

Creators
of Peace



Giving Leadership for Peace

Annual Report 2018

Transforming, empowering
and engaging women in
peace creation



"I was feeling isolated, now I am feeling supported by a family of sisters who are working for peace across the whole country."

— Participant, Kenya

About us

OUR VISION

Women creating peace across the world's divides

A world where every woman embraces her value as a peace creator in family, community and nation: creating peace in her own heart first, she reaches out to others and to the needs of the society she lives in.

OUR MISSION

Empowering women as creators of peace

Creators of Peace empowers women to be radical peace-builders, starting with themselves. We believe that women have a distinctive role to play in creating peace.

Creators of Peace is a global movement that encourages women to give leadership for peace. We are a women's initiative that works to restore the respect and trust necessary for joint action across genders and in the community.

OUR AIMS

1. To challenge women of all backgrounds and beliefs to discover their unique potential to create a culture of peace.
2. To promote a change of heart and attitude as the first step in peace creation.
3. To prevent violence and despair by addressing the roots of conflict – within us and around us.
4. To raise awareness of the personal ethical prerequisites for effective social action.
5. To create a network of friendship and solidarity for women across racial, religious and social divides.
6. To build just, caring and inclusive communities for all, including in post-conflict areas.

Messages

Amina Dikedi-Ajakaiye, President

Peace is a desired goal for most of humanity, but it looks different from person to person, location to location. What would it mean to give leadership for the desired peace? This is what women, members of Creators of Peace in 50 countries have signed up to do. 2018 was a year that we saw more Peace Circles done in Nepal, Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Australia, UK, Burundi, Zimbabwe, Lebanon, Syria, Tanzania, Switzerland and Uganda to name a few; women being transformed and unlocking potential within to live fully. Each one empowered to engage with issues in their homes, communities and nation.

Giving leadership for peace means being or becoming trustworthy by walking the talk.

It also means trusting oneself by finding an inner resilience to pursue peace in one's heart.

Negative past experiences could make or mar. It depends on what power you give it. Choosing to tell a new story liberates you from the humiliation of negative experiences.

And, trusting others. Reaching out to those you once regarded as unlovable or unapproachable, working together for a shared humanity. Through Peace Circles women build bonds of friendship across divides.

I look forward to many more women (and men) giving leadership for peace in a world filled with uncertainties.

Kate Monkhouse, Executive Officer

2020 will mark 20 years since the United Nations established SCR1325, a global commitment to women to be represented in peacebuilding and peacekeeping efforts. Every nation state has been required to show how they put this framework into practice. UN Women was established 10 years later and, like many other institutions, provides an important impetus for peace initiatives.

Creators of Peace was initiated in 1991 with the words of Anna Abdallah Msekwe, a respected politician from Tanzania, calling women to offer leadership for peace. This year a Peace Circle took place in her country and she was able to encourage a younger generation of women to step forward. And another gathering of women celebrated 10 years of Peace Circles in Kenya, each one brought together by dedicated volunteers growing in courage and expertise.

We know that sustainable and inclusive peacebuilding takes time. Yet, given the effects of violence, our climate crisis, lack of access to education or healthcare, pain of early marriage and other injustices experienced by girls and women around the world, our task is urgent. We are often asked by donors and potential partners about the impact of our Creators of Peace Circles. Whilst it is not always easy to measure the value of hospitality and friendship, nor to measure the results of peace education or dialogue, yet we hope that this report will help articulate why it is important to invest in women's leadership for peace.



Our Creators of Peace Circles

Transform

Peace

We want to contribute to making our world a more peaceful place. We are working not just for the absence of violent conflict, but for a positive peace in our societies, for an inclusive peace where all have a role to play, as well as for a just peace where equality and dignity are shared by all.

We offer our Creators of Peace Circles as a space where women can begin by reflecting for themselves on their own journey to peace in their life and to taking steps towards healing from hurts. If we want to “be the change” we want to see in our world, a chance for each one of us to find a change of heart can be transformational.

For example, for many participants, a Peace Circle is the first place she is able to speak of domestic abuse or gender-based violence, hear that she is not alone, receive support and find freedom.

