

2019 – year of women’s protests

From Chile to India, from Bern to Washington: in 2019, millions of women raised their voices. Against gender-based violence. For the right to their political, economic and social participation. The protests were moving in every respect.

In Switzerland, more women than ever before ran for office following the magnificent women’s strike of 14 June. Following the autumn elections, the proportion of women in the National Council reached an historic 42%.

However, only in four countries do women make up 50% of parliamentarians. Hope rests on young, feminist politicians and heads of state, who not only change the face of politics, but also politics itself. They work for equality, justice and peace and so become role models for a new generation of activists.

This gives us hope for a changing, more feminist world. At the same time, civil society worldwide is being confronted with increasing limitations.

Nationalist governments are erecting legal and bureaucratic hurdles. The space for the exercise of democratic rights is under threat.

It takes a great deal of patience to create the structural change that will bring about lasting changes in politics and society. This also requires spaces in which civil society can network. Spaces like the Women’s Peace Tables, which we held in several countries in 2019, including in Burundi. The country is marked by years of civil war and humanitarian crises. Ahead of the elections in May, our partner, the Centre Giriteka, used the Peace Table to mobilise women to go out and vote and to be part of the peace process.

At a competition, held as part of the Peace Table, a song was awarded a prize. Since then it has spread throughout the country: “*Woman, be honoured! You are the pillar for development. Vote for women for decision-making in our country.*”



Annual Report 2019



Our commitment

● PeaceWomen per region
 ■ Partner Countries 2018–2019

Highlights 2019



Sima Samar
 “You cannot exclude half the population from peace negotiations. This is not peace”. Sima Samar, our Coordinator in Afghanistan and Special Envoy for Human Rights, speaks at the “Women, Peace and Security” conference in Bern.



Peace Table, Burundi
 Jeanne Gacoreke, Peace-Woman and director of our partner organisation Centre Giriteka, at the Women’s Peace Table in Burundi that was used to mobilise women ahead of the elections in May.



International Board
 The Board met in May to discuss the strategic future of PeaceWomen Across the Globe. Alejandra Miller Restrepo (centre), member of the Truth Commission, spoke at two events about the peace process in Colombia. Our co-presidents Kamla Bhasin and Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold are pictured on the left and fourth from left respectively.



Women’s strike
 At the women’s strike: Our Director Flurina Derungs (2nd from left), Co-President Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold (centre) and Vice-President Susanne Schneeberger (2nd from right) with colleagues from the office and board.



Working meeting in Bern
 Our partners from Colombia, Nepal and the Philippines benefitted from the rich treasure of their collective experience in the peace processes in their countries. From left to right: Yasmin Busran-Lao, Salomé Gomez Corrales, Susan Risal, Carolina Cano Pajoy.



Peace process in Nepal
 The Women’s Peace Tables fill an important gap in the Nepalese peace process. They are often the only opportunity for conflict-affected women to talk about their experiences during the civil war.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020

Making the peace work of women more visible

In 2020 we celebrate our 15th anniversary – and we will continue to support, empower and connect women, who shape peace processes, stand up for their rights and create a more peaceful world. One key goal also remains: to make women’s peace work visible.

In March, we launched the podcast series “**PeaceWomen Across the Globe**”. In the eight episodes, PeaceWomen from Afghanistan, Burundi, Colombia, Nepal and other countries talk about their work and the challenges they face doing peace work in their countries. In the first season, our founder, Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold, recounts how the “1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize” initiative came about and how the core idea lives on today in PeaceWomen Across the Globe. The podcast series is available on iTunes, Spotify and on our website (under “Publications”).

We will continue to intensify our **collaboration with our partner organisations** in Colombia, Nepal

and the Philippines, including with a working meeting in Switzerland that will build upon last year’s meeting. Numerous Women’s Peace Tables are planned in these and other countries for 2020. In Pakistan, for example, our partner organisation Tehrik-e-Niswan is using culture to build peace: together with participants from different parts of Karachi and Quetta, our partner is developing interactive dance theatre on the theme of peace.

The exchange of experiences and knowledge in the **worldwide network of PeaceWomen** continues to be the focus of our work, as does our **political work** with civil society actors.

Do not miss the opportunity to find out more about our work and our events: subscribe to our print and e-newsletters on 1000peacewomen.org and follow us on Facebook.

For a feminist peace

In Switzerland, the 2019 women's strike was the defining feminist moment of the year. With over 500,000 participants, it was a resounding success. It not only follows the first women's strike in 1991, but also takes its place in the worldwide women's protests of 2019. It is precisely because gender inequality is a global phenomenon that the formation of transnational feminist alliances is so important, and it is encouraging to know that feminists everywhere are working for similar causes.

