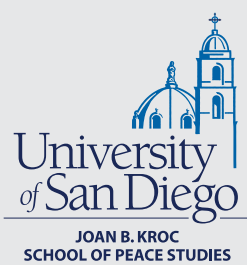


2003 - 2012



A Report on its 10th Anniversary and the Hansen Foundation
10th Anniversary Summit for the Women PeaceMakers Program





DEDICATION

This 10th anniversary report on the Women PeaceMakers Program is dedicated to a dedicated peace writer, Susan Van Schoonhoven. Considering all the dangers our Women PeaceMakers face in their countries and work, we did not expect the first loss in our program family to be a peace writer. We lost Sue in a car accident in late February 2008. But our refrain lives, as her peacemaker, Rebecca Joshua Okwaci of what is now South Sudan, encouraged us: *Niswan kulu gi wala* — “*All the women are shining.*”



The Women PeaceMakers Program documents the stories and best practices of international women leaders who are involved in human rights and peacemaking efforts in their home countries. Each fall, four peacemakers participate in an eight-week residency. They are paired with Peace Writers, who interview them daily and document their story of living in conflict and building peace in their communities and nations. Now in its 10th year, the program has documented the stories of 40 peacemakers from 33 countries.



The Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice (IPJ) at the University of San Diego's Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies, is dedicated to fostering peace, cultivating justice and creating a safer world. Since 2000, the IPJ has worked to build peace with justice by strengthening women peacemakers, youth leaders and human rights defenders, and developing innovative approaches to peacebuilding.



The Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies is dedicated to building and sustaining peace and justice through innovative learning, interdisciplinary analysis, advanced practice and engaged public policy. The Kroc School's areas of focus include human rights; human protection; peacebuilding; women, peace and security; and interfaith dialogue. Kroc School students also benefit greatly from the school's two practice-oriented institutes — the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice and the Trans-Border Institute.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	2
WOMEN PEACEMAKERS PROGRAM — WHAT, WHY, HOW	3
IMPACT	6
BIOGRAPHIES OF WOMEN PEACEMAKERS	14
10TH ANNIVERSARY SUMMIT	28
Major Conflict and Human Rights Issues	29
Regional Groups	30
Global Initiatives Proposed	35
Institute Support to Women PeaceMaker Alumnae	36
THE NEXT DECADE	37
RESOURCES	40
PROGRAM STAFF BIOGRAPHIES	41

Introduction

GLOBAL PEACE AND JUSTICE PROCESSES DO NOT OCCUR IN A VACUUM. They happen in family living rooms, dusty fields, in urban streets and children's bedrooms. News clips are quick to disembody the actors, perpetrators, victims and survivors into lump sums, stripping them of their identities as grandfathers, mothers, aunts, siblings, children. When academics, policymakers and practitioners refer to "fragile states," "armed actors," "rape victims" or "refugees," we too easily forget they are discussing someone's home, someone's decision to flee, someone who has chosen to use a weapon to coerce, someone who has had his or her life irreversibly altered by violence. The disconnect that results from how we document and learn about conflict causes us to lose more than the humanity of its victims and perpetrators. It causes us to lose crucial lessons of how we can prevent it.



Shreen Abdul Saroor in Vavuniya, Sri Lanka

the program takes a deeper look at the lives and motivations of women — conflict's disproportionate victims and its under-recognized mediators, negotiators, security experts and human rights defenders — who have taken the extraordinary step of speaking out in the face of injustice and violence. By giving them the space and opportunity to document their stories, we support these leaders as they seek to understand and reveal how they are able to be effective agents of change in their communities, countries and regions. And through sharing their lives and work through stories with audiences in San Diego, at the United Nations and internationally, we teach the world about a different side of conflict. We teach them about why women stand up, why they cross lines of division and what they do to bring communities together.



Palwasha Kakar of Afghanistan speaks during a conversation in the institute's Peace & Justice Theatre

The year 2012 marked the 10th anniversary of this award-winning program. To mark this historic milestone, the institute invited the 40 alumnae to return for a 10th Anniversary Summit, funded by the Fred J. Hansen Foundation.

The following report provides an overview of this unique program, its successes and impact, brief biographies of the Women PeaceMakers we have selected to date, and the plan for the program's local and international expansion and development in its next decade.

Women PeaceMakers Program

What, Why, How

"The process of storytelling was a healing and reflective journey for me that strengthened and capacitated me for my future work. The Women PeaceMakers Program strengthened my empowering strategy through the storytelling process. As an activist and NGO leader, I lived an extremely congested life because of diverse demands, pressures from donors, staff, communities and family, along with the influence of the hostile political environment where I work. So I never could get even a little time to think about myself, my peace strategies or my leadership behaviors. One reason people don't change is that they do not take time to reflect. But the Women PeaceMakers Program provided me two precious months of reflection and changed my life."

Rubina Feroze Bhatti, Pakistan, 2009 Woman PeaceMaker

THE WOMEN PEACEMAKERS PROGRAM is an award-winning program created to document the histories and best practices of local women leaders engaged in peacebuilding and defending human rights in situations of conflict, violence and oppression.¹ Each fall four women are selected from hundreds of applicants to spend eight weeks at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice (IPJ) at the University of San Diego. Amidst a vibrant academic environment, the program provides a rare opportunity for women who have developed their own innovative peacebuilding strategies to reflect back on their lives and work and to document their experiences and best practices, from which the world can learn.

The program was developed on the premise that women on the frontlines of efforts to end violence and secure a just peace generally have little time or few resources to record their experiences, activities and insights. It is also built on the understanding that during and after conflict, "women's advances — the survival strategies that kept families alive and communities together — are erased from the historical record."² The program therefore set out to redress this significant gap in the understanding of peacebuilding.

The program has a distinct approach which is based on the notion that peacebuilding is both a personal and context-specific endeavor. More often than not, women peacebuilders become



Rubina Feroze Bhatti of Pakistan walks with her peace writer, Kaitlin Barker Davis

¹ This section is adapted from Noma, E., Aker, D., and Freeman, J. "Heeding Women's Voices: Breaking Cycles of Conflict and Deepening the Concept of Peacebuilding." *Journal of Peacebuilding & Development*. Vol. 4, Issue 1. 2012.

² Meintjes, S., et al., eds. *The Aftermath: Women in Post-Conflict Transformation*. New York: Zed Books, 2001: 17

involved when they are confronted with threats, risks and challenges, assuming leadership roles and bringing forth unknown or untapped resources. Accordingly, the program is designed to explore each woman's unique path to becoming an active agent of peace. For women who want to document, share and build upon their peacebuilding experiences, the



Emmaculeta Chiseya of Zimbabwe works with her peace writer, Lucia Gbaya-Kanga

eight-week residential program at the IPJ allows them the space and means for reflection and learning. By giving the women the opportunity to analyze the evolution of their engagement in peacebuilding and discern what worked and why, the program allows for wider lessons for individual peacebuilders and the fields of peacebuilding and development to be extracted and possibly replicated, in appropriate contexts. To date, the program has documented the work of 40 peacemakers from 33 countries.

The Women PeaceMakers are selected from a wide pool of international applicants who are prepared to reflect on and reveal their experiences in conflict and their methods for building peace. Each peacemaker is paired with a professional “peace writer” to document her story. Through daily semi-structured interviews and the researching of conflict histories and contexts, the writers produce an in-depth publication that seeks to represent accurately and authentically how and why some women choose to counter the violence around them, and what it means practically to build peace during and after conflict. Part of the writers’ job is to help peacemakers explore areas they might not have previously considered, including their childhood, education and experiences in conflict that are at the root of their peacebuilding engagement



Peace Writer Theresa de Langis discusses her narrative with Samia Bamieh

The final publication produced by the writer-peacemaker team consists of narratives and additional information to provide a deep understanding of the conflict and one person's journey within it.³ The narrative form — the bulk of the final publication — is used instead of straightforward oral histories or interview transcripts, for numerous reasons. Narratives are designed to go “beyond headlines to capture the nuance of complex situations and expose the realities of gender-based violence, thus providing an understanding of conflict and an avenue to its transformation.”⁴ As detailed explorations of women's lives before, during and after conflict, the narratives provide context not often found in media sound bites,

“legal documents used in courts or truth commissions, or in the brief vignettes of brutality documented in many reports produced by human rights organizations.”⁵ But beyond this, and crucially, they illustrate how and why women are not simply victims, but powerful agents of change in situations of conflict and post-conflict.

³ The structure of the final publication changed in 2008. Publications between 2003 and 2007 are long narrative pieces without complementary components, such as a conflict history and a timeline integrating political occurrences in the country and the personal developments of the peacemaker.

⁴ Noma, E. “Women Cannot Cry Anymore”: Global Voices Transforming Violent Conflict.” *Critical Half*. Vol. 5, Issue 2, 2007: 8-13.

⁵ Ibid. 9.

What the IPJ has achieved is an unparalleled resource as it creates some of the only in-depth records of the work women are doing on the frontlines of peacebuilding, conflict transformation and human rights around the world. The process of collecting, refining and publicizing this knowledge has benefited academics, students, policymakers, the Women PeaceMakers and their communities. Through reflection, rejuvenation, resources, raising their profiles and publicizing their efforts as leaders and the courageous work of their communities to build peace, the program also helps alumnae to refine, develop, share and build on their innovative peacebuilding work.

In addition to daily interviews between writers and peacemakers, the residency incorporates public speaking engagements, community visits and mutual-learning opportunities with faculty, students and community members throughout Southern California. They make new connections and leave their audiences with a new perspective on conflicts that either preoccupy or have been neglected by the media. For peacebuilding professionals, academics, policymakers and the public alike, the peacemakers' achievements provide positive evidence of concrete possibilities for peace.

The work of the Women PeaceMakers is also shared in films, research publications and the reports from conferences held while the peacemakers are in residence. Institute staff and Women PeaceMakers themselves present at the annual United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and in global meetings and conferences convened on women, peace and security.



Students in a theology class at the University of San Diego learned from the 2010 Women PeaceMakers

IMPACT

The program “was an amazing, immeasurable, life-changing experience ... It broadened my own perspective, learning about other women’s stories, work and activism, and sharpened my own perspective about my country and situation I live in ... Documenting our stories is something that actually made this program specific and different compared to many other similar programs. Many programs bring activists and give them training, opportunity for networking ... but documenting the stories was totally unique.”

— *Svetlana Kijevčanin, Serbia, 2006 Woman PeaceMaker*

THE IMPACT OF THE MANY ELEMENTS OF THE WOMEN PEACEMAKERS PROGRAM is wide-ranging and has deeply personal, social, academic and policy ramifications. Created with the purpose of publicizing the peacebuilding efforts of women leaders, the program publishes the women’s narratives and best practices online, free of charge, to be accessed and distributed extensively.



