Our Commitment

PeaceWomen Across the Globe
The Network

It is our wish that the network of women committed to peace and human rights keeps evolving. Alongside the PeaceWomen – the 1000 women who were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize – we want to encourage and connect a new generation of committed, capable women so that those with existing experience can support the peace work of others.

Each month, we publish an online portrait of one of the women working for our cause. The article, entitled PeaceWoman of the Month, gives a brief outline of her life and work. The virtual WikiPeaceWomen platform is currently under construction. The website is an innovative way of making peace work visible and of encouraging other women to demand their rights and take a stand against violence.
Vision

PeaceWomen Across the Globe wants to help create a peaceful, secure and democratic world in which all people and the environment are protected from avoidable damage, loss and violence. This is a world where women, men and children can live dignified lives, where human rights are respected, and where women and men actively participate in building their societies and their future.

Mission

PeaceWomen Across the Globe is an international non-governmental organization committed to strengthening women’s influence in all areas of peace, security and sustainability – because peace is about more than just the absence of war.
Introduction

I am delighted to be presenting this brochure, which sets out our goals and convictions, our projects and campaigns, and the financial foundations of our work.

The history of PeaceWomen Across the Globe (PWAG) began in 2005 when 1000 women were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. The women received neither the prize nor the public appreciation of their courageous peace work that would have come with it. This is a great shame.

Nevertheless, the intensive work that was invested in the campaign has paid off. It has created a global network of women who possess an immense wealth of experience and knowledge in the fields of peace and reconciliation. These are women who do not shy away from condemning abuse, violence and the violation of basic rights, and are not afraid to stand up for their demands in public. Many of these brave women take great risks for themselves and their communities and must endure persecution and threats as a result.

PeaceWomen Across the Globe functions as a network. Organizing this network, collaborating with our PeaceWomen to make the network operational, maintaining an overview of it, developing joint projects and taking a stand where women's rights are abused are all challenging tasks. The vibrancy of the network is one of the most wonderful things I get to experience when working with our PeaceWomen.

An active network and functioning projects need an organization that takes a collaborative approach to making decisions and developing opportunities.

Financing for our projects is a vast theme. Fundraising requires the right resources and a lot of patience. Nonetheless, we have loyal donors whom we know we can count on, and we have developed good relationships with foundations over the years. The public sector is also a reliable partner that supports and finances our project proposals.

This brochure presents the projects and campaigns with which PeaceWomen Across the Globe is building peace worldwide. In times when more money is often invested in weapons and wars than in reconciliation and peace, PWAG continues to do indispensable work. Thank you for supporting us and sharing this responsibility.

Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold, Co-President
Who We Are

PWAG is the successor organization to the 1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize initiative. We campaign for the equal participation of women at all levels of society and politics, for women to be able to effectively enforce their rights, and for an end to sexual violence against women.

PWAG cooperates with partner organizations involved in peace work, lobbies for women’s rights and supports the exchange of women’s experiences and expert knowledge. PeaceWomen, the visibility of their peace work, and the joint development of projects are at the heart of PWAG. Its tools include active networking, the sharing of experiences, and collaboration between the PeaceWomen.

Our Goals

1. Promote the participation of women: Women will be equal decision makers at all levels of society and politics. In particular, and in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, they will participate in peace negotiations and other activities that aim to protect and reinstate peace and the rule of law.

2. Stop violence against women: Violence against women will be recognized as the biggest obstacle to achieving gender equality and securing respect for women’s rights. As a result, all forms of violence towards women will be tackled.

3. Make women’s peace work visible: Women’s peace work will be well documented and accessible to the general public. Potential women peacemakers will find motivation in positive examples. The network will grow.
Current Projects

Participation in peace processes

PWAG works to ensure that peace negotiations do not remain a purely male domain. This is why, in fall 2015, it organized ten Women’s Peace Tables in Bangladesh, Brazil, Indonesia, Kenya, Mali, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Palestine, Sudan and Thailand. The aim of the pilot project was for women to be heard in peace processes and to have equal opportunities to voice their demands for resolving conflicts — as UN Resolution 1325 has stipulated for the past 15 years. With the peace tables, the women created a platform on which they could discuss topics such as current conflicts, violence against women as a tactic of war, breaches of women’s rights, and the limitations placed on their political participation.

