



PeaceWomen Across the Globe
FRIEDENSFRAUEN WELTWEIT
نساء من أجل السلام عبر العالم
Femmes de Paix Autour du Monde
Женщины мира за мир на земле
MUJERES DE PAZ EN EL MUNDO
Mulheres pela Paz ao redor do Mundo

DONNE DI PACE NEL MONDO

ピースウーマン—国境を越え平和をつくる女たち
全球和平妇女

Annual Report 2018

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Above: Opposing violence against women through performance – Women's PeaceTable in Pakistan

Cover: A safe space for women – Women's Peace Table in Nepal



RUTH-GABY VERMOT
AND KAMLA BHASIN,
CO-PRESIDENTS

Genuine peace requires a reappraisal of the past

Ceasefire, peace-making or peace negotiations do not end a war or provide security, and they seldom heal wounds. That which has been resolved must be reflected in everyday life. And that is a long and painful process of establishing the truth, of seeking justice, protection and material security. The transitional justice system should encompass legal requirements: cease-fire regulation, the conviction of war criminals, the return of territories and possessions. In many countries, truth commissions are mandated to expose and atone for all the suffering, human rights violations, rape, murders, the search for missing persons, the horrors suffered. Lasting peace requires this careful, truthful and painful reappraisal of the past. It has long been known that this process can take as long as the wars themselves and that the findings can hurt again – but they can also heal.

In many countries, PeaceWomen strive, during the fragile post-war period, for peaceful coexistence between hostile parties in their local environment. One example was Hatidža Mehmedović from Srebrenica. She lost her two sons, her husband and her brothers during the war. After the peace agreement in Bosnia-Herzegovina, she made every effort to reshape the coexistence of Bosnians and Serbs – with many setbacks and little progress. She knew that the achievement of reliable peace required not only the whole truth, but also justice. And she knew too that she and her organisation had to campaign for the prosecution of war criminals. Here, at least, she partially succeeded. She died in 2018. Others will continue her work, and in other countries too. You will get to know some of them in this annual report.

Risks and opportunities for women

Societies that find their way back to a fragile peace after armed conflict face a major problem: the police and the judiciary have been oppressors – so how are they supposed to establish justice and condemn perpetrators? One way out is “transitional justice”, which includes war tribunals, truth and reconciliation commissions, rehabilitation programmes for survivors and memorials. What are the opportunities and risks here for women?

Lack of protection for women

One of the first cases to which transitional justice was applied was the military dictatorship of Argentina (1976-1983), when junta members were sentenced to life imprisonment. In the 1990s, several UN war tribunals followed. War criminals had to answer before one such tribunal in former Yugoslavia; others included the genocide in Rwanda and Cambodia and the civil wars in Sierra Leone and Timor Leste. For the first time in legal history, the International Criminal Tribunals for former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda took into account the different experiences of women and men in conflicts and treated sexualised violence as a war crime – a huge step forward. However, their treatment of survivors was often dubious as witnesses were offered little protection or were even re-traumatised through cross-examination.

At the same time, many post-conflict countries, especially in Latin America and Africa, employed truth commissions. The most renowned in South Africa was chaired by the future Nobel Peace Prize laureate Desmond Tutu. It was not the punishment of the perpetrators that was the focus, but getting to the truth and the recognition of the suffering of the survivors. The commission managed to uncover the

The concept of transitional justice has only existed since the 1990s, but its origins date back to the end of the Second World War. The processes of dealing with the war established the basis for international law as it is today. These processes include the Geneva Conventions and their additional protocols, the UN Convention against Genocide and the so-called Rome Statute, the treaty that established the International Criminal Court in The Hague.



true extent of the apartheid regime's crimes. Perpetrators testified publicly – in part also because they were promised amnesty.

For survivors of sexualised violence, however, truth commissions were and still are ambivalent. Witnesses are often not provided with the necessary protection while making statements, many are stigmatised and threatened, and there are no safe places where women can report the violence that they may have experienced. Gender perspectives are suppressed if commissions consist of a majority of men. Statements may not be possible

if the cultural or financial hurdles are too great for women. Fear, lack of knowledge about their rights or no money for transportation prevents many women from testifying. Where the truth is not revealed, crimes are repeated: in South Africa, there are about a hundred rapes per day – one of the highest rates in the world.

Emancipatory potential

Nevertheless, well-designed transitional justice has much emancipatory potential: violence against women can become an issue of

public debate. Reparations can make survivors better able to cope. Memorials can particularly remember women's human rights abuses. In Colombia and the Philippines, peace activists maintained a strong presence in shaping the peace agreement. An active civil society is needed to reappraise a conflict in order to re-define gender relations and establish women's rights. There is a need for committed women who hold their governments accountable – such as those at the Women's Peace Tables in Colombia, Nepal and the Philippines.