Master’s students learn about the situation in South Ossetia from Irina Yanovskaya

To various audiences these documents represent biographical glimpses of a select number of outstanding leaders; research data on women active in peacebuilding; or a form of policy advocacy supporting the effectiveness of indigenous, women-led strategies.

While the program cannot ascertain an overall figure for the number of times the publications have been accessed online over the course of a decade, analytics from the website Scribd (where the narratives are also published) show that in the most recent 18-month period, Women PeaceMakers narratives were accessed over 13,000 times. Google analytics for the same time period show that the Women PeaceMakers website receives an average of 3,500 views per week when the peacemakers are in residence and the application period is open.

Scholars and students at universities such as Princeton, Harvard, Notre Dame, Portland State, Syracuse, Oxford and Goethe represent a few of those who have contacted the program to use Women PeaceMakers materials in teaching curricula, research publications or dissertations.

Women PeaceMakers narratives are currently integrated into a full course at the Daraja Academy, a private all-girls school in rural Kenya. The publications are used in the school’s WISH curriculum — Women of Integrity, Strength and Hope — to demonstrate the leadership characteristics and life paths of women in Kenya and other developing or conflict-affected communities around the world. The peacemakers serve as positive role models to these girls from across Kenya, who are able to place the experiences of Kenyan Women PeaceMakers Sarah Lochodo, Wahu Kaara and Alice Nderitu in a cultural context which they all recognize.

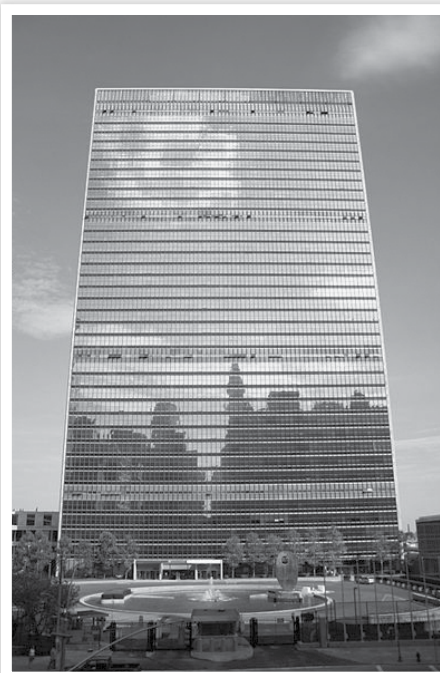
The Women PeaceMakers Program has been featured in national and international conferences on political science, psychology, peace studies, feminist theology, anthropology, storytelling and interdisciplinary studies, among others. The narratives have also been used by excerpt or as primary source material in a number of journals, including the *Journal of Peacebuilding & Development*, *Peace Policy* and the *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*.

Utilizing the institute's designation as a nongovernmental organization (NGO) with Special Consultative Status through the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, program staff have presented panels and screened Women PeaceMakers films at the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women annually since 2007. The commission has been a key venue at which the program connects with representatives of member states, U.N. agencies and NGOs from around the world. This has led to long-term partnerships and rich collaborations on IPJ conferences and other events on women, peace and security, funding opportunities and the growing renown of the program. In particular, meeting and publicizing the program to up to 2,200 representatives from civil society and policymakers and practitioners working with women human rights defenders and peacebuilders has allowed the program to attract a deep pool of applicants from nearly every conflict-affected region on earth.

The wealth of primary source material that the program has collected is also of key use to policymakers. For example, the Stabilisation Unit of the U.K.'s Department for International Development used information in the narratives to compile two reports, one on the effects of armed conflict on women and the second on how to involve women in conflict resolution and peace processes. Program analysis has been included in recommendations to Arria Formula meetings on women, peace and security, for the U.N. Security Council. Women PeaceMakers and program staff participated in civil society consultations with the U.S. State Department while it was developing its National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, and a peacemaker testified before the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs on U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325, recognizing women's vital contributions in achieving peace and stability.

To the women themselves and the communities they represent, the final publication signifies both biographical glimpses of a select number of outstanding leaders; research data on women active in peacebuilding; advocacy for policy reform, and more. It may be their first and only opportunity to have a written record of decades of experience, lessons, trauma and healing.

In preparation for the 10th anniversary of the program, program staff solicited input from program alumnae, reviewing what was significant from their participation in the program; what benefits the program provided for their peace work back home; and any suggestions for changes or enhancements to the program. The following sections include quotes from that feedback and an external evaluation that was conducted as part of the 10th Anniversary Summit in San Diego in September 2012. Through a facilitated focus group discussion and a structured questionnaire, an external consultant gathered and reported valuable information regarding the impact of the Women PeaceMakers Program on the peacemakers themselves, their continued work in the field, and the communities they work with and for.



United Nations Headquarters



Olenka Ochoa of Peru

On Personal Transformation

“The process of telling my story was a very significant experience in my life. It made me to systematize my own struggles aimed at changing the lives of women and the whole society in my country and other places in the world toward gender justice and social justice.”

— Luz Méndez, Guatemala, 2004 Woman PeaceMaker

“The program was a benchmark and a forum for me to measure what I had done and what other colleagues did. The process of telling my story was definitely life-changing.”

— Rebecca Joshua Okwaci, 2006 Woman PeaceMaker

While it is not a specific goal of the program, one outcome of the program’s narrative inquiry and reflective peacebuilding process is to allow participants the space to revisit traumatic experiences of conflict, personal violence or loss in a safe environment. Peacemakers often describe the effect of the residency as “healing,” “transformative” and “therapeutic.”

“I came here saturated like a sponge that had absorbed a lot of trauma. I didn’t realize how traumatized I was until I came here. It was the therapeutic nature of telling my story and having the close relationship with the team. That helped me a lot and it prepared me to get rid of all the trauma going back.”⁶

“It was a period which was quite therapeutic because we were able to tell our story. Most of the time we do not have an ear, but IPJ provided an ear, where a person would listen to you in a very non-judgmental way, so for me that was profound and very personal.”



Peace Writer Ilze Dzenovska and Shinjita Alam of Bangladesh interview in the institute's Garden of the Sea

The rest alone is often so needed that a number of participants have admitted they were on the verge of quitting their peacebuilding work due to burnout, excessive fatigue or vicarious trauma. One peacemaker described the program as **“a rest of the warriors.”** Another stated that the program was **“a crucial phase of my life. It was very important that I could get time and space for myself and could reflect and think about how I should continue my work.”**

“Taking a recess from your daily, busy schedule, far away from home, and also having someone who could act like a shoulder being offered to you to lean on” rejuvenates the peacemakers, and along with the support and connection the residency provides to a network of women leaders experiencing similar hardships, allows them to return to their countries with new energy and ideas of how to advance their work.

⁶ Some quotes have been taken from the qualitative data of the external evaluation. These were anonymous and are therefore unattributed.

"The insecure environment of my country buries all our creativity. Our life goes white and black. The residency at USD refreshed my colorful memories."

— **Rashad Zaydan, Iraq, 2011 Woman PeaceMaker**

This is the transformative power of reflective peacebuilding.



*2011 Women PeaceMakers, Peace Writers and IPJ Staff
(Photo courtesy of Bijoyeta Das)*



On Development and Expansion of Peacebuilding Work

"Telling my story helped me to rethink what I have done and the mistakes. It helped me to strategize my future path and peacebuilding work."

— **Shreen Abdul Saroor, Sri Lanka, 2004 Woman PeaceMaker**

Rather than offering a formalized training program, the residency offers the space in which women can share and learn from each other and the community. The program — through the interviewing and documentation process with the writers and the mutual learning that occurs between the peacemakers — provides an environment for Women PeaceMakers to analyze which of their techniques were most effective and why. In response to this process, many of them refine their peacebuilding initiatives, even adding elements of the program's methodology to their work with communities and women survivors.

In the external evaluation of the program, all respondents reported that their participation increased their credibility, provided them with important connections, changed how they think about their work in a positive manner, changed how they think about themselves in a positive manner, changed how they do their work in a positive manner, had a positive impact on their relationships, and renewed their enthusiasm for their work.



On Local and Global Communities

"I feel this [program] is very important because normally in conflict situations not all the relevant information is captured by the media and those who work with grassroots are not even considered. So the program fills in this gap in the making of history and women normally being marginalized."

— **Nora Chengeto Tapiwa, Zimbabwe, 2010 Woman PeaceMaker**

“Considering the impact of narratives, TWO [her organization] started documenting the short stories of women leaders at the village level in TWO’s newsletter, and got very positive feedback from readers.”

— **Rubina Feroze Bhatti, Pakistan, 2009 Woman PeaceMaker**

“It is so important to continue documenting women’s stories to allow women to share widely their stories and impact greatly. It also encourages those at the grassroots to continue contributing to peacebuilding and reconciliation through their stories.”

— **Sister Pauline Acayo, Uganda, 2005 Woman PeaceMaker**

Women PeaceMakers have identified that the program has benefits not just for themselves but for their communities — both as a record of shared achievements and as inspiration for the thousands of women who do this work amidst personal danger while largely unsupported. For those who feel they are alone, these documents provide stories they can relate to, find comfort in and, hopefully, gain strength and insight from to continue. The program:

“ ... is a contribution to give visibility to women in history, and particularly to women’s efforts to contribute to achieve a just peace. ... It can strengthen other women who are struggling right now in armed conflicts or post-conflict countries.”

— **Luz Méndez, Guatemala, 2004 Woman PeaceMaker**



On the Influence of the Narrative Process and Peace Writers

The narratives:

“ ... bring others who read it a new window of knowledge, personalizing the conflicts beyond stereotypes, humanizing it, and maybe bringing a different kind of understanding, interests, support, involvement. ... Through Women PeaceMakers they will know better the political, social and cultural contexts of different conflicts.”

— **Samia Bamieh, Palestine, 2007 Woman PeaceMaker**

“I personally think and believe that conferences, seminars or short residential programs without narratives do not have a long-term impact.”

— **Rubina Feroze Bhatti, Pakistan, 2009 Woman PeaceMaker**

“The process exposed me to the importance of documenting. This is indeed life-changing. My story now sits in the archives of the heroes of the Liberation Movement ... of South Africa.”

— **Zandile Nhlengetwa, South Africa, 2008 Woman PeaceMaker**

The peace writers:

“... are remarkable in facilitating the ability of threading all the important issues into a concrete, tangible outcome — never diminishing the values of any input, but bringing on board the much-needed coherence and form to have a flowing narrative. ... The stories have insights that cannot be defined through a purely qualitative or quantitative research praxis ... These stories cannot be measured purely as outcomes. These stories are not data in documentation but living data.”

