

## Poem from FITO Network

We've been thinking a lot about the moment we're in. Yes—it's a time of change. Of upheaval.

Of visible cracks in the systems we've inherited.  
For many, it can feel daunting, stressful, frightening.  
But we must also remember: it's not the first.  
Many across the world have lived with—and through—crisis. For a long time.

So we come into this space with humility.  
Aware that this moment is not new. But it may be a chance.  
A chance to do something different.

We live in a world that often hides the work of those at the edges.  
That erases wisdom unless it fits a dominant frame.  
That rewards isolation, competition, and scale over care, reciprocity, and depth.

But the field is waking up.  
We're here today with spreadsheets and smiles.  
But don't be fooled—this is political.

We believe that networks are a form of liberation.  
A form of power.

Not the power to dominate, but the power to transform.  
To shift systems by shifting relationships.  
To redistribute visibility, voice, and resources.

But networks alone are not enough.  
Each network carries deep trust, wisdom, and vision.  
But no single network—no matter how brilliant—can shift complex systems alone.

Yes, networks are under-resourced, overstretched, and siloed.  
But as long as we stay fragmented, we will never reach the scale of change we seek.  
If we continue duplicating efforts, competing for scraps, and reinventing the wheel—we will  
burn out before we break through.

What's needed now is connection between networks.  
Only through this can we redistribute resources, align strategies, and move with the scale that  
systems change demands.

*This is our political response.  
To do what next to nobody else has been willing to fund or do – not just to uplift,  
but to intentionally connect networks.  
To weave them into something more resilient, more strategic, more systemic.  
Many, linked in solidarity, sharing tools, stories, reach, and courage.*

*It is by design we are kept apart.  
When networks connect, they stop operating as isolated interventions—and  
begin to function as an ecosystem.  
Because together, we become infrastructure. We become movement.*

*We know that language isn't always enough.  
That "together" isn't easy.  
That inclusion is not a checkbox.  
And we're still learning how to speak words of equity, justice, and liberation that  
carry the weight of experience.*

*But we know this:  
When networks connect to other networks, systems shift.  
It's not enough for networks to grow in isolation—transformation happens when  
they interlink.*

*So, let's...  
Map what's been made invisible.  
Weave what's been fractured.  
Prototype the infrastructure we actually need.  
And play joyfully.  
Remembering that as a response, joy is political.  
Because systems don't change by accident.  
They change when we find each other.*