A safe space for women

Women's Peace Tables 2018 – 2021

As a result of the positive response to the 60 Women's Peace Tables that took place between 2015 and 2017, PeaceWomen Across the Globe further developed them in 2018. The global successor programme integrated the experiences from the Peace Tables and from dialogue forums such as those in Egypt. The new programme consists of three interconnected project strands:

- I. Deepening of the conflict transformation topic at the Women's Peace Tables
- II. Regional Women's Peace Tables
- III. Enabling space for civil society through Women's Peace Tables

It is through peace agreements that the people of Colombia, Nepal and the Philippines have returned to a fragile peace after decades of civil war. This peace is constantly threatened by smouldering conflicts. Nevertheless, it provides an opportunity to establish women's rights and human rights through UN Resolution 1325 and other instruments.

PeaceWomen Across the Globe's partner organisations have organised Peace Tables in Colombia, Nepal and the Philippines so that conflict-affected women can make their voices heard in a safe space and can influence, in a gender just way, how these conflicts are dealt with.

In **Colombia**, *Comunitar's* 2018 Women's Peace Tables focused on the severely affected Cauca region. More than 400 women, including indigenous and Afro-Colombian women, gathered at three local Peace Tables in Corin-

to, Argelia and El Tambo and at a regional Peace Table in Popayán. The focus was on reforms for fair land distribution, which is planned in the peace agreement between the government and the FARC, but which is barely known in rural areas. In addition, new evictions are being aggravated by raw material exploitation. At the tables, the women developed joint plans to influence land reform. Women from remote locations were able to





network with women's organisations from across the region and put their demands at the regional level.

In **Nepal**, the 20-year conflict between government forces and Maoist rebels ended in 2006 with a peace agreement. In 2014, a commission was set up to investigate the fate of the disappeared, and in 2015 a truth commission was set up too, but neither functioned adequately. Women refused to testify about the sexualised violence they had experienced because they were not offered the possibility of testifying safely. PWAG's partner organisation *Nagarik Aawaz* organised local Peace Tables in all seven provinces in 2018. They offered conflict-affected women a safe space to talk about the violence they had experienced. Many were able to share their painful experiences for the first time. In this way, Women's Peace Tables establish platforms for a just and humane reappraisal of the conflict. At a national Peace Table in Kathmandu attended by the Swiss Ambassador to Nepal, representatives from all provinces addressed their concerns directly to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Among other things, they criticised the lack of reparations and the taboo on reporting sexualised violence, which makes it difficult for survivors to access health care.

> CONTINUED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE



Women's Peace Table North Kivu

In North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo, a total of four Women's Peace Tables took place in 2018, all with the express aim of developing recommendations for the greater participation of women in peace processes and to develop strategies to bring more women into key positions. In total, 250 women of various ages from different social, political and religious backgrounds participated.

The talks were also conducive to the self-empowerment of women. "Today, thanks to this peace table, I realised that we women can also take part in all these meetings, that we too have the right to speak," concluded Furaha Imani, a Peace Table participant.

Page 6: Women influence land reform – Women's Peace Table in Colombia

Left: A safe space for women – Women's Peace Table in Nepal

Right: Women's participation in peace processes – Women's Peace Table in the Democratic Republic of Congo



CONTINUATION >

In Mindanao province in the **Philippines**, indigenous people and Muslims fought for almost 50 years in an armed uprising against marginalisation. After 17 years of negotiations, a peace agreement was signed in 2014 between the Christian central government and the Islamic rebel group the MILF. This makes provision for autonomy and a transitional government for Mindanao. Women have played a key role in the peace negotiations, but they are clearly underrepresented, both regionally and locally. In 2018, the focus of the local Peace Tables in northern, southern and central Mindanao, organised by the *Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute*, was women's greater participation in the current transition phase. More than 150 representatives from around 50 local civil society organisations exchanged views. The results were discussed with leaders at a national Peace Table in Manila. In addition, local and national women's organisations planned joint advocacy campaigns.

Left: Women's participation in the transitional period – Women's Peace Table in the Philippines

Right: Elections as an opportunity for women – Women's Peace Table in Burundi

Burundi Women's Peace Table



Elections as an opportunity for women – a total of 65 participants got together to deal with this topic at the 2018 Burundi Women's Peace Table. Their objective was to identify the limitations and weak points that prevent women from taking part in elections, both as voters and as candidates. In addition, the workshop was designed to sensitise politicians and other women in leadership positions to advocate for women's interests. The importance of this was demonstrated by one participant's critical feedback: women are represented in decision-making bodies, but the measures taken there tend to be more supportive of the political parties than of women in the population.