— **Wahu Kaara, Kenya, 2011 Woman PeaceMaker**



On International Policy

“The program ... shows people how women are peacebuilders and men are not the only stakeholders of the society.”

— **Palwasha Kakar, Afghanistan, 2006 Woman PeaceMaker**

In addition to highlighting that women are active at all levels of peacebuilding, the program answers a frequent critique of those who challenge women's active participation in peace negotiations, post-conflict reconstruction or leadership roles. In response to laws, U.N. Security Council Resolutions such as 1325, and calls from those who seek gender inclusion, opponents often cite a lack of identifiable women with the necessary expertise in security and justice processes or politics. In this respect, the program serves as a roster of skilled, experienced leaders, identifying to the halls of power that a group of women are active across the globe and have significant experience to be called upon to offer their expertise. No longer can they ask, “Where are the women?”

“Capturing [women's] stories can make a difference on how peace talks and peacekeeping have been understood and continue to be male-dominated, even at the U.N. level, irrespective of all those Security Council and other resolutions that insist on women's involvement and voice in peacekeeping. IPJ needs to tell their stories.”

— **Shreen Abdul Saroor, Sri Lanka, 2004 Woman PeaceMaker**



Susan Tenjoh-Okwen interacts with male elders in Bamenda, Cameroon

Participating in the Women PeaceMakers residency has often raised the profile of those who were not already visible on the world stage. The program's selection provides international credibility to those who seek it, and emphasizes to local and international audiences the value of their work. The program:

"... gave me great opportunities of being a reference in the peacebuilding field. Since I was recognized as a Woman PeaceMaker, my job as an advocate got more impact. It gives me credibility to the decision makers back home."

— **Sylvie Maunga Mbanga, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2008 Woman PeaceMaker**

"Many researchers and international organizations, including the U.N., have used my story. ...The story has placed me at a higher level because we do our work silently and most often our efforts are overshadowed and easily hijacked by more prominent ones. IPJ was a turning point in my activism career. It gave me an opening to an international platform for my lobby work."

— **Shreen Abdul Saroor, Sri Lanka, 2004 Woman PeaceMaker**

"Storytelling and documenting help me to easily promote my work, to utilize it as an example of lessons learned for other members of the society who may not be aware of all what needs to be done in order to overpass difficulties we face in our societies during the transition period."

— **Shukrije Gashi, Kosovo, 2006 Woman PeaceMaker**



On the Importance of a Network and Safety amid Threats

Several participants described the importance of the relationships they developed with IPJ staff and other peacemakers. As one woman said, **“The most important thing is I feel like I am not alone. ... There are so many other peacemakers and those are my family members, and IPJ — there’s actually my home.”**

The connection between peacemakers and with the IPJ continues to develop after they leave. Linked by an online listserv in which they share announcements, updates and challenges to their work, alumnae have also called to be linked with others from their region. One peacemaker described the program as providing a **“bridge ... not only among women, but through the women between the regions.”**

In 2011 the IPJ initiated Women PeaceMakers Regional Networks, which provide opportunities for the peacemakers to exchange strategies on peace, security and justice issues specific to their region. During regional summits they are able to share their expertise with local communities, civil society, politicians, peacebuilders and the security sector, creating new bilateral partnerships throughout the region. As their visibility and reach grows, they will also provide an early warning system, enhancing the work of one another and their networks through international visibility, should they or their communities be threatened.

“When I work ... I feel like I am alone. ... When we came here, we feel as women regionally can support each other and I don’t feel alone. When we need some support, we have friends at IPJ.”

“Sometimes we’re drowning, but to be part of [this network] allows me to zoom out and see how other women are doing this work. It gives me another insight.”

— Mary Ann Arnado, Philippines, 2005 Woman PeaceMaker

As they seek justice to redress the human rights violations of their families and neighbors, oftentimes they and those close to them are targeted. For many, the Women PeaceMakers residency provides one of the first opportunities in years — maybe ever — to live without the latent or overt threat of violence.

A number of participants reported that participation in the program helped them feel a greater sense of safety when they returned to their work. One peacemaker stated, **“First thing I do when I get endangered, I email to Dee.⁷ I know you are there if anything goes wrong.”**

Another woman reported, **“The IPJ gave me the opportunity for my story to be known. ... If you are not known, you can easily disappear. But once you are known, you know that the world is watching and you become safer.”**

This is how the program creates better peacebuilders, who are safer, more supported and better able to engage at a deeper and/or more global level upon their return from the residency. Researchers and policymakers are better able to understand and access evidence of women’s human rights and peacebuilding leadership in conflict and post-conflict environments around the world. There is now a documented library of local, sustained, culturally relevant, gender-sensitive, women-led initiatives which can be accessed and referenced as the world awakens to the central importance of integrating women, peace and security. Moreover, the program has identified 40 women leaders who have created or led those initiatives, and who can be called upon by governments, U.N. agencies and civil society to demonstrate how that can be done.

⁷ Dee Aker, program founder and deputy director of the IPJ

BIOGRAPHIES OF WOMEN PEACEMAKERS

THE FOLLOWING BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES PROVIDE GLIMPSES of the women the program has recognized and whose stories have been documented over its first 10 years. They represent 33 nations and a diverse range of professional experience, from grassroots activists to educators, government officials, indigenous leaders, journalists, lawyers, nurses and doctors. Their areas of expertise, noted below, are equally diverse and demonstrate that far beyond traditional “women’s issues,” these leaders have established expertise in justice, security and peacebuilding — reiterating that these are women’s issues as well.

The year each woman was a peacemaker is noted in parentheses.



Sister Pauline Acayo | *Uganda*

Sister Pauline Acayo (2005) of Uganda is the peacebuilding project officer in the Gulu office of Catholic Relief Services (CRS). She has been instrumental in helping more than 2,000 formerly abducted children reintegrate into their communities through the use of mediation, psychosocial trauma counseling and traditional indigenous ceremonies. Together with the Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative, Acayo and CRS formed sub-county and district religious leaders’ peace committees to institutionalize the resolution of conflict through dialogue and mediation.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

DDR, Education, Interreligious Dialogue, Psychosocial and Trauma Healing, Internally Displaced, Youth, Civil Society Development, Women’s Empowerment and Leadership

NARRATIVE

Born in the Borderlands, Living for Unity
By Emiko Noma



Shinjita Alam | *Bangladesh*

Shinjita Alam (2008) of Bangladesh is a women’s rights activist and independent consultant in peacebuilding. For several years she worked with the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). After managing income-generating projects for women and mediating domestic disputes within families, she initiated and oversaw MCC’s peace program — the first of its kind in Bangladesh. Alam has also worked for the organization Families for Children, raising the educational levels of women marginalized from their communities, and has organized forums for interfaith dialogue between the largely Christian Gar people and Muslim Bengalis.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Economic Empowerment, Gender-based Violence, Interethnic Conflict Resolution, Interreligious Dialogue, Mediation, Youth, Women’s Empowerment and Leadership

NARRATIVE

The Candle of Bangladesh
By Ilze Dzenovska

Mary Ann Arnado | *Philippines*

Mary Ann Arnado (2005) of the Philippines is the secretary general of the Mindanao Peoples Caucus (MPC), a grassroots network of Muslims, indigenous peoples and Christians working for peace across the island. She and the MPC (then part of the Initiatives for International Dialogue, of which Arnado was deputy director) created Bantay Ceasefire, or Ceasefire Watch, which monitors the ceasefire between the government army and Moro Islamic Liberation Front. She recently initiated the formation of an all-women's peacekeeping team to assist in monitoring the ceasefire.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Ceasefire Monitoring, Gender-based Violence, Human Rights, Interethnic Conflict Resolution, Interreligious Dialogue, Justice, Peace Negotiations, Psychosocial and Trauma Healing, Internally Displaced, Youth, Civil Society Development, Women's Empowerment and Leadership

NARRATIVE

One Woman's Life, One Thousand Women's Voices
By Maia Woodward



Samia Bamieh | *Palestine*

Samia Bamieh (2007) of Palestine is a founding member of the International Women's Commission for a Just and Sustainable Palestinian-Israeli Peace. She was one of the experts who helped formulate the Palestinian government's Plan of Action on gender after the U.N.'s Fourth World Conference on Women, in Beijing, China. Bamieh has served in two positions in the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and was a member of the committee assigned to draft a Palestinian constitution under Minister Nabeel Shaath. She was also part of Jerusalem Link, the coordinating body of two independent women's organizations, one Israeli and one Palestinian.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Good Governance, Peace Negotiations, Civil Society Development, Women's Empowerment and Leadership

NARRATIVE

They Never Left, They Never Arrived
By Theresa de Langis



Marta Benavides | *El Salvador*

Marta Benavides (2009) of El Salvador is the founder of the International Institute for Cooperation Amongst Peoples, also known as the Institute for the 23rd Century, which promotes the values of a culture of peace through various programs. During the early 1980s, Benavides was head of the Ecumenical Committee for Humanitarian Aid, a group sponsored by the late Archbishop Oscar Romero to support victims of violence. In 2009 she was named one of three co-chairs of the Global Call to Action against Poverty.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Arts, Education, Environment, Human Rights, Civil Society Development

NARRATIVE

Being Peace
By Leigh Fenly





Rubina Feroze Bhatti | *Pakistan*

Rubina Feroze Bhatti (2009) was born into a Christian family in the majority Muslim country of Pakistan. She is a founding member and general secretary of Taangh Wasaib Organization (TWO), a rights-based development group working for communal harmony and equality through programs addressing violence against women and discriminatory laws and policies against women and minorities. She has fought religious intolerance and extremism, including challenging the blasphemy law and initiating a campaign to abolish separate electorates, which prevent non-Muslims from voting.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Arts, Economic Empowerment, Education, Gender-based Violence, Electoral Reform, Human Rights, Interreligious Dialogue, Legal Reform, Media, Youth, Women's Empowerment and Leadership, Civil Society Development

NARRATIVE

Harmony in the Garden
By Kaitlin Barker



Zeinab Mohamed Blandia | *Sudan*

Zeinab Mohamed Blandia (2009), of the Nuba Mountains in Sudan, is the founder and director of *Ruya*, or "Vision," an organization based both in Kadugli in the Nuba Mountains and Omdurman, across the Nile River from Khartoum. Ruya's Social Solidarity Fund develops the economic skills of women through traditional group activities and contemporary modes such as savings accounts. Blandia also initiated the program "Women Bridging," which involves exchange visits between conflict-divided communities in South Kordofan State.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Economic Empowerment, Intertribal Conflict Resolution, Refugees/Internally Displaced, Civil Society Development, Women's Empowerment and Leadership