Empower

Women

We all face tough circumstances and challenges. We believe that we can encourage one another to speak up about injustice or violence and to explore creative solutions to some of the seemingly intractable conflicts for our neighbours and countries. We also recognise our efforts require us to build our capacity to give leadership for peace.

Our Creators of Peace Circles provide a place for women to listen to and learn from one another, as we share our wisdom and experiences. Through exploring ideas, developing skills and discussing case examples from different regions, we support one another to develop peace action plans for ourselves and communities.

For example, at the close of a Peace Circle, a participant may either buddy up with another to pursue restorative justice or identify a mentor who will accompany her.

Engage

Creation

We can choose between perpetuating old prejudices or fueling new antagonisms. As many of us find that the ways we used to engage with politics or care for our environment are no longer effective, we are curious to see how to create opportunities for practical peacebuilding, based on reconciliation and integrity.

Following on from Creators of Peace Circles, we invite women to see themselves as “advocates for new stories”. They have agency and ability to help articulate more hope-filled narratives. We have resources to help provide places for local dialogues or steps to combine small-scale development initiatives with post-conflict rehabilitation.

For example, after a Peace Circle, participants often go on to give talks in their communities or set up projects. Some pursue studies or training (including as facilitators) or grow in leadership roles.





Highlights of 2018

In 2018, 1,015 women took part in 88 Peace Circles in 21 countries. Facilitator Trainings took place in Nigeria, Australia and Bougainville.

January, February, March

Creators of Peace United Kingdom

Took part in the annual International Women's Day Festival offering a range of creative craft and wellbeing activities in a community centre in a neighbourhood with people on low incomes.

Creators of Peace Kenya

Celebrated 10 years of Peace Circles with a conference for 100 women from 17 counties across the country, with guests from Tanzania and Uganda.

April, May, June

Creators of Peace Nigeria

Reached out to women working to defend the human rights of women and girls through law courts, and promoted peace initiatives through media appearances on national television.

Creators of Peace Cote d'Ivoire

Organised a programme for teenagers as part of their Summer Camp, after which the parents were invited to join a mini Peace Circle with a picnic.

July, August, September

At the Caux Forum

Led a training track to equip conference participants with skills to explore their life journeys and to become peace advocates through "telling a new story" in their own divided communities

Online

Contributed to 'Peace One Day' social media campaign to reach more people on International Day of Peace, 21st September, offering inspiration from women from around the world.