One focus of our work in 2019 was the conference on "Women, Peace and Security", which we organised as part of civil society's contribution to the Swiss national action plan on UN Resolution 1325. The Civil Society Report, which we co-authored, was launched at the conference. More than 130 people discussed the link between the "Women, Peace and Security" agenda and that of the so-called "Prevention of Violent Extremism". They considered the dangers in-

involved in this linkage, such as the instrumentalisation of women's rights, the dominance of security policy in the agenda and the restriction of civil society's scope for action. Alongside civil society partners, we also monitor how Switzerland implements human rights standards, including the UN Women's Rights Convention (CEDAW).

During the global "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence" campaign we held two public events in Bern and Zurich, focusing on sexualised and gender-based violence in Nepal and Colombia during and after the armed conflicts.

Together with civil society partner organisations, we are committed to gender justice, peace and the observance of human rights, especially those of women and marginalised groups, both in Switzerland and globally.

Find out more about our political work on our website under "Activities" – "Advocacy".

FEMINISTS CONNECTING FOR PEACE

A vibrant network

The core of our work is our lively network of women peace activists. This network enables the exchanges of experience among women around the world and makes their work visible.

In 2019, we continued to focus on strengthening our global network. In close collaboration with the 1000 women who were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005, we continued updating their biographies. The updates will be uploaded on our website this year.

In 2019, we increasingly used Facebook to make visible the substantial peace work of the women from our network. We have made their work accessible to a wider global audience by featuring the women, using short texts, as well as links to videos, media reports or blog posts – thereby also building our online community.

Facebook was also a useful communication tool in the global "16 Days of Activism against Gender-

Based Violence" campaign. We portrayed 16 PeaceWomen working for the elimination of violence against women. Once again, the diversity of our network became apparent: from Albania to Papua New Guinea, the PeaceWomen portrayed are committed to a world in which women can live in peace and security.

The exchange of experience and knowledge within the network adds considerable value to the PeaceWomen's work. The further development of the network and the promotion of this exchange of experience was a focus of the International Board meeting in May.

Find out more about our network on our website under "Network".

Team and Board

The 4.2 equivalent full-time positions at the International Office were shared in 2019 by Flurina Derungs (Director), Mithra Akhbari (Programme Manager), Christina Stucky (Communications), Franziska Vogel (Fundraising), Andrea Filippi (Programmes and Advocacy), Christa Bader (Administration), Wirawan Butsri (Cleaning), and Ina Keilwerth and Carla Weymann (Interns).

Caroline Morrissey and Suthagini Ponnambalam provided 200 hours of voluntary work.

The International Board consists of the co-presidents Kamla Bhasin (India) and Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold (Switzerland) as well as of Sandy Fong (Fiji), Kin Chi Lau (Hong Kong), Alejandra Miller Restrepo (Colombia), Cécile Mukarubuga (Rwanda), Margo Okazawa-Rey (USA), Marina Pikulina (Uzbekistan) and Susanne Gfeller, Margret Kiener Nellen, Christine Menz, Susanne Schneeberger und Olga Vinogradova (Switzerland). In May, the Board discussed the strategic direction of the organisation and a working group deliberated the future of the network. The Swiss Committee met for 7 additional Board meetings. The Board's work, totalling 2,300 hours, is performed on a voluntary basis.

The indispensable partner organisations and Regional Coordinators, who maintain the interaction with our network, provided a total of 10,100 hours of voluntary work in 2019.

We thank all of you for your great commitment!

FINANCIAL STATEMENT (EXCERPT)

Statement of Operations

Income	2019	2018
Contributions from public institutions	113,243	121,243
Donations from foundations, organisations and institutions	453,750	482,500
Donations from churches	104,587	22,278
Private donations	201,088	53,893
Various income	12,705	15,393
Total Income	885,373	695,307

Expenditure	2019	2018
Direct project expenditure	209,246	134,221
Material costs	45,268	13,542
Project contributions	163,978	120,679
Personnel costs	405,370	324,815
Salary costs (including social insurance benefits)	346,866	276,502
Social insurance contributions	53,467	44,770
Other personnel costs	5,037	3,543
Operating costs	93,351	75,954
Office and infrastructure	26,825	24,527
Third-party services	26,418	15,643
Running costs	5,474	5,758
Fundraising	10,357	7,881
Communications	11,260	15,714
Representational and networking costs	3,922	1,249
Board	8,095	3,651
Depreciation and amortisation	1,000	1,530
Total Expenditure	707,967	534,989

Operating result	177,406	160,318
Financial income and exceptional revenue	-9,309	4,684
Annual result before change in fund capital	168,097	165,002
Change in fund capital	150,000	0

Annual Results	18,097	165,002
-----------------------	---------------	----------------

No peaceful future without facing the past

After armed conflict, the search for truth is more than a mere historical reappraisal. It is also about acknowledging the suffering that has been experienced and about building trust in divided societies. A full historical account is essential if peace is to last beyond the process of establishing the truth. That is why in 2019, along with our partner organisations, we were committed to ensuring that the experiences of conflict-affected women take their rightful place in the process of dealing with the past.