NARRATIVE

A View Through the Mountains
By Jennifer Freeman



Emmaculeta Chiseya | *Zimbabwe*

Emmaculeta Chiseya (2005) of Zimbabwe is a project officer for the Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN), which provides electoral education, election monitoring, research, advocacy and information dissemination. She has produced democracy education publications and utilizes radio programs tailored to youth and marginalized communities to urge them to participate in the political process. She previously worked for the Zimbabwe Human Rights Association, in which she promoted, protected and defended human rights during a dangerous period of Zimbabwean history.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Arts, Electoral Reform, Human Rights, Civil Society Development

NARRATIVE

Darkest Before Dawn
By Lucia Gbaya-Kanga

Zahra Ugas Farah | *Somalia*

Zahra Ugas Farah (2003) of Somalia is a founding member and director of the Family Economy Rehabilitation Organization (FERO), originally created in 1992 to meet the basic survival needs of people suffering from the civil war in Somalia. It has since expanded its work beyond humanitarian aid to the empowerment of women through education, income-generating activities and skills building. Farah also participated in the Somali peace process as a key civil society leader, chairing meetings of the Leaders Committee and serving as a member of the Committee on Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

DDR, Humanitarian Aid, Peace Negotiations, Civil Society Development, Women's Empowerment and Leadership

NARRATIVE

Building the Base of the Community
By Carmen Dyck



Vaiba Kebbeh Flomo | *Liberia*

Vaiba Kebbeh Flomo (2010) of Liberia is the women's desk officer for the Lutheran Church in Liberia – Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Program, where she supervises psychosocial services to war-affected women and girls. With her colleague Leymah Gbowee, a 2011 Nobel Peace Prize winner, she formed a Christian women's group, which then joined with a Muslim women's group to form Liberian Women Mass Action for Peace. The group was successful in pushing the warring parties to the peace table, a story featured in the film "Pray the Devil Back to Hell."

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Gender-based Violence, Good Governance, Peace Negotiations, Psychosocial and Trauma Healing, Women's Empowerment and Leadership

NARRATIVE

The Bullet Cannot Pick and Choose
By Sara Koenders



Shukrije Gashi | *Kosovo*

Shukrije Gashi (2006) of Kosovo is the director of Partners Center for Conflict Management-Kosova, working within local communities to resolve disputes and build consensus on issues affecting civil society. A lawyer and journalist, she helped establish several regional nongovernmental organizations, including the Council for the Defense of Human Rights and Freedoms, the Centre for the Protection of Women and Children, and Motrat Qiriazhi. Throughout the 1990s, she was involved in the Council of Reconciliation, which brought together Albanians from Kosovo and the diaspora to resolve sometimes decades-old blood feuds.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Human Rights, Interethnic Conflict Resolution, Legal Reform and Transitional Justice, Media, Mediation, Civil Society Development

NARRATIVE

Seeking Freedom Amid Ruins
By Jackee Batanda





Thavory Huot | *Cambodia*

Thavory Huot (2005) of Cambodia is the executive director of Khmer Ahimsa, an organization that promotes nonviolent conflict resolution and community empowerment through traditional peacemaking methods. A survivor of three decades of civil war, genocide and domestic violence, Huot has also served as program assistant for the Project Against Domestic Violence, the program manager of the Peace Education and Awareness Unit of the Working Group for Weapons Reduction, where she advocated for civilian arms reduction in post-conflict Cambodia.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Arms Control, Education, Gender-based Violence

NARRATIVE

Peace Between Banyan and Kapok Trees
By Ozlem Ezer



Wahu Kaara | *Kenya*

Wahu Kaara (2011) of Kenya is the founder of Kenya Debt Relief Network, which coordinated the country's activities for the global Jubilee 2000 debt cancellation campaign and advises government ministries on matters of public finance, foreign aid and debt. From 2004 to 2006 she was the coordinator of the U.N. Millennium Development Goals campaign at the All Africa Council of Churches. In the early 1990s, she and a group of mothers, wives and daughters protested for a year in Nairobi and secured the release of 52 political prisoners.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Economic Empowerment, Education, Good Governance, Mediation, Youth

NARRATIVE

The Strength of Mothers
By Alison Morse



Raya Kadyrova | *Kyrgyzstan*

Raya Kadyrova (2003) is the president and founder of Foundation for Tolerance International (FTI), an NGO founded in 1998 in Kyrgyzstan, which operates in the cross-border communities of the Ferghana Valley in Central Asia. FTI developed the Early Warning for Violence Prevention program, which utilizes constant monitoring processes to raise awareness of potential and actual conflicts throughout Kyrgyzstan. Kadyrova is one of two civil society representatives in the Government Committee on Police Reform in Kyrgyzstan. She is also civil society representative in the Council on Human Rights of the Kyrgyz Republic and is currently chairing the Civil Society Advisory Board to the United Nations.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Land Rights, Good Governance, Interethnic Conflict Resolution, Mediation, Civil Society Development

NARRATIVE

If You See Something Wrong
By Kaitlin Barker
with contributions from Yasmin Gatal-Hashimoto

Palwasha Kakar | *Afghanistan*

Palwasha Kakar (2006) of Afghanistan was deputy minister for administration and finance in the country's Ministry of Women's Affairs until April 2012. She has also served as program manager in the eastern regional office of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, where she worked toward the protection, promotion and defense of the rights of the Afghan people, with a particular focus on women.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Good Governance, Health, Human Rights, Women's Empowerment and Leadership

NARRATIVE

Cradled in Her Arms
By Heather Farrell



Svetlana Kijevčanin | *Serbia*

Svetlana Kijevčanin (2006) of Serbia is an educational psychologist and a co-founder of Group MOST ("Bridge") Association for Cooperation and Mediation, which implemented various creative and innovative programs in peace education during the wars in the former Yugoslavia. For the last three years she has been managing the Bridge Year program of Princeton University and World Learning, which brings newly admitted students to Serbia to volunteer in local organizations. Recently with a group of women activists from Serbia, she produced and performed Eve Ensler's *Vagina Monologues*, raising awareness about violence against women across the Balkan region.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Arts, Education, Psychosocial and Trauma Healing, Refugees/Internally Displaced, Youth, Civil Society Development

NARRATIVE

Out of the Cages
By Emiko Noma



Hyun-Sook Kim Lee | *South Korea*

Hyun-Sook Kim Lee (2003) of South Korea is executive director of Women's Forum for Peace and Diplomacy, and served until 2008 as vice president of the Korean Red Cross. She and colleagues in Seoul created the Korea Women's Hotline, providing guidance and support to victims of domestic violence; the hotline was instrumental in establishing domestic and sexual violence as criminal acts in the country. Lee later co-founded and served as executive director of Women Making Peace, which seeks to create a culture of peace on the Korean peninsula. She helped mobilize 700 Korean women – from the south, north and diaspora – for a historic women's reunification meeting in 2002.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Gender-based Violence, Humanitarian Aid, Civil Society Development, Women's Empowerment and Leadership

NARRATIVE

Color from Shadows
By Allison Meeks





Sarah Akoru Lochodo | *Kenya*

Sarah Akoru Lochodo (2010) of Kenya is an assistant chief in Kainuk Sublocation in the Turkana District in the northwest of her country. Within a month of being appointed assistant chief in 2002, she averted a massive revenge killing after a boy from the Pokot tribe was killed by a Turkana warrior from her own community. By 2009 she succeeded in holding a historic Pokot-Turkana meeting, the first attended completely without weapons. Lochodo is also a founding member of Rural Women Peace Link, which played a role in stabilizing communities after the 2007-2008 election-related violence.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Arms Control, DDR, Land Rights, Good Governance, Intertribal Conflict Resolution, Mediation, Peace Negotiations, Youth, Women's Empowerment and Leadership

NARRATIVE

Empowered to Hope
By Sigrid Tornquist



Sylvie Maunga Mbanga | *Democratic Republic of the Congo*

Sylvie Maunga Mbanga (2008) of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is a lawyer and was for a time the coordinator of the program against sexual violence for the Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation, and Church in Action. She was also the program officer for the peacebuilding and conflict transformation program at the Life & Peace Institute, where she provided counseling and legal services to victims of rape and sexual violence. Mbanga has also worked on electoral reform, interethnic dialogue, and been a radio correspondent for the French/Swahili service of Voice of America.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Gender-based Violence, Good Governance, Health, Human Rights, Interethnic/Intertribal Conflict Resolution, Legal Reform, Mediation, Psychosocial and Trauma Healing, Women's Empowerment and Leadership

NARRATIVE

Healing the Wounds of War
By Jennifer Freeman



Luz Méndez | *Guatemala*

Luz Méndez (2004) of Guatemala is president of the Advisory Board of *Unión Nacional de Mujeres Guatemaltecas*, which works for gender equality, social justice and peacebuilding. She participated in the table of peace negotiations as part of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity's delegation, where she dedicated special attention to the incorporation of gender equality commitments in the accords. Méndez was a speaker at the first meeting that the U.N. Security Council held with women's organizations leading up to the passage of resolution 1325 on women, peace and security.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Gender-based Violence, Peace Negotiations, Women's Empowerment and Leadership, Justice, Civil Society Development

NARRATIVE

A Just Path, A Just Peace
By Sarah Cross

Merlie “Milet” B. Mendoza | *Philippines*

Merlie “Milet” B. Mendoza (2010) of the Philippines is a peace practitioner and independent humanitarian. Beginning in 1989 in the Corazon Aquino administration, she worked in various governmental positions. She previously served as executive coordinator of *Tabang Mindanaw* (“Help Mindanao”), a national coalition for peace, development, humanitarian assistance and human security, and coordinated the Assisi Free the Indigenous Peoples Program, where she facilitated the release of 12 indigenous people unjustly imprisoned for life. Mendoza is a founding member of the Asian Disaster Response and Reduction Network.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Environment, Humanitarian Aid, Peace Negotiations, Internally Displaced, Civil Society Development

NARRATIVE

The Power of Powerlessness
By Mary Liepold



Alice Nderitu | *Kenya*

Alice Nderitu (2012) of Kenya is a commissioner in the National Cohesion and Integration Commission, created in the aftermath of the 2007-2008 election-related violence to mediate ethnic and race-related conflict and promote peaceful coexistence. She was the first staff member of the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights and has trained law enforcement and military officers on civil-military relations and the rule of law, at both the International Peace Support Training College and the Rwanda Military Academy.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Interethnic and Intertribal Conflict Resolution, Mediation, Peace Negotiations, Human Rights, Electoral Reform

