbeing Survey.](#)

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