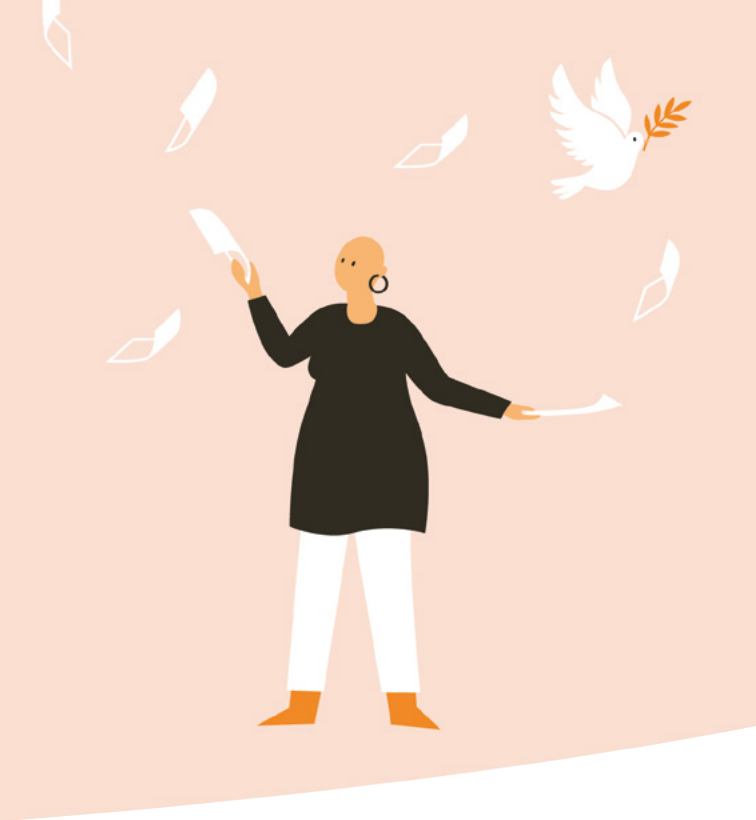




PeaceWomen Across the Globe
 FRIEDENSFRAUEN WELTWEIT
 نساء من أجل السلام عبر العالم
 Femmes de Paix A-tour du Monde
 Женщины мира за мир на земле
 MUJERES DE PAZ EN EL MUNDO
 Mulheres pela Paz ao redor do Mundo
 DONNE DI PACE NEL MONDO
 ピースウーマン—国境を越え平和をつくる女たち
 全球和平婦女



Annual Report 2023

www.1000peacewomen.org

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Understanding peace processes – promoting peace work



Understanding peace processes – promoting peace work

What images do the words “peace processes” bring to mind? Do you imagine a large room, men (and perhaps a few women) negotiating for months? Then a ceremony where the parties to the conflict sign an agreement and the photo of the handshake that goes around the world? In 2023, we scrutinised and deconstructed this common image and took an in-depth look at peace processes and the question “how do women influence peace processes?”

We know that peace processes are complex and dynamic. The many new and re-surgent armed conflicts, the increasingly visible and vocal misogyny and the anti-gender movement, which has also found its way into politics, repeatedly showed us and our partners in 2023 that the paths to sustainable peace have long since moved beyond the negotiating table.

The cooperation with our global network and our partner organisations made particularly clear once again that peace processes consist of many complementary steps and processes that together result in solutions for peaceful and just coexistence – for positive peace. For us, it is an indisputable fact that women must be involved in all these processes on an equal footing and that their experience and needs must be taken into account. Our partners show us how to achieve this, be it in Nepal, where women are presenting their demands to ministers, or in Ukraine, where they are working on visions of peace even in wartime.

These questions remain central to our discussion about peace processes: how and at what levels do women exert influence on peace processes? And how can we best support them wherever there is war or peace is threatened?

We are incorporating our insights on these questions into our work to maximise the effectiveness of women’s peace work.

Highlights 2023



“Art and Healing” gathering, Indonesia
The struggle against oppression requires a lot of strength and reflection. At a meeting in October, feminist activists in Indonesia created a safe space to process their traumas and emotions in a network of feminists. The participants created their own shadow puppets and told their stories in a shadow play. The gathering, which we supported with our Feminist Peace Initiatives, became a place of exchange and healing.



No relaxation of the War Material Act
Two years after the tightening of the War Material Act, Switzerland’s States Council intended once again to relax the rules on the export of armaments in 2023. In September we joined like-minded organisations in front of the Federal Palace in Bern to protest. Our president Ruth-Gaby Vermot (centre), programme manager Annemarie Sancar (to her right) and Board member Margret Kiener Nellen (left) held the red card up to Parliament. Switzerland’s main news programme reported on the protest.