NARRATIVE

[Publication Forthcoming]
By Stephanie Chiu



Zandile Nhlengetwa | *South Africa*

Zandile Nhlengetwa (2008) of South Africa is the principal of Ulusda School in KwaZulu-Natal, which is a school for youth and a community center that organizes adults on issues such as gender inequity, sexual abuse and violence. She worked for many years for the organization Survivors of Violence, in which she designed peacebuilding intervention strategies in communities with high levels of violence, both during and post-apartheid. Nhlengetwa also formed the Harambe Women's Forum, made up of women who, like her, had lost family members to violence and crime.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Economic Empowerment, Education, Transitional Justice, Psychosocial and Trauma Healing, Youth, Women's Empowerment and Leadership

NARRATIVE

Deepening the Peace
By Alicia Simoni





Olenka Ochoa | *Peru*

Olenka Ochoa (2008) of Peru is an activist working on multiple levels for gender mainstreaming and ending discrimination against women. She is a board member of the Federation of Municipal Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, and of the Huairou Commission, a global network of community development organizations. Ochoa served as an elected member of the Metropolitan Lima Municipal Council for three years, in which she founded the first commission of women in the municipality. During the civil war, she worked with grassroots organizations to found the first shelter for battered women in San Juan de Lurigancho, an area heavily affected by the violence.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Gender-based Violence, Good Governance, Legal Reform, Youth, Women's Empowerment and Leadership, Civil Society Development

NARRATIVE

Paving the Path to Peace
By Bianca Morales-Egan



Rebecca Joshua Okwaci | *South Sudan*

Rebecca Joshua Okwaci (2006) is deputy minister for general education in South Sudan. Prior to that she was executive producer at Sudan Radio Service, where she produced the programs "Our Voices" and "Women's Corner" and contributed to programs educating citizens on elements of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in 2005. Okwaci is also secretary general of Women Action for Development and co-founded Sudanese Women's Empowerment for Peace, an organization included in the list of 1,000 women nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Good Governance, Media, Women's Empowerment and Leadership, Refugees/Internally Displaced, Civil Society Development

NARRATIVE

The Sacrifice of Honey
By Susan Van Schoonhoven



Radha Paudel | *Nepal*

Radha Paudel (2012) of Nepal is the founder and president of Action Works Nepal (AWON), which assists primarily rural, poor and marginalized women to live dignified lives. AWON's *Miteri Gau*, or Let's Live Together Campaign, engages all levels of rural communities in a dialogue on the rights of women, and the SHARP Campaign addresses harassment on public transportation and in educational institutions. Since the country's constituent assembly was created to draft a new constitution, Paudel began working to incorporate a gender perspective in the process and brought the voices of rural and conflict-affected communities to the capital.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Women's Empowerment and Leadership, Health, Gender-based Violence, Civil Society Development

NARRATIVE

[Publication Forthcoming]
By Sigrid Tornquist

Ludmila Popovici | *Moldova*

Ludmila Popovici (2012) of Moldova is the founder of the Rehabilitation Center of Torture Victims Memoria, or RCTV Memoria, the only such organization in Moldova working with survivors of torture and one of the first nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations in the country. Over the last decade, RCTV Memoria has treated more than 1,300 survivors of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. Popovici founded the organization in 1999 to provide mental health rehabilitation services through medical, psychological and legal assistance to victims of torture who are former political prisoners, victims of police torture, and refugees and asylum seekers from around the world.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Psychosocial and Trauma Healing, Justice, Civil Society Development

NARRATIVE

[Publication Forthcoming]
By Alison Morse



Manjula Pradeep | *India*

Manjula Pradeep (2011) of India was the first female employee of the grassroots Dalit rights group Navsarjan Trust, and in 2004 rose to become its executive director. In 2008, Pradeep, a lawyer and human rights activist, defended the case of a young Dalit girl who had endured long-term gang rape by six professors in her college. The case resulted in life imprisonment for all six accused. Pradeep is also involved in the national and state level programs of the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights and is an executive committee member of the International Dalit Solidarity Network.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Economic Empowerment, Land Rights, Human Rights, Interethnic/Intertribal Conflict Resolution, Interreligious Dialogue, Legal Reform, Women's Empowerment and Leadership

NARRATIVE

Broken Can Heal
By Amy S. Choi



Zarina Salamat | *Pakistan*

Zarina Salamat (2004) of Pakistan was for several years the chairperson of the Pakistan-India Peoples Forum for Peace and Democracy, in Islamabad, and a leader in the Citizens' Peace Committee. For years she worked at the National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research. After the testing of nuclear devices by India and Pakistan in 1998, Salamat became engaged with the Hiroshima Citizens Group for the Promotion of Peace and soon began coordinating exchange visits for students from the subcontinent to visit the Japanese city.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Arms Control, Education, Youth

NARRATIVE

The Latecomer
By Kathleen Hughart





Nancy Sánchez | *Colombia*

Nancy Sánchez (2012) of Colombia works with Asociación MINGA, a human rights organization, in the dangerous Putumayo region. In addition to empowering women to use their voices in the struggle for justice and peace, she has worked to raise awareness of the consequences of the U.S.-funded Plan Colombia. Her entry into human rights work was with CREDHOS, the Regional Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in the region of Magdalena Medio in the 1990s. CREDHOS' archive of unidentified bodies of the disappeared became the only means for people to find their loved ones.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Human Rights, Media, Environment/Land Rights, Women's Empowerment and Leadership

NARRATIVE

[Publication Forthcoming]
By Sara Koenders



Shreen Abdul Saroor | *Sri Lanka*

Shreen Abdul Saroor (2004) of Sri Lanka is one of the founders of Mannar Women's Development Federation and Mannar Women for Human Rights and Democracy. In the aftermath of the end of the war in 2009, she united 11 grassroots women's groups from the north and east of the island and formed the Women's Action Network to address all forms of sexual and gender-based violence against minority women. As an Echoing Green Fellow, Saroor has worked for the establishment of a Model Resettlement Village, bringing together Hindu, Catholic and Muslim women who have become heads of households due to the conflict.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Economic Empowerment, Gender-based Violence, Human Rights, Justice, Internally Displaced, Women's Empowerment and Leadership, Civil Society Development

NARRATIVE

Pioneering the Restoration of Peace
By Donna Chung



Bae Liza Llesis Saway | *Philippines*

Bae Liza Llesis Saway (2009) of the Philippines is the founder of Talaandig Mothers for Peace, in which Talaandig women are empowered to have equal opportunities in the decision-making processes of their tribe. The group also documents indigenous methods of conflict resolution. Saway led the establishment of the Talaandig School for Living Traditions, which promotes indigenous arts, music and dance with the aim of preserving the tribe's cultural heritage. She is a council member of the Mindanao Peoples Caucus, composed of grassroots leaders from the Muslim, Christian and indigenous communities working for peace on the island.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Arts, Ceasefire Monitoring, Environment/Land Rights, Interethnic/Intertribal Conflict Resolution, Mediation, Peace Negotiations, Youth

NARRATIVE

Keeper of the Soul of the People
By Alicia Simoni
with contributions from Jennie Siat Bev and Elizabeth Skurdahl

Latifah Anum Siregar | *Indonesia*

Latifah Anum Siregar (2007) of Indonesia is a human rights lawyer, the chairperson of the Alliance for Democracy in Papua (ALDP) and an expert at the Commission for Law and Human Rights of the parliament in the province of Papua. From 2007 to 2011 she also served as general secretary of the Papua Muslim Assembly. With ALDP she defends the rights of indigenous and migrant individuals and communities, protects them from torture practices, and identifies traditional laws, norms and values that could help settle land disputes so indigenous people can use them to negotiate with the government and migrants.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Environment/Land Rights, Human Rights, Interethnic/Intertribal Conflict Resolution, Justice

NARRATIVE

Fearless Pursuit of Justice
By Stelet Kim



Nora Chengeto Tapiwa | *Zimbabwe*

Nora Chengeto Tapiwa (2010) of Zimbabwe is a refugee living in South Africa and the founder and secretary of the Zimbabwe Diaspora Development Chamber, in which she strives to create cohesion and unity among the diaspora and within South Africa's migrant communities at large. Forced to leave her country because of threats against her as the organizing secretary for the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions, Tapiwa then organized a group of more than 2,000 refugees and activists to form the Global Zimbabwe Forum, which is now composed of 40 Zimbabwean organizations in exile.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Economic Empowerment, Electoral Reform, Refugees, Civil Society Development

NARRATIVE

Caring for the Diaspora
By Sofia Javed



Susan Tenjoh-Okwen | *Cameroon*

Susan Tenjoh-Okwen (2007) is a teacher, community peace mediator and gender activist in the North West Province of Cameroon. As a founding member of the Moghamo Women's Cultural and Development Association of Cameroon, Tenjoh-Okwen has been working to address causes of long-standing, intertribal conflict that seldom makes international news, but that has resulted in division, displacement and trauma for many people in several regions.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Economic Empowerment, Education, Women's Empowerment and Leadership, Civil Society Development

NARRATIVE

Iforti Ya Ka: Unity is Power
By Kathleen Hughart





Christiana Thorpe | *Sierra Leone*

Christiana Thorpe (2004) of Sierra Leone is the chief electoral commissioner for the National Electoral Commission, and as such restructured electoral processes for the nation's second post-conflict presidential and parliamentary elections in 2007. She is also the founding chair and former chief executive officer of the Sierra Leone branch of the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE-SL). The group created Emergency Camp Schools in the capital and developed non-formal education programs for refugee children during the civil war. FAWE-SL also rehabilitated women and girls who had been raped during the fighting.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

DDR, Education, Electoral Reform, Gender-based Violence, Health, Psychosocial and Trauma Healing, Youth

NARRATIVE

Time to Make History, Time to Educate Women
By Whitney McIntyre



Claudette Werleigh | *Haiti*

Claudette Werleigh (2011) of Haiti was the country's first female prime minister. She is a peace envoy for Pax Christi International, where she served as secretary general until 2011. As a young adult she started a school for adults and rural Haitian farmers, which has been open for 33 years despite the country's tumult of political violence and natural disasters. Werleigh has also served as the secretary general of Caritas Haiti, executive director of the Washington Office on Haiti, minister of foreign and religious affairs, and director of conflict transformation programs at the Life & Peace Institute in Sweden.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

DDR, Education, Good Governance, Human Rights, Interethnic/Intertribal Conflict Resolution, Mediation, Negotiations