October, November, December

Creators of Peace Switzerland

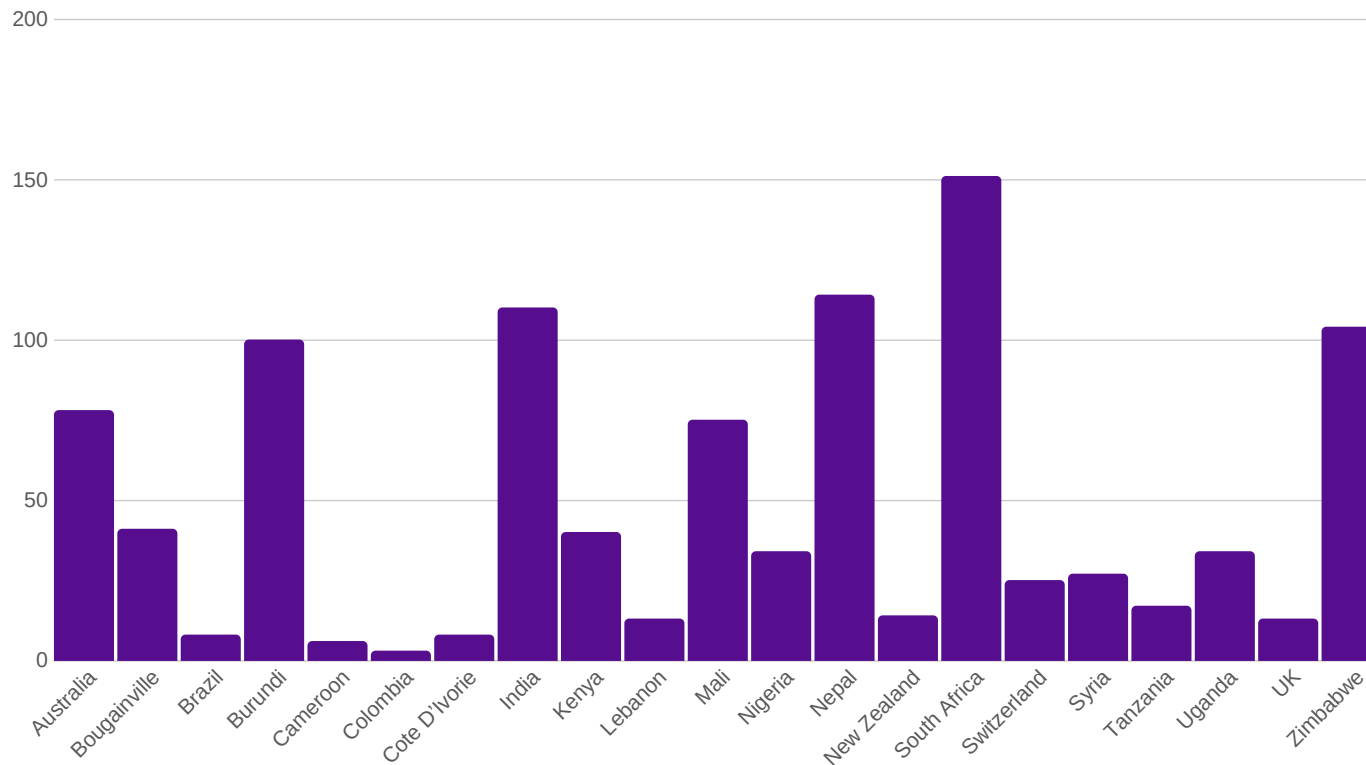
Participated in Geneva Peace Week, including through being one of the "books" in a "human library" event providing a chance for participants to meet experienced peacebuilders face to face

Creators of Peace Lebanon

Hosted in partnership with Fighters for Peace a day workshop for wives of combatants and Peace Circles for women from neighbouring Syria to start preparing for peacebuilding.

2018 Peace Circle Participants

Creators of Peace Circles are initiated at a local level, by local women, according to local need. Each programme is adapted to context and culture, taking place at times and in spaces that fit around family and professional responsibilities. In this way, our programme is flexible to fit with women's lives and current conflict or political situations. Each Peace Circle is co-facilitated by two facilitators, often with another person to act as host, and where need be, someone else to provide follow-on care and support.