The peace tables were part of Women Seriously, an international campaign launched by PeaceWoman Irene Santiago (Philippines). The campaign puts pressure on governments and the international community by raising the visibility of a woman’s right to participate fairly in peace negotiations.

Diverse formats

The Women’s Peace Tables were run in collaboration with local organizations. Participants included women’s rights activists, rural women, indigenous women, students, representatives of government and civil society, police officers and journalists. The event format differed from country to country. In addition to traditional conferences, there were, for example, also group discussions and creative elements. The thematic focus also varied according to the context. Among the topics discussed were the impact that religious conflicts have on women’s rights, the issue of domestic violence, and economic empowerment as a prerequisite for political participation.

Given that the first phase was such a success and received such positive feedback from within the network, PWAG will definitely be continuing the Women’s Peace Tables project in 2016. Only when women have a platform that allows them to engage actively in peace processes will they one day be able to participate on an equal footing with men in official negotiations.
Millions of women are tackling violence and working for peace in all areas of life. Their work deserves to be recognized, made visible and supported. With the new WikiPeaceWomen project, PWAG is updating the biographies of the 1000 women who were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005. The project is also collecting the stories of a new generation of dedicated women.

Project goals and activities
WikiPeaceWomen aims to gather and build on women’s knowledge and skills – not only those of the original 1000 PeaceWomen, but also those of up to a million women who are involved in fields as diverse as human security, conflict resolution, ecological security, environmental justice, health, education and legislation. In doing so, the project is expanding the network of PeaceWomen who come from different backgrounds and speak different languages. The entries for each of the women will also include a section in which they can give advice to other activists. By making their work visible, the project will also help bring the women’s expert knowledge to people who are not in their direct sphere of influence.

The biographies will be published at www.wikipeacewomen.org.
Interregional learning in the fight against violence towards women

Tackling violence against women is the common denominator that links our activities in Latin America, Brazil and Indonesia. Project activities aim to create a culture of peace and non-violence. The consequences of human rights violations against women are being publicized, and everything is being done to ensure that violence against women stops.

Project goals and activities
– Women are brought in at high levels of political decision-making on matters related to tackling violence against women. Joint lobbying and advocacy are used as tools for making violence against women visible and for reminding legislators of their responsibilities.

– Women, men and children identify and tackle the gender stereotypes and the derogatory treatment of women that lead to violence and a lack of respect towards women.

While the project goals apply across regions and cultures, the project work itself is adapted to fit the circumstances and needs of each region. To ensure that learning is guaranteed both within regions and across borders, PWAG organizes annual coordinator meetings that alternate between the project countries. The project work is defined in collaboration with the PWAG regional coordinators in Latin America, Brazil and Indonesia, the International Secretariat and with the support of PeaceWomen from our network.

Financing for the project ended in late 2015. Plans are underway to continue the work in a different context.
This multi-year project focuses on the active participation of women in democratization processes. Each dialogue forum involves carefully structured discussions that promote mutual trust and understanding and pave the way for solutions. Experiences gathered by PeaceWomen in other conflict situations play a central role in the three-day events.

**Project goals and activities**

One of the main goals is to get people from different social, ethnic, political and religious backgrounds to come together and engage in a dialogue on the participation of women. Gaining shared experiences in regional dialogue forums makes for a stronger, more transparent national process. This kind of approach also makes it easier to draw up a joint strategy on the participation of women that has the support of multiple regions. Working together to develop topics, action plans and solutions increases the likelihood that all participants will reach a lasting consensus. Differing interests and conflicts between the various actors can be discussed constructively during the process and incorporated as far as possible.