Women from all provinces in Burundi took part at the Peace Table. By the 2020 elections, the results and recommendations achieved will have been disseminated throughout the country.

You can find more information about the Women's Peace Tables on our website: www.1000peacewomen.org > **Activities** > **Projects**

Women's Peace Tables in South Asia

In order to develop common strategies for conflict transformation and advocacy, PeaceWomen Across the Globe's partner organisations had expressed a wish to share experience on a regional level. So in November 2018, the first South Asian Women's Peace Table took place in Nepal. Taking part were regional coordinators, PeaceWomen and long-standing partner organisations from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Many countries in South Asia have experienced armed conflicts, some of which continue to this day. Fragility, violent extremism, weak judicial systems and corruption pose almost insurmountable challenges. Civil society organisations and human rights defenders are coming under pressure from authoritarian gov-

ernments. Their concerns are censored; selectively applied laws are increasingly restricting their legal and financial scope for action. Women's rights activists are also increasingly experiencing threats and violence.

Against this background, the aim of the South Asian Regional Women's

Peace Table was to initiate a common learning process and to strengthen both transnational networking and the establishment of strategic alliances among peace activists in the region. All participating partner organisations had already run Women's Peace Tables in their countries between 2015 and 2018.

Knowledge sharing

In the four-day workshop, some 20 participants shared their experiences at the Peace Table. For example, PeaceWoman Visaka Dharmadasa reported how, at the height of the institutional crisis following the dismissal of the Prime Minister and the appointment of the controversial former President, the Women's



CONTINUATION > Peace Table in Sri Lanka had provided a platform to discuss the crisis from the perspective of women.

In joint context and conflict analyses at the Regional Women's Peace Table, the participants prioritised their cross-border challenges as well as prospects for change. They developed further strategies for peace work at the local, national and regional level. An important focus was UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on "Women, Peace and Security". Within the region, Nepal has been relatively progressive in its implementation of the Resolution. Saloni Singh Pradhan had been involved in the preparation of the Nepalese 1325 National Action Plan and she reported on how women's organisations have successfully championed grassroots consultations with women from across the country in order to develop the Action Plan.

The event concluded with the National Women's Peace Table in Kathmandu, organised by partner organisation *Nagarik Aawaz*, which was also attended by guests from other South Asian countries.



Networking

In a joint learning process, the South Asian activists provided the Regional Peace Table with new insights. Additionally, in solidarity with one another, they were able to gain the energy and the courage needed for their daily peace activism.

They valued in particular the interaction between two generations of PeaceWomen and they agreed on tangible joint activities to expand the South Asian network of PeaceWomen. "I've been to many women's conferences, but this is the first time I've experienced what a true feminist space feels like," said Anika Verma from India.



Above: Joint learning process – South Asian Regional Women's PeaceTable

Below: Opening of the Regional Women's PeaceTable by Chhatra Amatya, President of the partner organisation *Nagarik Aawaz*, and Flurina Derungs, Director PeaceWomen Across the Globe

Sharing of experiences and visibility

At the heart of PeaceWomen Across the Globe is its vibrant network of the 1000 PeaceWomen who were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005. It is the network that enables the sharing of experience among women around the world. And their work is becoming more and more visible. 2018 has been characterised by the strengthening and renewal of this network. The PeaceWomen's biographies are constantly being updated and new women peace activists are being included. Some of the strict criteria for inclusion in the network are that they should serve as a role model, be actively and inclusively advocating for peace and that the impact of their work should be lasting. An international review panel checks every new entry to ensure quality control. Through its regional coordinators, PeaceWomen Across the Globe maintains a steady exchange with the entire global network.

An online platform will soon make the PeaceWomen's expertise available. PeaceWomen will be able to network and to share knowledge. Their knowledge will be made available to external users and their peace work will be made visible.



Tecla Wanjala

For many PeaceWomen, their nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize was a very important event. Tecla Wanjala from Kenya for example says: "The nomination validated my work and gave me the courage to continue it. It was a tribute and acknowledgment of my peace work and helped me to represent women's issues on a national and international level."



Regional Women's Peace Table

The importance of the Nobel Peace Prize for human rights defenders was also repeatedly discussed at the Regional Women's Peace Table in South Asia. Sheema Kermani from Pakistan emphasised that the recognition by the Nobel Prize committee has made her life as a women's rights activist much safer. Read more about Sheema Kermani on page 16.