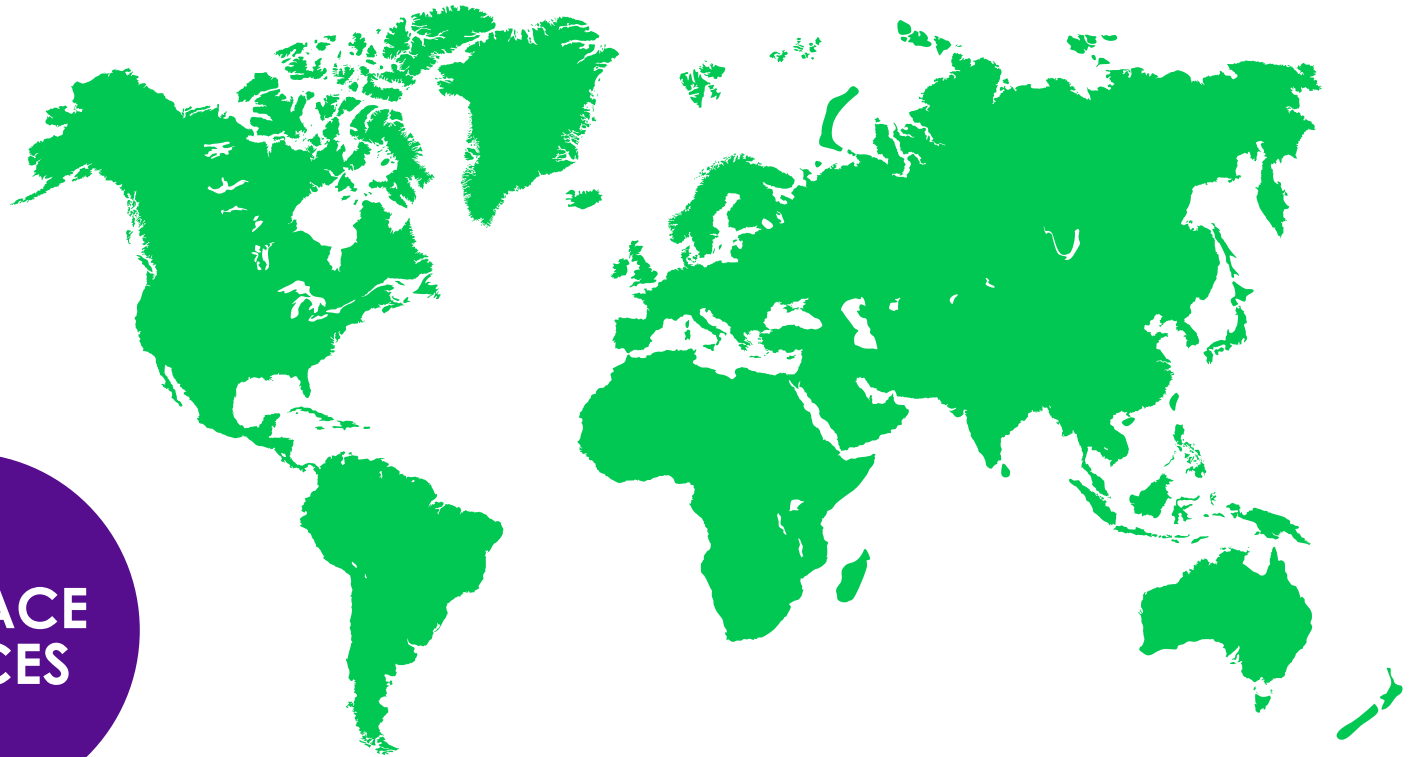


2018 Overview

21
COUNTRIES

88 PEACE
CIRLCES

1,015
PARTICIPANTS



Testimonials

"The programme of Creators of Peace helped me to understand that having peace within me as an individual is very important as it helps one expose the situations we can change. I was able to learn to stop judging other tribes in my country. I have also stopped blaming people for what is happening right now in my country because it is all our responsibility. I am a changed person because of the Peace Circle. Trust me! I spread peace wherever I go."

—Achan Jok, Uganda

"I improved my dialogue skills... I believe supporting peace is how we develop deep friendship which we enjoy respect, heart-warming and deeply understanding each other. I (used to) try hard but eventually I noticed that people rather turn away from me than connecting with me. Through attending a Peace Circle... what I learned is everyone is different; therefore, I should respect their lifestyle, and their journey for their own lives. I still make mistakes about human relationships, but I now I can go back and check the basic of communication. Now I feel so excited that I don't have to worry about it what's wrong with me!"

—Satsuki, Australia

"I am a police-woman and ex-combatant in a rebel movement since my childhood. I spent several years of my childhood in a refugee camp. Before the Peace Circle, I was very violent and brutal, I could not resist any aggression. I abandoned my children alone in the countryside. I was full of hatred and bitterness. The Peace Circle gave me back my sense of humanity. I now feel like a normal person and I am reunited with my children and we live together again. I undertake enterprise activities so I can raise money to meet their needs. I have regained my humanity."

—Faustine, Burundi





Country Profiles

Bougainville

Teop Taonita Association invited Bougainville-born Therese Kemelfield with two Australians Helen Mills and Liz Weeks to facilitate two Creators of Peace Circles and deliver five days of facilitator training aimed at equipping women with skills for post-conflict healing and peacebuilding as Bougainville prepared for its referendum on independence from Papua New Guinea in 2019.

The workshops took place in May in the beautiful seaside village of Teop Boana, hosted by Rita Person, with 21 women and four men in the Peace Circles, then 13 women and three men in the facilitation training. The participants came from nine or ten local village groups, including four from the nearby mountain region. Some were pastors, some local magistrates, teachers and respected elders in their villages.