**The dialogue forum in Egypt**

The first national dialogue forum was held in November 2012 in Alexandria, Egypt. It was organized by PWAG’s International Secretariat, a local coordinator and a steering committee made up of Egyptian women’s organizations. The event was attended by 140 women and men from different regions and different social backgrounds. Six PeaceWomen from Palestine, Sudan, Sri Lanka, the UK, Uganda and Mexico were invited to participate as experts.

Speaking in Alexandria, the Egyptian partner organizations stressed the importance of holding further dialogue forums in the regions. They said that this would include as many female stakeholders in democratic processes as possible, and that it would secure the largest possible participation of women at all political levels.

As a result, PWAG organized three regional forums in 2014 – in Tanta, Marsa Matruh and Luxor. The recommendations from these events provided the basis for the discussions at the concluding national dialogue forum in May 2015. PWAG’s Egyptian partner organizations are now responsible for the next steps. They are drawing up a more detailed action plan that sets out how Egypt can achieve political equality in practice.
In most crisis regions of the world, women are excluded from peace negotiations. This means that issues such as violence towards women, and women’s participation in political committees are often neglected. Women are kept out of peace talks for a variety of reasons, such as patriarchal structures, traditional norms and values that discriminate against women, and a very straightforward lack of educational opportunities.

Project goals and activities
PWAG runs mediation courses that last two or three weeks and address the specific circumstances of women in peace processes. The main aims of the courses are to strengthen the women as peace mediators and to provide them with theoretical and practical training in analyzing and transforming conflicts in a gender-sensitive way. They learn how to produce and competently communicate expert analysis in conflict situations.

The participants come from different tracks (local, regional, national) and have already acquired experience of peace work in their respective contexts. This strengthens the women as a group and encourages, in a very practical way, exchange between participants. The pilot course was held in Kathmandu, Nepal, in fall 2013. The format is now being developed further and will be offered in other regions. Because there was such high demand for the first course – over 250 people applied from all over the world – the format will be continued.
International organizations regularly complain about the “lack” of educated, experienced women peace mediators and of women who are capable of participating in negotiations. A systematically constructed database called the Women Peace Mediators Pool aims to address this issue and show that skilled women who can be deployed as mediators do indeed exist. In agreement with those concerned, PWAG provides information about PeaceWomen who are willing and able to participate in peace talks as mediators or advisors.

PWAG aims to establish itself at the local, national and international level as a reliable partner and as an expert in conflict transformation. In addition to advice, PWAG also offers strategic support and training sessions in peacebuilding and conflict transformation, in gender-sensitive conflict analysis and in project management for women’s peace organizations. We are systematically expanding our mediator database for this outreach work.

Thanks to the women’s peace mediation course that was held in Nepal, and the 250 applications it attracted from all over the world, PWAG now has access to a core pool of qualified women who will supplement the existing network.
A blue economy, exchange between cities and rural areas, young people as ambassadors for a responsible approach to natural resources: these are the issues that our coordinators in China and Mexico are primarily concerned with, because resources also affect peace. The PWAG coordinators in China and Hong Kong are running projects under the description “Ecological Security & Environmental Justice”. In collaboration with volunteers, they set up a regional PWAG office for China in Beijing. The work mainly focuses on the environment and securing livelihoods. It includes a successful master’s program at Lingnan University in Hong Kong, which allows the exchange of knowledge and experiences between students, PeaceWomen and their environmental projects.
Communication

Through its communications work, PWAG aims to make the work of PeaceWomen visible and encourage the exchange of knowledge. With this in mind, we provide our peace-makers with a platform in our publications. We write about them in our newsletters and annual reports. We use social media and reach an international audience via Facebook and our PeaceWomen blog. Our exhibitions on the following topics are also successful communication channels:

1 000 PeaceWomen Across the Globe
This traveling exhibition communicates the importance of the peace work done by women. Postcards displaying a picture and short biography of each of the 1 000 PeaceWomen make the concept of peace accessible on a very personal, concrete level. The exhibition has been touring the world since 2005.

No Women – No Peace
PWAG developed this exhibition in 2010 to mark the tenth anniversary of UN Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. It first went on display in the foyer of the UN Security Council in New York. The exhibition’s message is clear: unless women are included as equal participants, all peace processes are doomed to failure. The exhibition was updated in 2015 to mark PWAG’s tenth anniversary.

