



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



Annual Report 2025

www.1000peacewomen.org

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On upheavals
and change



Is the world currently experiencing a turning point? Undoubtedly it is in a phase of radical change, upheaval and uncertainty. The year 2025 has shown how negatively these developments impact women's rights and feminist peacebuilding.

What can we do when military spending reaches record levels, security debates are dominated by military deterrence, inclusive peace processes are denigrated as "naive" and women's rights are once again being rolled back?

We too must arm ourselves – specifically, for a transformative change in society that leads to sustainable peace. This cannot be achieved without changing power structures. Those in positions of power know that women's participation is essential, yet they act as if women's knowledge and opinions do not matter. This is a political decision that deliberately limits women's participation.

In feminist peace work, "arming ourselves" means building networks and political alliances that increase the visibility of the peace work of women and feminist peacebuilders, and insisting that women are not left standing outside while inside those in power discuss matters among themselves. Feminist armament also means opening spaces in the midst of war where peace can be discussed.

This is what we have achieved with our partners in 2025 and what continues to drive us. It also describes the steady, persistent peace work that characterises women like our founder and president, Ruth-Gaby Vermot. Her stepping down marks a turning point for us as well. We have prepared for this with new expertise in our team and on our board, the expansion of our programmes and network, and by opening an office in Colombia. All of this builds on the foundation she laid more than 20 years ago with the courageous idea of making the peace work of 1,000 women visible. We will carry her vision forward into the future.

On upheavals
and change

Highlights 2025



Workshop in Lviv, Ukraine

Representatives from 20 women-led organisations deepened their understanding of peace processes and reflected on how their work contributes to them. The topic of “shrinking space for civil society action” was brought to life in a playful exercise.



Colombia-Sudan exchange

We facilitated a visit to Colombia by the Sudanese peace activist Entisar Abdelsadig (left). Suayan Barón Melgarejo (right), head of our office which opened in Bogotá in 2025, organised meetings with 25 peace activists, during which they exchanged strategies.



Asia network meeting

Over the course of three days, peace activists from 10 Asian countries explored the roles that women play in peacebuilding. The meeting in the Philippines offered participants a rare opportunity to reflect on their work and to build cross-border solidarity.



Event: misogyny in the digital age

At the event we organised in collaboration with the Canadian Embassy in Bern, Sudanese peace activist and gender expert Rabab Baldo (centre) and Colombian human rights lawyer Luz Marina Monzón Cifuentes (right) spoke about how cyberviolence is used to silence women like themselves. They were interviewed by various media outlets.



International Women's Day at the Federal Parliament

On 8 March 2025, hundreds of women gathered at the Federal Parliament in Bern to discuss women and security. Our director Deborah Schibler (left) and staff member Larissa Mina Lee (right) led a workshop on women's participation in peace processes. Our president Ruth-Gaby Vermot (centre left) was also hard at work in the Parliament. On the same day, Deborah, Larissa and Leandra Bias (centre right) from the University of Bern advocated for a feminist understanding of security on the swissinfo podcast “Inside Geneva”.



“TJ Hub” meeting, Berlin

We supported the participation of Trishna Thapa (centre), deputy director of our partner organisation Nagarik Aawaz in Nepal, at the Berghof Foundation's conference on “Transformative Transitional Justice in Practice” in Berlin. The meeting also focused on intergenerational work in peacebuilding following armed conflict.

Advocacy and political work

Women, Peace and Security: time to act

To mark the 25th anniversary of the UN Resolution on “Women, Peace and Security”, we set out our demands in various forums and formats regarding national and international peace and security policy.