NARRATIVE

Building Bridges, Building Peace
By Bijoyeta Das



Irina Yanovskaya | *South Ossetia*

Irina Yanovskaya (2007) of South Ossetia in the Georgia-South Ossetia conflict zone, is a journalist, lawyer, chair of the nongovernmental organization Journalists for Human Rights, and a children's advocate focused on post-conflict healing and peace education for children. She has facilitated discussions among various groups within Ossetian and Georgian civil society, created summer camps for Georgian and Ossetian children and works with War Child International in Holland.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Gender-based Violence, Media, Psychosocial and Trauma Healing, Youth

NARRATIVE

Displaced, But Not Destroyed
By Devon Haynie

Rashad Zaydan | *Iraq*

Rashad Zaydan (2011) of Iraq is a pharmacist and the founder and head of Knowledge for Iraqi Women Society, a development organization. Working for Iraq's national pharmacy through the many conflicts in Iraq, she helped in charity clinics and distributed goods to the displaced. In 2003 Dr. Zaydan organized basic first aid emergency training for girls and women, and then gathered women to rehabilitate their community during and after the invasion by the United States. In the city of Abu Ghraib, she and her organization provided clean water to more than 650 households. The women's society has expanded to include income generation and educational classes.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Economic Empowerment, Education, Health, Human Rights, Humanitarian Aid, Psychosocial and Trauma Healing, Internally Displaced, Youth, Civil Society Development

NARRATIVE

Um Al-Iraq (The Date Palm Tree)
By Nikki Lyn Pugh



HANSEN FOUNDATION 10TH ANNIVERSARY SUMMIT FOR THE WOMEN PEACEMAKERS PROGRAM



The milestone 10th year of the Women PeaceMakers Program was marked in September of 2012 by a reunion of 34 program alumnae at the institute for three days of intensive discussion, followed by an international working conference.⁸ The purpose of the summit, co-designed by IPJ staff and a self-selected Women PeaceMakers Steering Committee, was threefold:

- 1 To evaluate the impact of the Women PeaceMakers Program on alumnae, both when they were in residence and in the time since participation in the program, and propose new elements for the program going forward.
- 2 To provide meaningful engagement between Women PeaceMakers alumnae, with special emphasis on regional issue identification and cooperation.
- 3 To create concrete action steps for Women PeaceMakers' cooperation and support, including but not limited to the development of Regional Networks and joint projects or research between Women PeaceMakers and the IPJ/Kroc School of Peace Studies.

The format of the summit, developed on feedback from the Steering Committee and the recent establishment of Women PeaceMakers Regional Networks (piloted in Asia), involved first an evaluation of the program's impact on its participants. The peacemakers then moved



⁸Following the summit, the PeaceMakers were then joined by delegates and speakers for a global gathering of 149 gender experts from 48 countries for the three-day conference "Breaking Barriers: What it will take to achieve security, justice and peace." The final report from the conference, as well as a policy brief developed on recommendations from the participants, are available at http://peace.sandiego.edu/breaking_barriers.

into regional sessions to share with one another the work they are presently involved in and the major issues currently faced in their countries. They reconvened in a global plenary session to share their regional issues and noted common key concerns or areas of focus, which could provide opportunities for global partnerships and resource-sharing.

In their final session, the peacemakers returned to regional groupings to discuss what connections/support systems they would like to create with each other; how they would like the IPJ to be involved; and how they see their group communicating as a network and meeting again in person. Some groups also proposed timelines and ideas for funding to support their initiatives.

Major Conflict and Human Rights Issues

In roundtable discussions, Women PeaceMakers identified global issues that are diverse and interlinked, many being affected by global economic inequalities, policies and trends; increasingly polarized discourses on religion, culture and nationalism; geopolitical implications of growing militarization; and the persistent denial of the human rights of women (especially poor, rural, minority and other marginalized women).

There was much discussion on violence against women as one of the major issues facing communities around the world. However, as discrimination and gender-based violence relate to and are affected by nearly all of those outlined below, it was decided that **violence and discrimination against women should be identified as cross-cutting issues.**

The issues were categorized as:

Environmental-related Conflict

- > Natural resource conflict
- > Extractive industries
- > Land conflict
- > Climate change

Transitional Justice

- > Truth, justice and reconciliation processes
- > Reparations
- > Trauma healing
- > Addressing impunity

Corruption and Governance

- > Local, national, regional, international bodies
- > Election-related corruption and violence
- > Entrenched power
- > Addressing impunity
- > Civic education

Relationship of Local Actors to International Institutions (governance bodies, donors, etc.)

- > Role of external donors
- > Funding deficits
- > Competition for resources
- > Disregard by international institutions

Ethnic, Religious and/or Cultural Conflict and Intolerance

- > Extremism and radicalization
- > Nationalism
- > Religious intolerance vs. freedom of expression

Women's Participation

- > In politics
- > In decision making
- > In negotiations and mediation
- > Mechanisms for implementing U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325

Economic Issues

- > High unemployment
- > "Brain drain"
- > Need for sustainable livelihoods



Peacemakers discuss extremism and religious intolerance during a breakout session of the summit

Having narrowed down the macro areas in which they work to these seven, peacemakers self-selected their main area of engagement and met by issue. Under each key issue peacemakers shared strategies, challenges and proposed ideas for collaboration on addressing everything from the local to the international angles of these persistent barriers to justice, security and peace.

Regional Groups

At the program's five-year anniversary, Women PeaceMakers from Asia proposed the idea of convening regional summits of program alumnae. As one of the initiators argued, "If our political leaders and our military leaders are meeting, why aren't our peacemakers meeting?" IPJ staff and peacemakers from the region gathered for successful summits in Nepal, the Philippines and Cambodia in 2011, and the proposal to create regional networks has been widely endorsed by peacemakers across the world.

Initially, seven regions were identified: East Africa, West/Southern Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Middle East, each with between three to seven members each. The two Africa groups eventually chose to merge into one group. Unfortunately, two of the three Women PeaceMaker alumnae from the Middle East were unable to attend, so Samia Bamieh of Palestine contributed ideas to a number of the regions.

Each group proposed convening regional meetings, initiating bilateral partnerships around key events, and communicating regularly through email, text message and Skype, especially to request support and prepare for critical issues in advance.

South Asia

Radha Paudel of Nepal
Manjula Pradeep of India
Shinjita Alam of Bangladesh
Zarina Salamat of Pakistan
Rubina Feroze Bhatti of Pakistan
Palwasha Kakar of Afghanistan
Shreen Abdul Saroor of Sri Lanka
Raya Kadyrova of Kyrgyzstan (not present)



South Asian peacemakers (l-r) Shreen Abdul Saroor, Radha Paudel, Rubina Feroze Bhatti and Manjula Pradeep

"The western part [of Nepal] is area for the Maoist insurgency and the people are still deprived. There is no war, but still there is a conflict. And the people don't understand the real underlying causes of the conflict. They are looking for the weapons, but not for health, food, etc."

— Radha Paudel, Nepal, 2012 Woman PeaceMaker

Focus Areas:

Violence against women (human trafficking, domestic violence and customary practices)

Religious intolerance and freedom of expression

Women in governance

Rule of law, state impunity and lack of implementation of laws

Education, gender disparity in education and lack of education

Asserting rights of displaced/returned women and communities

Land rights

Rural women's rights and participation in peacebuilding and post-conflict decision making




Manjula Pradeep demonstrates during a street rally in India


Representing a diverse political, economic and cultural area, this region is currently experiencing a range of political violence, growing extremism and complex post- and arguably pre-conflict environments. The Women PeaceMakers of South and Central Asia are actively involved in a range of peacebuilding and human rights work, from supporting marginalized, rural and conflict-affected communities, to academic and government leadership — often at great personal risk. Recently, two of the peacemakers were compelled to leave their countries due to security threats.

While many are working intensely on specific issues, there was a strong desire to mobilize regionally to help address the many cross-border issues and those that are affecting multiple countries. A number of bilateral partnerships have already occurred over the last four to

five years between peacemakers across the Asian continent. As more peacemakers from the region were able to meet and share their backgrounds at the summit, new bilateral partnerships were proposed on laws affecting Muslim women, caste discrimination and political mobilization of women in post-conflict decision making.

Objectives for the Women PeaceMakers South Asia Regional Network:

 **Address inter-country and cross-border issues** within the region, such as trafficking, international land appropriation and the local activities of international corporations (disregard for safe working conditions, environmental pollution, etc.).

 **Devise strategies to implement and apply U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325** (and related resolutions on women, peace and security) in domestic contexts. Share lessons and concepts on how to make 1325 more applicable and usable, especially in contexts that are not necessarily active war or stable peace.

The group proposed spending the subsequent year exploring partnerships and opportunities to lay the groundwork for a formal partnership agreement. Meanwhile, peacemakers will make site visits to see the work of their fellow peacemakers.

Southeast Asia

Thavory Huot of Cambodia
Hyun-Sook Kim Lee of South Korea
Merlie “Milet” B. Mendoza of the Philippines
Bae Liza Llesis Saway of the Philippines
Latifah Anum Siregar of Indonesia
Mary Ann Arnado of the Philippines (not present)



Latifah Anum Siregar of Indonesia brainstorms with other Southeast Asian peacemakers, including Thavory Huot of Cambodia

Focus Areas:

Natural resource-based conflict management and its repercussions on climate change, human trafficking, gender-based violence, etc.

Security sector reform

Negotiation and mediation in the context of community organization

Border conflict

Building on the experience of the Regional Network piloted in Asia in 2011, Women PeaceMakers articulated the need to continue the fruitful summits.



Hyun-Sook Kim Lee of Korea protests in front of a police officer

In October 2012, the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) signed the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro, signifying significant progress toward ending the conflict on the islands of Mindanao and the Sulu archipelago. However, much remains to be done to address the longstanding grievances and human rights violations, as well as bring in the other active armed groups in the region. Cambodia will be conducting elections in 2013, and the situation in Papua, Indonesia remains tense and especially dangerous for human rights defenders.

Women PeaceMakers articulated the desire to continue and strengthen the Asia Regional Network to support one another as they confront the ongoing challenges to peace in their region. In particular, they felt that it would be beneficial for each member to identify and share their individual expertise and funding sources, and publicize within the network when they hold regional events.

Objectives for the Women PeaceMakers Southeast Asia Regional Network:

- Strengthen the existing network in Southeast Asia through identification of priority concerns across the region.
- The IPJ and Women PeaceMakers can facilitate the network by co-monitoring the activities, and the IPJ can link the peacemakers to priority issues and advocacy.
- The Women PeaceMakers will identify priority cross-cutting issues in Southeast Asia by identifying human and financial resources and linkages (local, national, regional). The Women PeaceMakers will look at individual schedules across the region and their respective coalitions who are their partners in the region.
- Women PeaceMakers will communicate through Skype, Facebook, email, etc. Each Woman PeaceMaker will map out their own activities and regional schedules to look at opportunities to meet.