At the end of the facilitation training, five groups planned to facilitate Circles in their areas, each with clear ideas of what would work best for their people, including to mediate in a village dispute. Many felt they could be better listeners, to become better role models, to start a change process within themselves, to make a beginning with their families, and to find inner peace and practise forgiveness in their communities.

"Women of Bougainville
Mothers of our beautiful islands
You are so resilient, strong and inclusive
You continue to build peace."
Therese, Bougainville/Australia

South Africa

Creators of Peace South Africa focuses on building our nation by creating a foundation for growth through healing hurts and growing trust as an outcome of our story sharing. The aim is to help individuals see their part in rebuilding the broken structures of our country, starting with change in ourselves and our communities. This year a new partnership with the City of Johannesburg came to fruition.

Between April and June 2018, 13 Creators of Peace Circles were run by facilitators Cleo Mohlaodi, Luce! Snyers and Portia Mosia for 151 participants in the most disadvantaged communities in five regions in the city. Speakers at graduation ceremony lauded them for "rais(ing) consciousness of your own identity, empowering women to stand up for themselves and find inner healing, respect and pride."

One woman shared: "It is the first time I am in a space where I can show how I feel, as hard as it is, it is also fulfilling". 33% of participants said they had found direction and a way forward since the programme started, including some finding employment or starting their own NGOs. Others will go on to receive facilitator training to reach out further across divides of race, gender and class.

"Many thanks to Creators of Peace for the opportunity to help us deal with our deepest emotions."

Participant, South Africa





Country Profiles

Australia

Peace Circles have been running in Australia over many years in Adelaide, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. In 2018, our Creators of Peace teams hosted 13 Peace Circles for 78 women. Alongside these, they offered a range of community building events, including two 'taster' sessions for 35 women and nine Peace Focus Gatherings for 77 people. As their network grows, they staged end-of-year celebrations.

They ran two Facilitator Trainings for 18 people and established a 'community of practice' for facilitators to practice their new found skills and deepen their ability to do work with diverse groups. Through this group and other online gatherings, the Australian team has helped Creators of Peace International develop frameworks for evaluation and impact assessment.

Through a Community Harmony Grant, Creators of Peace Australia has designed an adapted programme to offer in schools for pupils in secondary education. Other presences in the community have included attending vigils in solidarity with victims of violence, supporting young peacebuilders from Afghanistan with training /travel bursaries and gatherings with Indigenous leaders.

"We're no longer strangers, with people whom we might not have ever thought to befriend before, and continue to walk together and work together in pursuit of peace."

Tanya, Australia



Obstacles & Opportunities

Obstacles

Creators of Peace has grown from the grassroots up, person to person, country to country to our present day network of 51 countries. Our local teams are mentored by experienced facilitators who offer their skills freely. Volunteers give their time to our website, newsletter and social media, with occasional contributions by freelancers for specialist areas like evaluation.

Our part-time Executive Officer co-ordinates strategic development, regional gatherings, communications, fundraising and finance with the oversight of our international elected committee. We still need to secure funding for her salary to continue in her role, and then for a small team to work alongside her. Investment into our core operations will enable us to develop and sustain the quality of training we are able to offer.

Opportunities

We plan to improve opportunities for cross-country communications with webinars and online resources, making most of digital tools to offer easy access to expert help and share learning between local peacebuilders.

We would like to build on innovations being led by country teams, such as training facilitators in basic mediation processes, community mobilizing outreaches and conflict resolution skills through face-to-face, cross-cultural learning exchanges.

We are putting careful thought into how we strengthen resources for personal resilience and self-care for team-members, further mentoring and peer accompaniment arrangements, and develop good practice in trauma-informed facilitation skills.

"I witnessed the power of trust through the testimonial of another facilitator. She shared her experience, through tears, acknowledging her emotions and telling how she practiced being a peace creator."