- In a statement by the Swiss Alliance for Women, Peace and Security and as co-signatories of an open letter, we called on the UN Security Council and member states to defend the principles of the “Women, Peace and Security” agenda and to implement them through concrete measures.
- Our position paper on demilitarisation explains why lasting security can only be achieved through inclusive dialogue.
- In the “Fund Peace not War” social media campaign, we demonstrated what women-led initiatives could achieve for sustainable security with the funds currently spent on armaments.
- On International Women’s Day, hundreds of women gathered at the Federal Parliament to discuss women and security; our workshop showcased the diverse peace efforts of women and feminist peacebuilders.
- At the Geneva Peace Week, we highlighted the peace work of women and youth.
- Together with Rabab Baldo, a Sudanese activist from our network, we provided expertise for a parliamentary interpellation on the role of Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates in the armed conflict in Sudan.
- Together with 31 organisations, we called on the Swiss Federal Council to accede to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The initiative was submitted to the Federal Chancellery at the end of the year.
- We arranged interviews and articles for our partners in magazines and on news platforms. On the swissinfo podcast “Inside Geneva”, two of our staff explored the question: “Where are women’s voices in peace talks?”

Feminists Connecting for Peace

More inclusive, younger and more wide-reaching

In 2025, our focus was on expanding the Feminists Connecting for Peace (FCP) network and jointly refining its purpose and objectives. As a result, it has become younger and more inclusive, and by the end of the year it included members from more than 30 countries. At their initiative, we organised three webinars and supported four Feminist Peace Initiatives.

A first regional network meeting took place in the Philippines. There, activists from 10 countries (including Afghanistan, Indonesia and Myanmar) established contacts, exchanged insights, strengthened solidarity and regional cooperation and identified the needs of FCP members. We also wanted to know what added value our organisation brings to the activists. They felt that as a small organisation in Switzerland, we can offer a partnership on equal terms as well as access to decision-makers. Our decolonial approach meets their need for ownership within the network.

The topics of the three webinars we ran with members in 2025 reflected their desire for knowledge and dialogue on stress and trauma in feminist peacebuilding, intergenerational peacebuilding and on strategies for feminist networking and advocacy.

With the Feminist Peace Initiatives we funded projects that emerged from the network in Afghanistan, Sudan, Myanmar and Ethiopia. In Myanmar, the focus was on conflict and mediation training for local activists and internally displaced people in the Kachin region. In Afghanistan, 20 activists expanded their knowledge of peacebuilding through online training, creating a solidarity network. One Afghan participant said: “Connecting with other Afghan women reminded us that we are not alone in this struggle. Together, our voices are stronger.”

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“Together, our voices
are stronger.”
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Programmes

Strengthening feminist peace work across generations

Peacebuilding During Armed Conflict:

In **Ukraine**, we are strengthening women in their local leadership roles so that they can help shape social and institutional transformation processes during and after the war. Following a workshop in Krakow, the participants launched 13 courageous initiatives in various regions of Ukraine to highlight peace and women’s visions of peace. Two years ago, it was impossible for these women to speak publicly about peace. In Lviv, we led a “Peacebuilding in Action” workshop with 20 women-led organisations to deepen their knowledge of peace processes and reflect on the contribution their work makes to them. Even in areas directly affected by the war, the women recognised that it is possible to “create a sense of peace”.

Peacebuilding During Peace Negotiations:

In **Colombia** and **Sudan**, our pilot programmes brought together women and feminist peacebuilders to strengthen their participation in peace negotiations.

In **Colombia**, we support women’s participation in locally based peace negotiations between the Colombian government and the Frente Comunereros del Sur guerrilla group in the department of Nariño. Our office, which opened in Bogotá in 2025, built an alliance of 25 civil society, state and international actors to ensure that women’s demands are given significant weight in the negotiations. In **Sudan**, our partner organisation, the Badya Centre, connects activists in South Kordofan – a region severely affected by armed conflict – with experienced and politically connected Sudanese peace activists in exile in Kampala, Uganda. Working groups jointly develop strategies to influence peace negotiations. For the activists in exile, this collaboration highlighted just how crucial the perspectives of women directly affected by the conflict are to peace work. In 2026, we will expand the Sudan and Colombia programmes.

Peacebuilding After Armed Conflict:

In **Colombia**, **Nepal** and the **Philippines**, we are strengthening the capacity of peace activists across generations.