“Security for whom?” event
“Each of us is capable of standing up for human rights and against militarism. When we work together, we are stronger,” said Afghan human rights defender Sima Samar (right) at the event “Security for whom? Feminist visions for genuine security”. In conversation with US anti-militarism activist Margo Okazawa-Rey, the women, who are also members of our International Board, shared their wealth of knowledge on topics such as war, security and militarism.



Women’s Peace Table, Ukraine

In Przemyśl, Poland, Ukrainian women living in exile spoke about the path from war to peace and what peace means to them. It was the fifth Women’s Peace Table that we have organised with our partner organisation KFR Public Alternative and with Olena Zinenko (left) as coordinator since the start of the war in 2022. Find out more about this exchange in Newsletter 2/2023 on our website.



Civil society hearings on “Women, Peace and Security”

What must Switzerland do to fulfil its commitments to the UN resolution on “Women, Peace and Security”? At the hearings organised jointly with Frieda and KOFF swisspeace, we discussed with civil society actors how the visions and experiences of women can be included in debates on security. The findings from these consultations will be incorporated into a report to government for the drafting of Switzerland’s 5th National Action Plan on Resolution 1325.

Meeting of the International Board

The members of our International Board met physically in Bern for the first time since 2019. The two-day meeting focused on the new 2022-2025 strategy and its implementation. In group work, Board and team members explored the various stages of peace processes (from left to right: Christine Menz, Margo Okazawa-Rey; Deborah Schibler and Larissa Lee from the team in Bern).



Advocacy and political work

Making consistent demands for feminist peace policy

In the face of multiple crises and wars, how can we bring our feminist visions of peace into political discourse, both in Switzerland and beyond? Together with Frieda and KOFF swisspeace, we organised two hearings at which we defined priorities for Switzerland's forthcoming 5th National Action Plan (NAP) on "Women, Peace and Security" with other civil society actors. We addressed the following questions: what must Switzerland do in terms of domestic and foreign policy to ensure that security and peace are not conceived in militaristic terms? How do women's visions find their way into current debates?

In a webinar in March, three experts spoke about the consequences of excluding marginalised groups of people in dealing with the past. A second webinar focused on the structural conditions for protection against gender-based violence from the perspective of demilitarisation. The findings from the webinars and hearings will be incorporated into the report to the government.

On the anniversary of the Russian war against Ukraine and before the Ukraine Recovery Conference, we called for civil society organisations, especially women's organisations, to be part of the peace negotiations and reconstruction. In a statement on the armed conflict in Israel and the Gaza Strip, we expressed our solidarity with the civilian population and called for an end to the violence.

In our contributions to the media, we consistently called for the inclusion of women's experiences and expertise, recognition and protection from gender-specific violence in armed conflicts and systematic demilitarisation in security policy. 2023 has shown that these demands are more urgent than ever. You can find the articles under Press Review on our website.

Feminists Connecting for Peace Redefining security

Few words were used as often as "security" in 2023, not only by politicians and in the media. The concept was also central to our work with our Feminists Connecting for Peace network. Our main aim was to disentangle the word "security" from the militaristic concept of security politics and to redefine it from a feminist peace policy perspective.

The second issue of the "Feminists Connecting for Peace" magazine was also dedicated to the topic of "security". In nine articles, authors from Indonesia, Ukraine and Cameroon, among others, address the question of what exactly security means in their respective countries and contexts. In particular, for women and people who are discriminated against because of the colour of their skin or being part of the LGBTIQ+ community, verbal and physical threats and insecurity are a daily experience, even in times of peace. In conflict-affected countries this insecurity grows.

The importance of networking

Security was also the focus of our events. In December, our Board members Sima Samar and Margo Okazawa-Rey posed the question "Security for whom?", providing food for thought and calling on the audience to take action. At workshops and in a panel discussion in September, organised together with KOFF swisspeace, experts and activists discussed feminist peace, demilitarisation and security in conflict-affected contexts. Olena Zinenko, from our Ukrainian partner KFR Public Alternative, emphasised the importance of networking for feminist peace work: "We need to stay connected. We need a grand vision."

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"We need
a grand vision."
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Peacebuilding

Peace work: flexible and focused on the future

Feminist peace work requires a high degree of flexibility and the ability to perceive a future that is still unimaginable for many. In concrete terms, this meant that in 2023, we were already working on visions of peace in Ukraine while the war raged on. In countries such as Colombia and the Philippines, where certain formal peace negotiations have been concluded, we worked with our partners to anchor feminist visions of peace in the pursuit of social change. With our Feminist Peace Initiatives, we support the peace work of activists wherever peace is at risk.