Europe

Svetlana Kijevčanin of Serbia
Shukrije Gashi of Kosovo
Irina Yanovskaya of South Ossetia
Ludmila Popovici of Moldova



European peacemakers (l-r) Ludmila Popovici of Moldova, Svetlana Kijevcanin of Serbia and Shukrije Gashi of Kosovo

Focus Areas:

Rehabilitation of torture survivors
Impunity
Corruption
Extreme nationalism and hate speech
Women's rights
High unemployment, poverty, emigration



Irina Yanovskaya educates civilians on small arms control in South Ossetia

The regional conflicts in Europe which followed the Cold War have concluded, but the human rights abuses which flourished under repressive political systems in Moldova, the former Yugoslavia and Georgia persist. Peacemakers from Eastern Europe remain active in their countries addressing the legacies of torture, minority rights, religious and ethnic intolerance, and continuing to rebuild their communities after conflict so that hyper-nationalism, oppression and violence are eradicated and do not take hold again.

Together, the peacemakers outlined common objectives to teach and advance a stronger culture of human rights within state institutions and the general populace, and to address common scourges of impunity, high unemployment and the effects of poverty gripping much of the region, namely, trafficking, sexual exploitation and “brain drain.”

Objectives for the Women PeaceMakers European Regional Network:

- Compile and edit a book on memory and co-existence. Now divided communities — such as Georgians and South Ossetians, Serbs and Kosovo Albanians — used to live as one.

Interview the older generations that still remember that time. As peacemaker Irina Yanovskaya remarked, “This is important for the new generations, especially those who lived through the confrontation. They are seeing each other only as the enemy. But we have many warm stories and nice memories of when we lived together.” The book will also “be good for people to see that conflict zones are similar,” that they are not isolated in their experiences of violence and displacement. It should be translated into various languages.

Hold small working meeting to analyze the human rights protection mechanisms and legal frameworks that exist, both internationally and nationally. Use this meeting to develop strategies to lobby local governments and international bodies for justice for human rights violations and crimes committed during conflict.

Africa

Sister Pauline Acayo of Uganda
Emmaculeta Chiseya of Zimbabwe
Vaiba Kebeh Flomo of Liberia
Wahu Kaara of Kenya
Sarah Akoru Lochodo of Kenya
Sylvie Maunga Mbanga of Democratic Republic of Congo
Alice Nderitu of Kenya
Zandile Nhlengetwa of South Africa
Nora Chengeto Tapiwa of Zimbabwe
Susan Tenjoh-Okwen of Cameroon
Christiana Thorpe of Sierra Leone
Zeinab Blandia of Sudan (not present)
Zahra Farah of Somalia (not present)
Rebecca Joshua Okwaci of South Sudan (not present)



African peacemakers (l-r) Sister Pauline Acayo of Uganda, Sylvia Maunga Mbanga of the DRC, Alice Nderitu of Kenya, Sarah Akoru Lochodo of Kenya and Wahu Kaara of Kenya

Focus Areas:

Democratic transitions. Leaders who lose power through the democratic process may resort to violence so that negotiated settlements can keep them in power. Governments of National Unity (GNUs) are in vogue as a means to hold onto power.

Addressing corruption in all government systems and regional bodies, specifically the lack of effectiveness of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) regional board.

Early warning intervention to reduce violence at community levels, especially surrounding elections.

Pre- and post-election violence prevention.

Educate communities/youth on their civic abilities, especially surrounding election issues and processes, and empower those at the community level: youth, churches, mothers, social gatherings, etc. Education of youth during “peaceful/quiet” times, in

the lull of violence, could be effective: skills building, peacebuilding and good mentors to provide focus/direction.

High levels of youth unemployment.

Address **gender-based violence** as a political intimidation tool.

Address the **targeting of human rights defenders** and the resulting culture of fear and intimidation.

Trauma healing and transitional justice.



Sarah Akoru Lochodo with armed men in Turkana District, Kenya

Originally grouped as West Africa and East/Southern Africa, the African Women PeaceMakers opted to convene as an Africa-wide group to better pool their expertise to address the common issues they face. Currently, a number of the peacemakers are facing increased tensions within their countries (Sudan and South Sudan, Kenya, DRC, Zimbabwe, etc.) and elections are planned in Kenya, Zimbabwe and Cameroon in 2013. While ongoing human rights abuses and power-mongering between political groups and their supporters warn of possible violence around the elections, such a large group of peacemakers presents a wide range of expertise in elections, cross-community mobilization, peace negotiations, rule of law, sexual violence prevention and response, demobilization, post-conflict reconciliation and others. The group expressed a keen interest in mobilizing their resources ahead of these contested spaces to help prevent violence, with a longer-term goal of creating an early warning network across the continent.

Objectives for the Women PeaceMakers Africa Regional Network:

☞ Convene annually or semi-annually on specific topics to share experience. The creation of a regional listserv will expand the support and networking that is nascent to sustain one another with project ideas, challenges and updates on our activities between annual meetings. A text messaging network was proposed as another means of mass communication that avoids the challenges of internet access. Establishing a Google group, Facebook group and/or holding quarterly meetings via Skype will facilitate discussions. At quarterly conversations, peacemakers would answer: “What do you think will happen” to preempt violence across the continent. As elections, extreme weather conditions (drought, flooding) and political developments loom, peacemakers can simultaneously act as an early warning network and collaborate on ideas and initiatives to preempt conflict. In addition to annual and bilateral meetings, peacemakers will meet strategically when an urgent issue arises.

☞ Document the stories of women. A number of Women PeaceMakers have recorded the stories of women they work with, and they could be called upon to share their approaches. Outcomes could include publishing a book or sharing the stories on a website.

☞ Link with African universities to amplify research and documentation, or establish a public lecture series. Link with student researchers from the Kroc School of Peace Studies. Partner with local faculty and students on research projects to benefit the community.

☞ Conduct joint regional trainings.

☞ A potential idea is to form election-monitoring teams composed of Women PeaceMakers, for both before and after elections when violence is typically at its height. During elections, teams would prevent the targeting of election workers and the intimidation of voters.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Luz Méndez of Guatemala
Olenka Ochoa of Peru
Marta Benavides of El Salvador
Nancy Sánchez of Colombia
Claudette Werleigh of Haiti



Peacemakers from Latin America and the Caribbean (l-r): Olenka Ochoa of Peru, Claudette Werleigh of Haiti, Luz Méndez of Guatemala, Marta Benavides of El Salvador

Focus Areas:

Land conflicts
Transitional justice
Corruption and governance
Ethnic, religious and cultural conflict
Economic issues

The Latin American and Caribbean region has suffered from multi-generational experiences of violence, oppression and the human rights abuses that have been meted out by colonial powers, repressive socialist and right-wing governments, and a wide range of armed groups (including insurgent and state forces and paramilitaries). The systematic denial of rights and all forms of violence have targeted, in particular, indigenous populations and women, as well as anyone attempting to speak truth to power.

Currently, Women PeaceMakers are attempting to redress those historical and modern-day violations through a range of local, state and international avenues. Their experiences advocating for — and making historic progress advancing — the wide range of issues identified above are frequently sought and valued between one another and by peacemakers from other continents.

Concretely, Guatemalan peacemaker Luz Méndez and Colombian peacemaker Nancy Sánchez drafted statements to support indigenous women defendants in a crucial human rights case in Guatemala, and the demand that women be meaningfully included and a gender lens incorporated in the Colombian peace negotiations. Both were signed by the peacemakers in attendance in a display of global solidarity.

Objectives for the Women PeaceMakers Latin America Regional Network:

- ☞ Actively educate and promote the U.N. Security Council Resolutions on women, peace and security, as resolution 1325 and its sister resolutions are poorly publicized and understood in Latin America.
- ☞ Lobby for legislation at the Andean parliament (with which peacemaker Nancy Sánchez works) and other regional fora to have femicide recognized as a criminal offense.
- ☞ Collaborate to work on anti-corruption initiatives, indigenous rights, violence against women (specifically femicide), human rights and land conflict. A three-year timeframe was proposed, during which bilateral and region-wide collaboration could occur before re-evaluation of group efforts and priorities.



Luz Méndez on a march for justice for victims of violence in Guatemala

Global Initiatives Proposed

In addition to the strong desire to form regional networks, the Women PeaceMakers identified the global range of expertise present and sought ways to learn from and partner with one another to benefit their work locally and advance their advocacy work on the international stage.

- 1. Resource and information sharing between peacemakers:** Connect one another to each other's networks for bilateral partnerships, and recommend one another as resources when opportunities arise.
- 2. Convene piggy-back meetings from existing regional gatherings** (both those hosted by peacemakers or where they are in attendance) to work on issues bilaterally.
- 3. Apply for grants jointly.** Collaborate on projects and share knowledge and access to different funding opportunities (in particular linking rural peacemakers to funding opportunities).
- 4. Collaborate on joint research projects** on common issues regionally and internationally, e.g., Muslim women looking at how legal developments such as the proliferation of anti-terrorism laws are affecting Muslim women's rights.
- 5. Provide a support network for peacemakers facing security threats.** The network can be mobilized to bring regional or international attention to the threats members are facing.
- 6. Support one another in advocacy,** e.g., through the signing of joint statements and petitions.



Rashad Zaydan advocates for the end to violence in Iraq

Institute Support to Alumnae

In addition to recognizing the diverse and significant expertise of the alumnae who have participated in the program over the last decade, peacemakers were interested in how the continuity of the unique process they undertook during the IPJ residency could be continued and built upon after their time in San Diego.

The peacemakers are supportive of developing additional applications of the narratives both in academia and for their local and regional communities and policymakers. They recommended distributing the documents on additional listservs and modifying their content where necessary to include the narratives in educational curricula. They also requested further distribution of the documentaries produced to date by Sun & Moon Vision Productions (see Resources section).

Specific requests made of the IPJ and the program:

Convene

- Support the sharing of expertise through Regional Network Summits and logistical support to allow peacemakers in one region to travel to where their knowledge, networks and experience is needed.
- Co-write grants to support Regional Network Summits, and provide letters of support to peacemakers' grant applications.
- Attendance and support of IPJ staff members at Regional Network Summits.

Share resources and information

- Provide resources and information, through both lending IPJ staff expertise and linking peacemakers to national or international experts, as well as with local universities and civil society organizations and the community.