The ongoing violence in south-western **Colombia** hits women in leadership roles in peace work particularly hard. The programme specifically strengthens their capacity to act so that they can continue their work in this complex context. By expanding their networks in collaboration with other actors, the women also strengthened their political capacity to act.

The “Generation Z” protests in **Nepal** triggered fears and transgenerational trauma. Intergenerational dialogues on memory and justice brought together those directly affected by the armed conflict with the next generation. In an article for the magazine à propos, Susan Risal, CEO of our programme partner, describes how the legacy of the past is threatening social cohesion today.

The **Philippines** programme strengthens intergenerational collaboration between women and women’s organisations to secure peace. Through dialogue and knowledge transfer, experienced and younger peace activists developed a shared understanding of peace work. Through targeted lobbying, they are driving forward the inclusive implementation of the Bangsamoro Peace Agreement and the “Women, Peace and Security” agenda, taking into account the needs and experiences of different generations.

The insights gained from our work in these three countries formed the basis for the article by our staff members Camille Bernheim and Liv Halperin in the magazine Fem*Fém in May 2025.

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“Creating ‘a sense of peace’
in war.”
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Our sincere thanks

It is only through collaboration with our long-standing funding partners and generous private donors that our work towards a more peaceful world can be made possible — we thank you wholeheartedly!

Our work is made possible by the support of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Environment and Culture of the Principality of Liechtenstein, and the City of Zurich's Office for International Cooperation. We also receive generous contributions from Brot für die Welt, the Corymbo Foundation, the fokus frauen Foundation, the VRM Foundation, the Nagulendran Philanthropy Alliance, the Smart-peace Foundation, the Temperatio Foundation, the Walo Kamm Foundation and the Wyss Foundation. We thank the Roman Catholic Parish of Münsingen, the Sauerteig Fund, the Swiss Reformed Church parish of Bern and other parishes for their valued contributions.

We also extend our gratitude to our programme partners for their trust and cooperation:

Colombia: Corporación de Mujeres Ecofeministas Comunitar, Corporación Colectiva Cuarzo Rosa
Nepal: Nagarik Aawaz
Philippines: Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute
Sudan: Badya Centre
Ukraine: KFR Public Alternative

As well as to the members of our Feminists Connecting for Peace network.

Income Statement

Income	2025	2024
Contributions from public institutions	253,580	55,900
Donations from foundations, organisations and institutions	900,950	799,522
Donations from churches	18,214	35,500
Private donations and membership fees	244,098	304,739
Various income	4,081	1,183
Total income	1,420,924	1,196,844
Expenditure	2025	2024
Direct project expenditure	412,888	262,704
Peacebuilding	351,263	207,887
Network	54,635	48,214
Advocacy	6,990	6,603
Localisation	94,287	
Colombia Office	94,287	
Personnel costs	943,915	760,134
Salary costs	798,212	643,105
Social insurance contributions	134,891	106,596
Other personnel costs	10,812	10,432
Operating costs	199,324	178,290
Office and infrastructure	71,736	78,752
IT	41,503	
Insurances	1,378	
Third-party services	34,662	46,026
Running costs	6,066	7,569
Fundraising	20,187	670
Communications	15,406	32,509
Representation and networking	4,047	2,495
Board	4,338	4,118
Depreciation and amortisation	0	6,151
Total expenditure	1,650,414	1,201,128
Operating result	-229,490	-4,284
Financial income and exceptional revenue	-6,721	-1,228
Annual result before change in fund capital	-236,211	-5,511
Change in fund capital	-11,890	-10,358
Annual result	-224,321	4,847
Withdrawals from organisational capital	224,321	
Contributions to organisational capital		-4,847
	0	0

Balance

Assets	2025	2024
Liquid assets	767,432	990,541
Cash	734,136	983,364
Receivables from goods and services	169	169
Accrued income	33,126	7,008
Fixed assets	0	0
Tangible fixed assets	0	0
Total assets	767,432	990,541
Liabilities	2025	2024
Current liabilities	61,050	47,949
Payables from goods and services	40,637	34,023
Accrued liabilities	20,413	13,926
Fund capital	42,752	54,642
Earmarked funds	42,752	54,642
Organisational capital	663,629	887,950
Free capital	221,629	445,950
Tied capital	442,000	442,000
Total liabilities	767,432	990,541

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.