"Let's walk together towards the truth" was written on a signboard at the start of a forest path in southern Colombia. The path led the women – all affected by the armed conflict – into the past and into the future. Statements attached to the trees encouraged them to reflect on what they had experienced and to look ahead.

This path was part of one of the four Women's Peace Tables that our partner organisations held in Colombia in 2019. The Truth Commission is a key partner for us there, as indeed we are for them. Access to women in rural areas is challenging; the Peace Tables make this access possible. The participants are informed about the status of the peace process and learn about their right to participate in shaping the country's peace.

Regional staff members of the Colombian Truth Commission are on site to record the women's experiences. Twenty women decided to submit their "testimonios". Along with group discussions at the Peace Tables, they make a substantial contribution to the historical account of the civil war. Without the Peace Tables, the experiences of these women would be missing. The process of coming to terms with the past plays a significant role in the accountability and reparation processes after conflicts.

"Peacebuilding does not end with the signing of a peace agreement. It is the beginning of the building of a peaceful society," said Yasmin Busran-Lao of our Philippine partner organisation, the Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute, at a working



Participants at a Peace Table in Colombia.

meeting in Bern. At the meeting, our partners from Colombia, Nepal and the Philippines had the opportunity to draw from a rich pool of collective experience. These countries have gone through lengthy armed conflicts and are at different points in the transition towards a peaceful society. The political will to create a comprehensive overview of the conflict does not exist everywhere to the same extent.

In 2019, we held a total of 18 Women's Peace Tables in these countries, together with our partner organisations and with over 1000 participants. For the Philippines, they came at a crucial moment as groundbreaking decisions are being made in which women also must have a say. In Bern, Yasmin was impressed by the work of the Colombian Truth Commission's Gender Commission. Gender Coordinator Salomé Gomez Corrales and her colleagues ensure that women and LGBTI people are included in establishing the truth. Yasmin wants to invite Salomé to the conflict-affected Bangsamoro region to share her work. Susan Risal, director of Nagarik Aawaz, said the political will to confront and build a complete record of the past is lacking in Nepal. Thanks to the Women's Peace Tables, the affected women are at least being heard.

Find out more about our peacebuilding projects on our website under "Projects" and "News".

Balance Sheet

Assets	2019	2018
Liquid assets	605,501	584,899
Cash	583,737	529,590
Receivables from goods and services	0	36,633
Accrued income	21,764	18,676
Fixed assets	1,002	2,002
Tangible fixed assets	1,002	2,002
Total Assets	606,503	586,901

Liabilities	2019	2018
Current liabilities	34,254	182,749
Payables from goods and services	20,999	9,701
Accrued liabilities	13,255	173,048
Organisational capital	572,249	404,152
Free capital	404,152	239,150
Tied capital	150,000	0
Annual profit	18,097	165,002
Total Liabilities and Equity	606,503	586,901

Commentary

BDO AG independent auditors have audited the 2019 annual financial statement. It complies with Swiss law and with our 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 2019, PeaceWomen Across the Globe reported an annual profit of 18,096 Swiss francs. **66% of our total expenditure directly benefits our projects – a great deal of work is also carried out on a voluntary basis.** For the further development of the projects, the

Board has created two funds. This will ensure that we can continue to strengthen the network of peace activists and implement projects to promote the participation of women in peace processes.

Since 2013, PeaceWomen Across the Globe has held the ZEW quality seal and is certified as a reputable organisation that uses its donations purposefully, effectively and in an impact-oriented manner, earning the trust of its donors.

The full audited financial statement is available on our website, under "Publications" – "Annual Report".

Our sincere thanks!

Our work for a more peaceful world is supported by generous private donors and institutional partnerships – our heartfelt thanks! Thanks to your support, together with that of our partner organisations around the world, we are able to help build a gender-just peace and work towards the constructive political and social changes that lead to sustainable peace.

In particular, we would like to thank our public-sector donor, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (Human Security Division and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), for its substantial contribution. A warm thanks too to the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund as well as the CARITATIS Foundation (Vaduz), Volkart, and Corymbo. Our thanks also go to Bread for the World, to the World Day of Prayer Education Fund, the Evangelical Reformed Church of Nidwalden and the Zurich Catholic Church Parish for their valued contributions.