ADVOCACY AND POLITICAL WORK

Women's rights are human rights



PeaceWomen Across the Globe, the Swiss Platform for Peacebuilding KOFF and the feminist peace organisation cfd at the launch of the 4th Swiss National Action Plan 1325 "Women Peace and Security"

PeaceWomen Across the Globe intervenes, comments and takes issue when women suffer violence, when they are marginalised, discriminated against and deprived of their rights. Within the international network, this advocacy support takes place daily. The Women's Peace Tables' structure also allows local partner organisations to formulate political recommendations for increased participation of women in both local and national peace processes.

In Switzerland, in cooperation with KOFF, the Swiss Platform for Peacebuilding and the feminist peace organisation cfd, PeaceWomen Across the Globe is coordinating civil society support for the 4th Swiss National Action Plan 1325 on "Women, Peace and Security". We are observing the implementation of the action plan, viewing it critically from a civil society perspective. We want to make it more relevant to implementation in practice, and to give it more public exposure, as well as use it to strengthen gender

just peace policy. We work with parliamentarians and actively contribute to helping Switzerland in the development of strong and effective tools for peace work.

In this context, we use synergies with civil society monitoring to implement CEDAW, the UN Women's Rights Convention. We started with two training sessions in the spring of 2018 and, together with other civil society organisations, are now collecting data, measures and demands that are feeding into a joint shadow report.

PeaceWomen Across the Globe also belongs to the Platform Agenda 2030. A civil society report on the implementation of Agenda 2030 was presented in June 2018 at the *UN High Level Political Forum* on Sustainable Development.

The global network continues to participate in the *One Billion Rising* campaign on violence against women.

In 2018, we supported the No campaign for the anti-human rights initiative, as well as the so-called "Correction Initiative" of the *Alliance for the Elimination of Arms Exports to Civil War Countries*. We were present at the national demonstration for equal pay and against discrimination. PeaceWomen Across the Globe supports the *16 days of Activism against Gender-based Violence*, which in 2018 in Switzerland was dedicated to the theme of "Notions of masculinity and violence".

FINANCIAL STATEMENT (EXCERPT)

Statement of Operations

Income	2018	2017
Payments from Public Institutions	121'243	127'530
Donations from foundations and institutions	482'500	390'282
Donations from churches	22'278	11'444
Private donations	53'893	106'315
Various income	15'393	8'214
Total income	695'307	643'784

Expenditure	2018	2017
Direct project expenditure	134'221	272'071
Salaries	0	85'566
Material costs	13'542	16'416
Various contributions	120'679	170'089
Personnel costs	324'815	104'919
Salaries	276'502	177'609
Social insurance contributions	44'770	25'231
Other personnel costs	3'543	2'979
Project-related personnel costs	0	-100'900
Operating costs	75'953	89'126
Office and infrastructure	24'527	23'508
Third party services	15'643	11'835
Running costs	5'758	8'051
Fundraising	7'881	2'979
Communications	15'713	19'540
Representational and networking costs	1'249	3'719
Board	3'650	19'494
Depreciation and amortisation	1'530	0
Total expenditure	534'989	466'116
Operating result	160'318	177'668
Financial income and exceptional revenue	-4'684	13'432
Annual result before changes to fund capital	165'002	164'236
Total net change in funds	0	0
Annual profit	165'002	164'236

Balance

Assets	2018	2017
Liquid assets	529'590	241'663
Accounts receivable	36'633	7'799
Accrued income	18'677	28'656
Fixed assets	2'002	2
Total Assets	586'901	278'121
Liabilities		
Short-term liabilities	182'750	38'971
Accounts payable	9'702	13'082
Accrued expenses	173'048	25'889
Total of current liabilities	182'750	38'971
Organisational capital	404'152	239'150
Free capital	239'150	74'914
Annual profit	165'002	164'236
Total Liabilities	586'901	278'121

Commentary

BDO AG independent auditors have audited the 2018 annual financial statement. It complies with Swiss law and with PeaceWomen Across the Globe's bylaws. The annual financial statement has been prepared in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER 21 accounting recommendations and the Swiss code of obligations. All figures are in Swiss francs.

At the end of 2018, PeaceWomen Across the Globe reported an annual profit of 165'002 Swiss francs. This is due to increased revenue from foundations and churches compared to the previous year. Sixty-three percent of total expenditure goes into project work; much work is carried out voluntarily. Since 2013, PeaceWomen Across the Globe has been ZEWO seal of approval certified, as a reputable organisation that uses its donations economically, effectively and for their designated purpose, providing transparent information and earning the trust of its donors. In 2018, PeaceWomen Across the Globe was recertified for another five years.