— Marienne, Cameroon

Strategic Plan Progress

The main programme themes for our work 2017-2020 are:

- Being "Advocates for a New Story" Working with personal and community narratives to support transformation and healing
- Giving leadership for peace Encouraging and nourishing women in their community, political and professional leadership roles
- Restoring with Refugees Accompanying and supporting women throughout and following violent conflicts

Organisational Development in 2018

Training

- We have added another 5 new trainers and are now on track to achieve a total of thirty experienced trainers to support new and existing facilitators grow in their skills.
- We have created an online portfolio of facilitation training materials and begun a refresh of our central training manual to reflect shared learning and make future peace circles more effective.

Communications

- We launched a portable photographic portrait exhibition with a set of postcards which can be used in community venues and for small group discussions.
- We have maintained a report from one country per month on our website to present how Creators of Peace Circles are responding to local issues such as domestic abuse, cultural violence and healing from civil conflict.

Fundraising

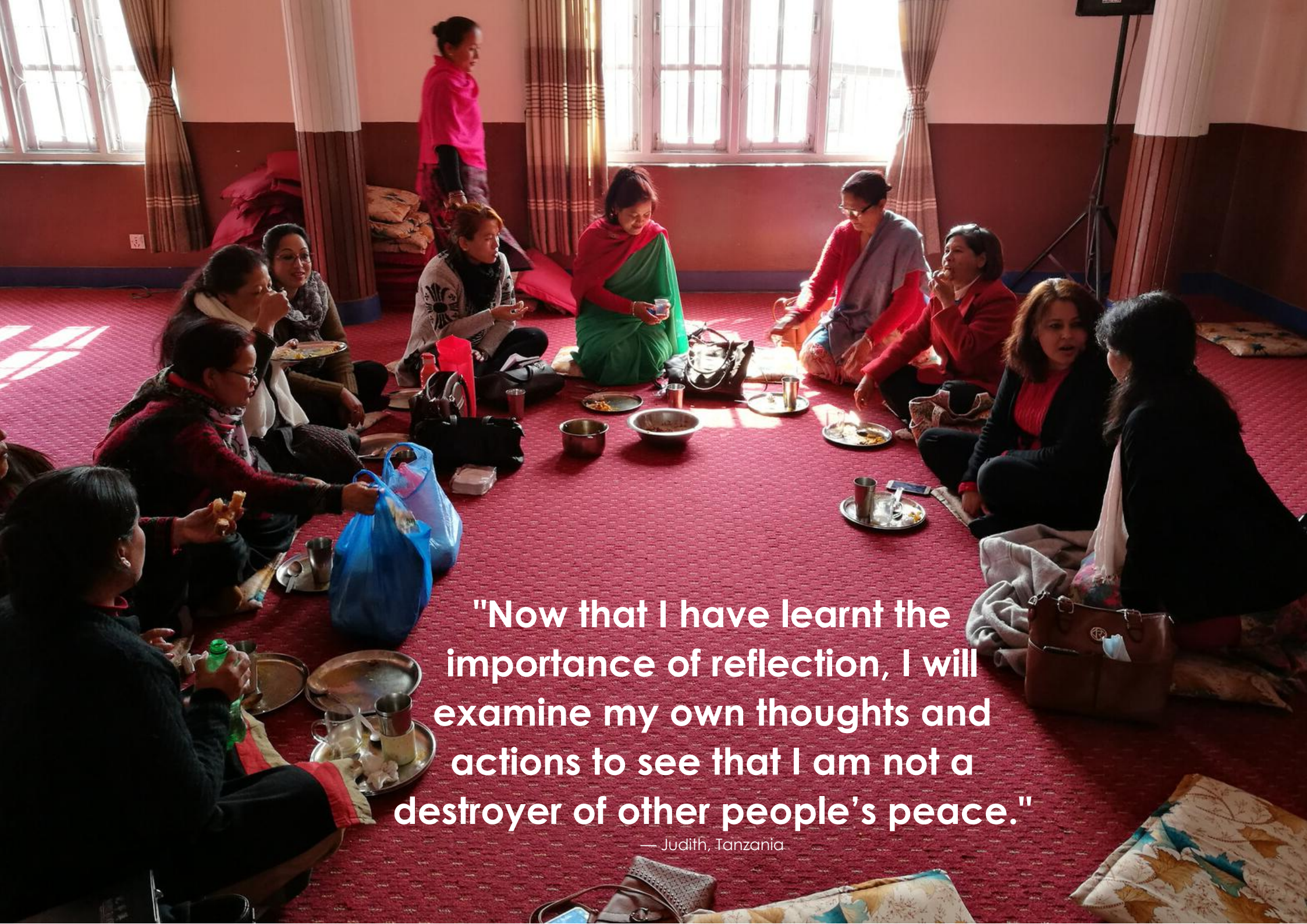
- We set-up our "Giving Circle" for individual donors to meet online as a group, to explore new community fundraising opportunities and to encourage other peer donors.
- We completed our first international crowdfunding initiative to support a training refresher and teambuilding for facilitators in Kenya.