The annual loss of 224,321 Swiss francs was covered as planned using the association's reserves. **76.4 % of total expenditure directly benefits our projects** – a great deal of work is done voluntarily. Since 2013, PeaceWomen Across the Globe has held the ZEWO quality seal and is certified as a reputable organisation that uses its donations purposefully, effectively and in an impact-oriented manner, earning the trust of its donors. The recertification process was completed in April 2025.

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

Team and Board

The international office is staffed by 14 people, representing a total of 9.3 full-time positions: Camille Bernheim, Carla Weymann, Karin Widmer, Laura Reymond-Joubin and Liv Halperin (Programmes), Corina Brügger and Nadine Schindler (Administration and Finance), Christina Stucky (Communications), Deborah Schibler (Management), Katharina Stöckli (Fundraising), Larissa Mina Lee and Luana de Souza Monbaron (Network & Advocacy) and Suayan Barón Melgarejo and July Andrea Torres Pulido (Colombia Office).

In 2025, the International Board comprised 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) and the Swiss members Verena Flück, Sidonia Gabriel, Margret Kiener Nellen, Christine Menz, Susanne Schneeberger Geisler, Louisa Seferis and Laila Sheikh Rüttimann.

At the end of the year, we bid farewell to our long-standing board members Cécile Mukarubuga, Christine Menz, Kin Chi Lau, Sandy Fong and Sidonia Gabriel. Four virtual International Board meetings took place in December; the Swiss Board also held four further meetings. The work carried out voluntarily by the board totalled around 3,000 hours.

In addition, we work closely with peace activists in the Feminists Connecting for Peace network and with our programme partners. Together with their respective networks, they contributed around 11,000 hours of voluntary work.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone for their tremendous commitment!

Ruth-Gaby Vermot steps down

“It was always clear: nothing works without women”

Our founder and president, Ruth-Gaby Vermot, is stepping down. For decades, she has championed the visibility of the often undervalued work of women in countries affected by war and armed conflict. Her courageous vision of collectively nominating 1,000 women from around the world for the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize lives on in our collaboration with women and feminist activists in our programmes and within the Feminists Connecting for Peace network. In this interview, she talks about successes, setbacks and hopes. Here are some quotes from the interview.



“I met women who lived (...) in appalling conditions and with great courage ensured the survival of their children and the people (...). I was deeply impressed by how much they achieved through their care work.”

“In Chechnya I spoke with women living in a half-destroyed house about their difficult care work. They were very surprised. No one had ever asked them about this before. (...) Raising awareness of this seemingly worthless care work, making it visible and bringing it into the political discourse were the main objectives of our peace initiative.”

Read the full interview



“In times of peace and in times of war, nothing works without women – they are the agents, the doers who (...) reinvent everyday life for those affected by war.”

“The fact that, together with many people around the world and the vast network of the 1,000 nominated women, we created a wonderful work of art is a success.”

“My resignation is tinged with a mixture of relief, wistfulness and deep concern. Not for the organisation, but for what is currently being wrought in the world by certain violent, inhumane statesmen.”

“I am incredibly proud that after all these years of hard work (...) we have become a feminist peace organisation that (...) tackles one of the world’s most complex and difficult issues: peace and peace processes.”



Captions: Ruth-Gaby Vermot in an interview about the initiative “1000 Women for the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize” (left). In 2022, at a campaign in front of the Swiss Federal Parliament building regarding Switzerland’s 4th National Action Plan on “Women, Peace and Security” (top right). The initiative’s team and board watch the live broadcast of the Nobel Prize award ceremony (bottom right).

PeaceWomen Across the Globe

Weissensteinstrasse 87
3007 Bern
Switzerland

✉ info@1000peacewomen.org

☎ [+41 31 312 02 40](tel:+41313120240)

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