Safe Water – With Women
This exhibition presents portraits of ten women water experts who, by developing strategies for better access to and conservation of water, are preventing or at least mitigating resource conflicts. The exhibition was developed in collaboration with the international Women for Water Partnership. It went on display for the first time in 2012 as part of the World Water Forum in Marseilles – and proved a resounding success.
PWAG supports national and global campaigns that share our concerns and goals.

**One Billion Rising – a global campaign**
One Billion Rising is an international movement calling for an end to violence against women. The “billion” in the name refers to the fact that, of all the women and girls in the world, one in three will be a victim of rape or abuse in her lifetime. The campaign’s global action day is February 14.

**16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence**
The Women’s Global Leadership Institute launched this campaign in 1991. It always starts on November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and ends on December 10, Human Rights Day. The campaign stresses that women’s rights are human rights.

**Public events**
As far as possible, PWAG organizes one event each year, usually in cooperation with partner organizations in Switzerland. We also regularly extend invitations to PeaceWomen in the network and organize information events.
Fundraising and Finances

As a non-governmental organization, we fund our work via donations from private individuals, foundations and the public sector. In recent years, we have been able to count on valuable support from Switzerland’s Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. A public donor from Germany has also been financing a relevant program area for several years now. Nonetheless, financing our work is a constant challenge. Projects usually receive partial funding, and we invariably have to explain to potential donors that the projects always require conceptual and administrative support from the International Secretariat.

PWAG has been Zewo-certified since 2013. Zewo is a Swiss label which proves that an organization manages its donations responsibly. This has made us more confident and helps us in our efforts to find new financial partners.

Organizational Structure

PWAG is an association under Swiss law. Responsibility for its strategic management lies with the International Board, which works closely with the Secretariat. The entire board meets once a year to set out goals, discuss topics and make the necessary decisions.

The Swiss Committee, which is made up of board members who reside in Switzerland, meets with the director of the International Secretariat four times a year to discuss pressing organizational and financial matters.

The International Secretariat in Bern keeps the organization functioning and coordinates PWAG’s projects and activities. The projects are planned and implemented in close cooperation with the regional coordinators and partner organizations.
Facts & Figures

From an ambitious initiative to a network organization

2003
Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold, a member of the Swiss National Council and the Council of Europe, calls for the peace work of women to be made visible. The idea is that 1 000 women – as representatives of hundreds of thousands – should receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

2004
Work begins on the travelling exhibition 1 000 PeaceWomen Across the Globe, and on the documentary film 1 000 Women and a Dream.

2005
The initiative receives high-profile support from Swiss federal president Micheline Calmy-Rey. Nevertheless, the 1 000 PeaceWomen leave Oslo empty handed.

2006
Despite not winning the Nobel Peace Prize, the coordinators decide to continue their work by setting up an organization called PeaceWomen Across the Globe (PWAG).

2008/2009
With its new program, Redefining Peace – Women Lead the Way, PWAG lays the strategic foundations for its project work.

2010
To mark the tenth anniversary of UN Resolution 1325, PWAG organizes an exhibition entitled No Women – No Peace, which draws attention to the fact that women are excluded from peace processes.

2012
PWAG holds its first national dialogue forum in Egypt. The event aims to promote the participation of women in the democratization process.

2013
PWAG runs its first peace mediation course for women in Nepal. This gives rise to the Women Peace Mediator Pool.

2014
The coordinators of the project for tackling violence against women hold a meeting in Buenos Aires on trafficking in women. PWAG invites Swedish-Eritrean human rights activist Meron Estefanos to Bern.

2015
After holding three regional dialogue forums in 2014, PWAG organizes the second national dialogue forum in Alexandria. PWAG celebrates its ten-year anniversary with its international network in Bern.
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Solidarity

Peace needs us. We need you. Please support us by making a donation or buying a peace share in PeaceWomen Across the Globe (PWAG).

Thank you!
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