Capacity-Building

- We completed our baseline data collection exercise and have now begun a process of supporting local volunteer teams to collect their own monitoring and evaluation information to deepen both shared learning of their own work, as the quality of findings we can offer to external donors.
- We have continued building on partnership work with organisations such as Oxford International Women's Day and the Caux Forum, as well as exploring partnership working in different countries with schools, government ministries, city councils, prisons, universities and local peace NGOs.

We will launch our Advocates for New Story campaign at the Caux Forum in 2019 and hold an international gathering for women from the Creators of Peace network at the Initiative of Change Asia Plateau conference centre in 2020.





"Now that I have learnt the importance of reflection, I will examine my own thoughts and actions to see that I am not a destroyer of other people's peace."

— Judith, Tanzania

Our People

Our International Co-ordinators

Amina Dikedi-Ajakaiye (Nigeria/United Kingdom), President; Anne-Claire Frank-Seisay (Netherlands/USA), Secretary; Gabriela Sebastyen (Romania), Treasurer; Diana Damsa (Romania), Vice-President; Luz Stella Camacho Castro (Colombia); Maria Cristina Munoz (Colombia/Brazil); Nighat Khurshid (Pakistan); Shoshana Faire (Australia); Sylvie Lefrancois (France/Switzerland)

Our Elders

Christiane Garin Al-Azhari (Switzerland), Jean Brown (Australia), Vijayalakshmi Subrahmanyam (India)

Our Ambassador

Daphrose Ntarataze Barampama (Burundi/Switzerland)

Our Executive Officer

Kate Monkhouse (United Kingdom)

Our Freelance & Volunteer Team

Diana Topan (Romania), Social Media; Judy Thomas (Australia), Accounting; Laura Jean (United Kingdom), Design; Lena Lepoullenenc (France/Kenya), Impact Assessment; Manu Granados (Australia), Data Collection & Evaluation; Mary Lean (United Kingdom), Editing; Neichu Angami (Nepal/Israel), Fundraising Support; Rachneet Randhawa (Canada), Work Placement; Shirley Monkhouse (United Kingdom), Proof Reading; Valerie Tikkanen (Sweden), Finance Support;

Creators of Peace Circles have taken place so far in:

AFRICA – Burundi, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Uganda, Zimbabwe.

AMERICAS – Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Guatemala, Trinidad & Tobago, United States.

EUROPE & MIDDLE EAST – Armenia, Denmark, Germany, Lebanon, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Ukraine/Crimea, United Kingdom.

ASIA – Afghanistan, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Taiwan, Timor Leste.

PACIFIC – Australia, Fiji, Guinea, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands. Each country has a volunteer National Co-ordinator to liaise on communications and to link teams.