This profit enables PeaceWomen Across the Globe to create the mandatory reserves that are central to securing liquidity and to developing the organisation.

The full audited financial statement can be found at:
www.1000peacewomen.org > Publications > Annual Report

ORGANISATION

PeaceWomen Across the
Globe's International Board



Our sincere thanks!

It is only thanks to the generous support of our private donors and institutional partnerships that we are able to accomplish our day-to-day work for a more peaceful world. Our heartfelt thanks for your support! All our work – the collaboration with our partner organisations, the Women's Peace Tables, the advocacy and political work, as well as the expansion and review of the PeaceWomen network – all of this has been possible because so many people, institutions and foundations value our work.

In addition to our numerous private donors, we would in particular like to thank the Swiss Federal Department for Foreign Affairs, Human Security Division, as well as the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund for their major contribution. We would also like to thank the numerous foundations, churches and congregations that have supported us: the Zurich Christian Catholic Church parish, the Department for Ecumenical Affairs, International Cooperation and Migration of the Bern-Jura-Solothurn Reformed Churches, the municipalities of Riehen and Bottmingen, the Hamasil Foundation, the Bernese Oberland Inner Wheel Club, the Volkart Foundation, World Day of Prayer – Protestant Women of Switzerland and Quaero Capital.

Team and Board

In 2018 PeaceWomen Across the Globe was able to count on a dedicated team. Staff members were distinguished by their excellent co-operation, mutual trust and new ideas. The 3.2 full-time equivalent posts are shared by Flurina Derungs (Director), Mithra Akhbari (Senior Programme Manager), Doritt Belohlavek (Communications and Fundraising), Christa Bader (Administration), Caroline Morrissey (Network Manager), Andrea Filippi (Project Manager) as well as Cécile Bannwart and Ina Keilwerth (Academic interns). Furthermore, a total of 690 hours of essential volunteer work was carried out at the International Office.

PeaceWomen Across the Globe relies on the active support of its International Board. In 2018 Board members were: Kamla Bhasin (Co-President, India), Elizabeth Decrey-Warner (Switzerland), Sandy Fong (Fiji), Susanne Gfeller (Switzerland), Margaret Kiener Nellen (Switzerland), Kin Chi Lau (Hong Kong), Christine Menz (Switzerland), Alejandra Miller Restrepo (Colombia),

Cécile Mukarubuga (Rwanda), Margo Okazawa-Rey (USA), Marina Pikulina (Uzbekistan and Israel), Susanne Schneeberger (Switzerland), Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold (Co-President, Switzerland) and Olga Vinogradova (Switzerland). The International Board has met for two Skype meetings and the Swiss Committee for five board meetings to discuss strategic issues. Several members of the Board also took part in working groups. In total, the Board members contributed some 1,220 hours of volunteer work.

PWAG's 20 regional coordinators and the 15 partner organisations that organise Women's Peace Tables globally are indispensable to PeaceWomen Across the Globe's work. They contributed some 10'400 hours of voluntary work in 2018.

Our warm thanks for everyone's tireless commitment!



PORTRAIT

Sheema Kermani

There is incredible pressure on women and on their bodies, says the Pakistani PeaceWoman Sheema Kermani, who was among the 1000 nominees for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005. Dancing can be liberating and helps to claim space, she continues, while allowing women to be proud of their bodies.

The dancer, to this day a pivotal feminist voice in Pakistan, founded the *Tehrik-e-Niswan* organisation in the late 1970s. It uses artistic performance to address issues such as injustice, discrimination and misogynist laws. For Sheema Kermani, dancing, theatre and music are political tools.

Since 2015, *Tehrik-e-Niswan* has organised a Women's Peace Table every year, for example on sexualised violence or religious fundamentalism in Karachi. The Peace Table also gave rise to the idea of the *Aurat March*, a women's march on International Women's Day, which took place on March 8, 2018 in Karachi, Islamabad and Lahore.

IN SHORT

PeaceWomen Across the Globe is the growing international network of 1000 women nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005.

The international organisation is based in Bern, Switzerland, and is committed to the participation of women in the promotion of peace. PWAG promotes the sharing of experience and knowledge between PeaceWomen worldwide and advocates for women's sustainable and visible peace work.

Visit our website

www.1000peacewomen.org

Or find us on Facebook

[PeaceWomen Across the Globe](#)

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