SAVE OYOUN

We are reaching out to you as a part of EDGE Funders Alliance because of the existential threat Oyoun is facing due to the announcement of the Berlin Senate for Culture to prematurely end Oyoun's funding at the end of this year. The reason for this decision was an event that took place on 4 November 2023 on the premises of Oyoun: an evening of "mourning and hope" by the organisation Jewish Voice for a Just Peace in the Middle East. Oyoun had rejected the Berlin Senate's request to cancel the event and explained its decision in a statement.

The relationship between Oyoun and EDGE Funders Alliances is grounded in a common dedication to social justice and grassroots organising. In addition to continuous discussions and lively exchanges, Oyoun has had the honor of hosting the annual EDGE Funders conference in October 2023.

What happens to Oyoun is exemplary for austerity politics towards independent and critical cultural spaces and arbitrary politics of repression and silencing. We think it is our responsibility to not let this happen and take ownership of the current situation. That's why we are looking for ways to fund the next three months which will give us the time to process as a team what has happened and how to strategically restructure our work and practices.

So far our open letter was signed by over 13,000 people and the fundraising campaign raised over 72,000,00 € within less than a week to cover costs of a potential lawsuit against the Senate's decision. This solidarity reassures us that what we do is important and we must keep doing it.

The Senate's decision leaves us with:
- less than four weeks to clear the space
- 32, mostly marginalised, employees and fellows who will lose their job, employer, and host organisation on 1st of January 2024
- more than 15 ongoing projects and cooperations in planning, implementation, and reporting stages that are at risk of being discontinued
- the loss of more than 2,400,000,00 € of secured funding for the next two years

We are reaching out to you to apply for support with securing our expenses of approximately 250,000,00€ to keep our organisation running for the next 3 months to:
- document the current situation and oppose the silencing in face of repression of free speech and artistic freedom
- debrief, grief and reflect so we can build a future strategy
- finalise and replan ongoing projects and administrative handling of the current situation
- continue our work as a Research Lab to elaborate the question of how organisations like Oyoun can exist sustainably independent from public funding.

How to support?
We are open to receiving financial support as donations or project funding.
IBAN: DE35100101237078310589
BIC: QTODEBZXXX
We are equally excited to come together to strategise, share practices and build alliances.

Please reach out to us in case of any further questions.
Contact Person: Lara Chahal
Mail: hallo@oyoun.de
lara@oyoun.de
Phone: +49 157 34426011