



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

## FriedensFrauen Weltweit – PeaceWomen Across the Globe PWAG

# Understanding of Peace

«You cannot have peace without human rights, democracy, gender equality, and clean water. Look to the root causes of war and you will find, in their reverse, the root foundations of peace.»

Cora Weiss, USA

«Peace is an all-embracing concept: Peace means life – peace has an impact on our life. Hunger, health, freedom, human rights, land – all these are parts of life. Everything that stands up against violence means peace.»

Clara Charf, Brazil

PeaceWomen Across the Globe PWAG has an expanded concept of peace which differs from the prevalent definitions that focus on war and conflict—because peace is more than the absence of war. PWAG has a positive understanding of peace, which goes beyond the abbreviated interpretation of peace as being «non-war» and the absence of violent conflicts.

PWAGs understanding focuses instead on the causes of violent conflicts and understands peace not as a fixed state or condition, but as a process. PWAG recognizes **human security as a precondition for peace**: Security, which doesn't only include physical security, but is also based on social and economic justice, comprehensively includes human rights and is aligned towards future generations. This understanding of peace includes ecological security, the right to a secured livelihood that is based on sustainable management of resources and protection from the exploitation or destruction of the environment.

As a women's organization PWAG considers it to be essential that the understanding of peace is based on **gender equality**, because both the idea of peace and the notion of equality for women and men are based upon the demand for a society free of violence and oppression.

In this sense, PWAG understand peace as the presence of institutions and competencies that enable **conflicts to be solved nonviolently**. These institutions and competencies apply to conflicts at the level of the state, as well as in the private realm (e.g. domestic violence). PWAGs understanding of peace requires equal and just access to material resources (e.g. water, food, land) and structural resources (e.g. education, political participation). In order to consolidate peace, work needs to be done at many levels. PWAG has divided peacework into peacework into ten dimensions: reconciliation and reconstruction; ten dimensions women's and human rights, minorities and indigenous people; economic rights and livelihoods; justice and peace; health care; education; environmental justice and ecological security; arts and culture as a medium for peace education; politics and governance.