Over 400 women have taken part in one of our Facilitator Trainings. We have over 100 active Facilitators and 20 Trainers



Our Finances

January 2018 - December 2018

TOTAL IN CHF		
Income		
Donations - general	CHF 191.61	
Donations - restricted	CHF 23,145.77	
Grants - restricted	CHF 100,000.00	
Total Income		CHF 123,337.38
Out of CHF act	CHF 2,040.98	
Out of AUD act	CHF 691.29	
Into GBP act	-CHF 2,637.34	
Gross Profit		CHF 123,242.45
Expenses		
AGM CoP 2018	CHF 3,145.00	
Bank charges	CHF 521.66	
Communications	CHF 6,143.86	
Conferences	CHF 52.56	
Core Administration	CHF 156.68	
Executive Officer	CHF 16,564.90	
Development	CHF 5.31	
External relations	CHF 406.39	
lofC membership fees	CHF 500.00	
Tanzania Project	CHF 1,000.00	
Training	CHF 250.00	
Travel - Exec Officer	CHF 7,148.65	
Travel - other	CHF 9,654.12	
Burundi project costs	CHF 7,788.77	
Burundi living costs	CHF 40,000.00	
Burundi travel	-CHF 460.68	
Kenya project costs	CHF 2,500.00	
Total Expenses		CHF 95,377.22
Net Surplus / (Deficit)		CHF 27,865.23





"As a community worker with over 30 years of experience, I have attended many conferences... unlike other high-level programmes, CoP is the only one I am aware of that is going all the way to the grassroots. And that is why their action is successful."

— Margaret, Uganda

Our donors in 2018

The Barnabas Trust
The Hahnloser Foundation
The Mustard Seed Trust
The Rowland Trust

And for our work in Burundi

Republique et Canton de Geneve
Geneve – Ville Solidaire

Much appreciation goes to our individual donors who give from their personal resources.

All our Creators of Peace Circles are financed by Creators of Peace women locally through personal giving, social enterprise and partnerships. Trainings are supported by community fundraising and grants. Our running costs and core team are supported through bursaries and major donors.

If you are interested in working in partnership with us or discussing fundraising opportunities, please contact us.



Your response

What will you give to help Creators of Peace Circles reach more women?

Your contribution will help Creators of Peace Circles to take place anywhere in the world where the need is identified by local women. These women benefit greatly from being part of a global network (community) of support.

Your gift would make the following possible:

- \$10 to pay for materials for a workshop
- \$100 to cover travel expenses for a facilitator
- \$1,000 to help put on a training programme in a country in conflict.

1. Donate online here:

www.iofc.org/creators-of-peace-donate

1. If you would prefer to make a bank transfer contact us and we will send you details of how to do this.
2. Ask us for information about how to make a gift in your will for Creators of Peace.

However much or however little you are able to give, either as an individual, or through a fundraising effort with others, we promise to use it wisely.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

It will assist us greatly to continue, to reach out to the needs of society, and extend the Creators of Peace programme across the globe.

Participate

To find out about Creators of Peace Circles happening near you or for support in setting up a local programme, please contact us via creatorsofpeace@iofc.org

Share in the inspiration

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter and share posts to encourage others.

Keep up to date

Sign up for our mailing list:
creatorsofpeace@iofc.org

"Each time I participate in these circles, I find yet another reason to believe in the impact of shared humanity. Participant testimonials provide me with more reasons to remain committed to the core vision of Creators of Peace."

— Cassandra, Facilitator, Nigeria



Take action calendar

What might a year in the life of a peace-creator look like? Taking part in a Creators of Peace Circle of course, but here are some other ideas to inspire you.

JANUARY



Write a new year greeting to a grassroots peacemaker

FEBRUARY

MARCH



Join with others to celebrate International Women's Day

APRIL

MAY

JUNE



Take time in quiet to reflect on your priorities for action

JULY

AUGUST



Offer a helping hand to a member of your community

SEPTEMBER



Advocate for an end to violence on International Day of Peace

OCTOBER



Learn more about conflict caused by climate change

NOVEMBER



Join efforts with others for reconciliation or healing

DECEMBER



Make a donation to Creators of Peace or a local project

A photograph of three women standing outdoors in a sunny, natural setting. The woman on the left is partially visible, wearing a headband with red and yellow beads. The woman in the center is older, with short dark hair, wearing a white button-down shirt and looking towards the right. The woman on the right has curly brown hair, wears glasses and a blue and white striped shirt over a black top, and is smiling. The background is a soft-focus view of green trees and a blue sky.

**"As from today we are no longer
perpetrators of conflict,
but peacebuilders."**

Cleo Mohloadi, South Africa

Contact Us

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