In Colombia, Nepal and the Philippines we continued to work with our partners in 2023 to ensure that conflict-affected women were able to contribute their experiences and demands to the processes that enable the transition to a sustainably peaceful and secure society. Following the conclusion of formal peace negotiations, dealing with the past is critical to maintaining peace, securing the rights won and achieving lasting social and societal transformation. The participation of women, marginalised groups and civil society actors is essential.

Knowledge transfer, dialogue, strategies

Our partners used exchange forums, including Women's Peace Tables, for knowledge transfer, strategy planning, and dialogue with decision-makers. Here are a few examples:

- At the "Women's Visions and Solidarity for Peace and Justice" conference for the autonomous region of Muslim Mindanao, Bangsamoro, in the Philippines, women entered into a dialogue with various decision-makers, including ministers and parliamentarians. Peace activists jointly commented on the draft laws for a National Commission for Transitional Justice and Reconciliation for Bangsamoro and developed advocacy strategies.

- In Nepal, the collective demands of women affected by conflict were at the centre of the Women's Peace Tables in three provinces, with a total of 186 participants. The women were able to raise their concerns directly with representatives of local government units. In a letter to the Chief Minister of one province, women affected by conflict demanded the effective implementation of transitional justice processes. Among other things, they called for recognition of their right to the truth and for the perpetrators to be prosecuted.
- At a cross-regional Women's Peace Table in Colombia, activists from several organisations shared their experiences of truth finding, reparation and non-recurrence. The focus was on reconciliation, healing and rebuilding the social fabric in their areas. In Popayán, further modules of the "Inclusive and Transformative Perspectives on Peace" course were organised with the University of Cauca. This certificate not only gives women a formal qualification, it also equips them with skills and knowledge they can pass on to their communities.

Peacebuilding in the network

With the Feminist Peace Initiatives, we support a variety of local peace policy projects that are developed by our partners or emerge from the network. In Brazil, for example, a podcast series was produced in which the setbacks to democracy during the Bolsonaro years are discussed from a feminist perspective. In Indonesia, feminist activists at the "Art and Healing" gathering used shadow puppets, among other things, to talk about their traumas, process their experiences together and gather strength for their activism. Healing was also the focus in Kenya, where the Shalom Centre for Counselling and Development held multi-day "Healing Circle" meetings, where women affected by sexualised violence in eastern Kenya networked and received psycho-social support.

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Our sincere thanks

Above all, it is the cooperation with you, our long-standing funding partners and generous private donors, that makes our work for a more peaceful world possible – we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Our commitment is made possible by the support of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (Peace and Human Rights Division and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation) and the Basel-Stadt Development Cooperation. We also receive generous donations from the foundations Corymbo, Fokus Frauen, Fondation genevoise de bien-faisance “Valeria Rossi di Montelera”, Maya Behn-Eschenburg, Scarlatti, and The Wyss Foundation. We would like to thank the World Day of Prayer Switzerland, the Roman Catholic parish of Münsingen, the Sauerteig Fund and other parishes for their valued contributions.

Statement of Operations

Income	2023	2022
Contributions from public institutions	106,000	200,400
Donations from foundations, organisations and institutions	731,592	821,283
Donations from churches	15,300	60,735
Private donations and membership fees	210,175	129,856
Various income	5,204	2,517
Total income	1,068,272	1,214,790
Expenditure	2023	2022
Direct project expenditure	330,587	346,884
Peacebuilding	209,062	246,275
Network	110,116	94,688
Advocacy	11,409	5,922
Personnel costs	588,618	633,564
Salary costs (including social insurance benefits)	498,954	524,571
Social insurance contributions	80,901	93,843
Other personnel costs	8,762	15,150
Operating costs	159,337	148,654
Office and infrastructure	41,637	40,645
Third-party services	63,750	60,546
Running costs	6,099	7,571
Fundraising	1,190	1,548
Communications	21,006	13,913
Representational and networking costs	1,335	780
Board	18,170	15,667
Depreciation and amortisation	6,150	7,985
Total expenditure	1,078,541	1,129,103
Operating result	-10,269	85,688
Financial income and exceptional revenue	4,834	600
Annual result before change in fund capital	-5,435	86,287
Change in fund capital	7,842	-80,667
Annual result	2,406	5,621