Mary Ann Arnado with members of Bantay Ceseffire during a Regional Network Summit in the Philippines in March 2011

- Facilitate communication between what is happening at the grassroots and the international level, and connect peacemakers to global policymakers.
- Support the enhancement of peacemakers' advanced education, including through assistance in participating in the M.A. program in the School of Peace Studies at the University of San Diego.
- Collaborate on sourcing financial support for the development of Women PeaceMaker Regional Networks and share/connect peacemakers to national or local funding opportunities.
- Provide support of researchers, graduate students, interns, volunteers. Women PeaceMakers should be involved with the selection of student-researchers so that the best fit is made.
- Facilitate direct communication between U.N. agencies and Women PeaceMakers through IPJ conferences and events in San Diego, during regional summits in country, or at U.N. Headquarters during the annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

- Advocate for the work of the Women PeaceMakers at the CSW and, when possible, identify the peacemakers dealing with the issues being addressed and invite them to join its delegation to participate and present.

Build upon the healing and restorative nature of the residency by providing additional support in self-care for the Women PeaceMakers once they return home. This was proposed through a variety of ways:

- Link peacemakers to local support networks for mental health care.
- Identify and bring in a professional counselor to train peacemakers and local staff on self-care.
- Provide periodic respite to peacemakers through short-term retreats (possibly in combination with summits or conferences) for them to debrief, reflect on their work and recover.
- Link each peacemaker to a mentor/counselor for both professional and psychosocial support.

THE NEXT DECADE

AS THE WOMEN PEACEMAKERS PROGRAM MARKS ITS 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY, there is a significant opportunity to review the lessons gained from the program and the experiences of 40 women leaders across five continents that the program has collected.

The program has mined a virtually untapped seam of knowledge: how women leaders are formed; how cultural, religious, external and internal influences can shape their motivation and inclination to become leaders in their societies; identification of the stresses and challenges that impede them in their journey; their experiences of conflict and oppression; and their lived histories, which are so infrequently and insufficiently told in official records.

The program has documented the nuances of a gender perspective in peacebuilding. Over a decade and 40 stories, it has identified some common threads that intertwine the experiences and approaches of how women engage in peacebuilding and human rights. One important distinction is that their work is not solely the work of women's empowerment or addressing the pandemic of violence against women. Their work is in civilian protection, governance, education, justice or peacebuilding. But their worldview is not gender blind, and thus their work consistently incorporates a gendered lens.

Women PeaceMakers recognize that women are not a homogeneous entity, and yet all socioeconomic, ethnic and religious strata of women encounter levels of gender-based discrimination or violence. Within the specific cultural contexts of their societies, women also have advantages. The peacemakers apply those dual realities of oppression and opportunity to bring women together, allowing their commonalities to find common ground in divided societies. Commonalities become cooperation; cooperation becomes partnerships; partnerships confront and end violence, reconstruct societies after conflict, and rebuild more just, prosperous and peaceful countries.

Indeed, despite increasing lip service and token initiatives in the decade since the United Nations Security Council passed resolution 1325, and subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security, a gender perspective remains lacking in most major peacebuilding, security, justice and human rights mechanisms around the world. Nascent incorporation of the perspectives of women into security forces, political leadership and judicial systems creates superficial and thus ineffectual changes in leadership and the transformation and redress of human rights in societies affected by conflict.



Raya Kadyrova of Kyrgyzstan at the five-year summit of Women PeaceMakers, in San Diego in October 2007



Latifah Anum Siregar with indigenous communities in Papua, Indonesia

Over the last decade the Women PeaceMakers Program has contributed substantially to the knowledge that women and girls, as half of the global population, are not only equally but disproportionately affected by conflict — and thus bring important perspectives on how it can be resolved. The program and the work of the IPJ and the School of Peace Studies continue to find that women are not only much more active in conflict resolution than previously thought, but that women's central involvement in leadership, peace, security and justice processes is key to bringing about effective transformation of societies.



Bae Liza Llesis Saway speaks on women in civilian protection

In a world often siloed, the Women PeaceMakers Program and its expertise in on-the-ground peacebuilding and human rights work that is locally owned and gender-inclusive, provides rich data for multidisciplinary academic analysis and global policy on women, peace and security.

We have learned through testimony and evaluations that what is given to the peacemakers during their residency is invaluable — the opportunity to rest, to reflect, to learn lessons from each other and the community they meet while here. In a subtle but proven process of reflective peacebuilding and narrative inquiry, the program creates more effective peacebuilders and human rights defenders. It is especially effective and sustained, as it is not us changing them. It is them changing themselves.

As the program looks toward its second decade, the peacemakers have reasserted the value of this unique residency as one of their most life-changing experiences. They have also communicated their strong desire for and commitment to becoming more involved with the program through regional and global mobilization and expertise-sharing.

The program will continue creating foundational documents for the field of peacebuilding, while also expanding the reach of the program and women's voices through Regional Networks; the development of further documentary films, interactive/multimedia publications and academic curricula; and policy outreach on the local, national and international levels. Through strategic global partnerships with other leading practitioners, academics, U.N. agencies, civil society leaders and government bodies, the program will continue to strengthen both the peacemakers' work on the ground and the global discourse on how to advance women, peace and security in meaningful and concrete ways.

For nine years, the Women PeaceMakers Program was generously funded by the San Diego-based Fred J. Hansen Foundation. The program is seeking to diversify its funding partners and expand its network of fellow individuals and organizations committed to documenting women's stories, educating international communities about women in areas of conflict, and highlighting the diversity of roles women play in peacebuilding.

10 YEARS OF WOMEN PEACEMAKERS

2003



2004



2005



2006



2007



2008



2009



2010



2011



2012



RESOURCES

Narratives

All narratives of the Women PeaceMakers are published online and are available to download at <http://peace.sandiego.edu/wpm>.

Conference Reports

Coinciding each year with the Women PeaceMakers residency, the IPJ hosts large international conferences or smaller forums on issues related to women, peace and security. Reports are available online and in print.

2012: *Breaking Barriers: What It Will Take to Achieve Security, Justice and Peace*

2011: *Women, Media, Revolution (online only)*

2010: *Precarious Progress: U.N. Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security*

2009: *Bearing Exquisite Witness Arts Festival (program online)*

2008: *Crafting Human Security in an Insecure World*

2007: *Is Peace Possible? Women PeaceMakers in Action*

2006: *Who's Making Policy? What Difference Does It Make?*

2005: *Global Women's Court of Accountability*

2004: *Promoting Women's Participation in Peace and Security Processes*

Documentary Films and Shorts

In conjunction with San Diego-based Sun & Moon Vision Productions, the IPJ has produced three films, as well as several documentary shorts featuring individual peacemakers, as part of the Women PeaceMakers Documentary Series. The longer films can be purchased at www.sunandmoonvision.org, and the shorts are available online at <http://peace.sandiego.edu/wpm>.

Leading the Way to Peace

Running Time: 65 minutes

Features 2004 Women PeaceMakers. A study guide to accompany the film is available to download.

Reversing the Ripples of War

Running Time: 22 minutes

Features 2005 Women PeaceMakers.

Rhythms to Peace: The Way of a Woman PeaceMaker

Running Time: 24 minutes

Features 2007 Woman PeaceMaker Susan Tenjoh-Okwen of Cameroon.

Documentary Shorts are available online and feature Women PeaceMakers from 2006, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Books

In 2012, the Fred J. Hansen Foundation commissioned a book to commemorate the first nine years of the program. Written by IPJ Editors Kaitlin Barker Davis and Emiko Noma, the book — *35 Women Building Peace: Essential Voices for Justice and Hope* — was published by Easton Studio Press and is available on Amazon.com.

PROGRAM STAFF BIOGRAPHIES



Dee Aker, Ph.D., deputy director of the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice (IPJ), is a psychological anthropologist and conflict resolution professional with 30 years of experience working with international communities and individuals in transition. At the IPJ, Aker created the Nepal Peacebuilding Initiative, WorldLink Program and the Women PeaceMakers Program.

Aker has extensive experience in international higher education (Kenya, England and the United States), including senior administration, curriculum development and teaching. She produced and hosted a television series of 234 half-hour interviews with women leaders, pioneers and survivors from around the world, and as a freelance journalist and monthly columnist focused on human rights and gender concerns.

In the 1980s Aker worked with Carl Rogers at the Center for Studies of the Person and the Carl Rogers Institute for Peace on special conflict transformation efforts in Europe and Central America. She has facilitated training, communications and negotiations for groups and individuals in conflict and transition in Europe, Africa, Central America and South Asia. Currently her work includes specialized public sector programs for youth, women, as well as security and political leaders designed to increase their awareness of their rights as stakeholders and responsibilities as actors and to improve their skills in strategic negotiation.



Jennifer Freeman, M.A., program officer, directs the Women PeaceMakers Program at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice (IPJ). Freeman has been involved with the program since 2008 as a two-time Peace Writer and Program Officer. In 2011 Freeman and IPJ Deputy Director Dee Aker launched the first Women PeaceMakers Regional Networks to support women's myriad roles in peacebuilding during and after conflict.

Prior to joining the institute, Freeman worked with various nongovernmental organizations in Ghana, Northern Ireland, Canada and in Ugandan refugee settlements on issues of women's rights and peacebuilding through sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response, supporting people living with HIV/AIDS and conducting psychosocial programs for war-affected youth. She conducted research in Kyaka II refugee settlement in Uganda on gendered security for refugees from the DRC, Rwanda and Burundi.

Freeman holds a B.A. in political science from the University of Victoria and an M.A. (summa cum laude) in peace and conflict studies from the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland, where she studied on a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship. Her writings have appeared in the *Journal of Peacebuilding & Development*, *New Routes: A Journal of Peace Research and Action*, *Peace Policy* (published by the University of Notre Dame) and the *Christian Science Monitor*.



Emiko Noma, M.Sc., is editor for the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice (IPJ), where she has written or edited nearly two dozen narratives in the Women PeaceMakers Program. She oversees the production of all IPJ publications, including the Compass Newsletter, Distinguished Lecture Series booklets, policy briefs, conference reports and website content.

At the IPJ, Noma has also served as peace writer for Sister Pauline Acayo of Uganda (2005) and Svetlana Kijevcanin of Serbia (2006), and has contributed to program development. In 2012, she co-authored the 10th anniversary commemorative book on the program, *35 Women Building Peace: Essential Voices for Justice and Hope*.

In 2008, Noma joined the IPJ's film partner Sun & Moon Vision Productions in Cameroon to document on film the work of Woman PeaceMaker Susan Tenjoh-Okwen, for the documentary "Rhythms to Peace." She has also traveled to the Philippines, Uganda and Australia on behalf of the institute.

Noma received her master's degree in conflict resolution from Portland State University, with emphases in international conflict resolution and nonviolent social change, and has undergraduate degrees in English and religious studies.



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