Balance Sheet

Assets	2023	2022
Liquid assets	964,769	1,003,667
Cash	960,151	1,002,614
Receivables from goods and services	169	858
Accrued income	4,449	195
Fixed assets	6,151	12,301
Tangible fixed assets	6,151	12,301
Total assets	970,920	1,015,968
Liabilities	2023	2022
Current liabilities	22,817	62,430
Payables from goods and services	13,055	41,033
Accrued liabilities	9,762	21,397
Fund capital	65,000	84,842
Earmarked multi-year project funds	65,000	84,842
Organisational capital	883,103	868,697
Free capital	441,103	438,697
Tied capital	442,000	430,000
Total liabilities	970,920	1,015,968

Commentary

The limited audit of the annual financial statements has been carried out by the independent auditors BDO AG. It complies with Swiss law and with our bylaws. The annual financial statement has been prepared in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER 21 accounting recommendations and the Swiss code of obligations. All figures are in Swiss francs.

At the end of 2023, PeaceWomen Across the Globe reported a profit of 2,406 Swiss francs. **72% of total expenditure directly benefits our projects – a great deal of work is done voluntarily.** The changes in the team, as well as political unrest in our project countries, have led to minor delays in project implementation. These will therefore be continued in 2024 in consultation with our funding partners. Since 2013, PeaceWomen Across the Globe has held the ZEWQ quality seal and is certified as a reputable organisation that uses its donations purposefully, effectively and in an impact-oriented manner, earning the trust of its donors. Our recertification will take place in 2024.

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

Team and Board

The International Office employs 7 people with a total of 5.3 full-time positions: Camille Bernheim (Programmes), Christina Stucky (Communications), Deborah Schibler (Management), Karin Widmer (Programmes), Katharina Stöckli (Fundraising), Larissa Lee (Network), Nadine Schindler (Administration and Finance). 2023 was a year of change and renewal, as Andrea Filippi (Programmes and Advocacy), Annemarie Sancar (Network), Carla Weymann (Network), Flurina Derungs (Management), Franziska Vogel (Fundraising) and Naomi Bögli (Programmes and Advocacy) left to follow new paths.

The International Board consists of the president Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold (Switzerland) as well as Sima Samar (Afghanistan), Sandy Fong (Fiji), Kin Chi Lau (Hong Kong), Alejandra Miller Restrepo (Colombia), Cécile Mukarubuga (Rwanda), Margo Okazawa-Rey (USA), and Sidonia Gabriel, Anna Hess, Margret Kiener Nellen, Christine Menz and Susanne Schneeberger (Switzerland). An International Board meeting was held in December 2023. The Swiss Committee met for six further Board meetings. The Board's work of around 3,000 hours is carried out on a voluntary basis. The regional coordinators and our project partners contributed around 11,000 hours of voluntary work.

Many thanks to all of them for their dedicated commitment!

Of change and transformation: living feminism

2023 was a year of change for PeaceWomen Across the Globe. The International Board set the course with a new strategic direction: our thematic peace work is to be expanded, internationalised, decentralised and more focused. Our newly formed team used the opportunity to gain clarity about the thematic direction we want to take in the future, on the basis of shared values and approaches.

How are we living our values?

In our work, we strive for positive social change based on a feminist vision of peace, the core of which is the equal participation of women in peace processes. In this transformation process that has begun, the following questions are being addressed: how do we live the values underlying these goals as an organisation? What significance does the new thematic focus have for our joint work with our partners and within the network?

Our work endeavours to have an impact both externally and internally. That's why we collaborate in a network, communicate openly and attach great importance to psychological safety within the team: mindful interaction and sufficient opportunities for dialogue create trust, enabling equal participation. In our culture of feedback and error, we treat each other as equals, regardless of role, experience, training or age. Among other things, we work as "duplas" (a word we have coined to describe a duo based on feminist principles), which allows us to utilise the synergy between experience and innovation.

Bringing visions to life

The transformation process and the examination of our values correspond to living feminism. We also implement basic principles of peacebuilding such as non-violent communication and the do-no-harm approach in our everyday lives. This is how we bring to life our vision, in which peace and gender equality are inextricably linked.



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Imprint

Editor: Christina Stucky
Authors: Camille Bernheim, Christina Stucky, Deborah Schibler, Karin Widmer
Photos: Hanna Ara, Artsforwomen; PeaceWomen Across the Globe
Design: atelier-pol.ch
Illustrations: Hahn+Zimmermann
Printer: Länggass Druckerei
Print run: 900

Printed on CO₂-neutral
Nautilus SuperWhite paper.



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