

# 2021 – Bastions of democracy

The year 2021 saw more demonstrations than in a long time. Despite limited freedom of movement, people took to the streets in numerous places. Many took a stand against anti-democratic developments and shrinking spaces for civil society action.

In Colombia, demonstrations against social inequality were violently suppressed. In Nepal, thousands demonstrated against the prime minister's unconstitutional attempt to dissolve parliament. In Afghanistan, women protested against the theft of their freedoms. In this way, the protesters created bastions of resistance to anti-democratic developments.

Inequality continues to grow – this is why many people have found themselves in need during the pandemic. For years, savings have been made in the care sector – at the same time, armament production has increased steadily. Swiss arms exports even reached a new record. The result: the militarisation of public spaces and the restriction of democratic ones.

Our work sets a counterpoint. At the Women's Peace Tables, conflict-affected women can network in safe spaces, as was the case in Ukraine in 2021, where women holding different views worked together to address the impact of the war in Donetsk and Luhansk on their everyday lives and developed strategies for their security.

Women need time, space, economic and social resources and access to networks to help shape peace. If they engage together politically and participate in peace processes, the likelihood grows that their demands will be heard and changes initiated.

This is one of the conclusions from our publication on women's participation in peace processes, which we produced in 2021 with our partners in Colombia, Nepal and the Philippines. It demonstrates the importance of democratic spaces for peacebuilding; spaces where civil society holds decision-makers accountable and becomes a driving force for change.



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

# Annual Report 2021



## Highlights 2021



**No care, no peace!**  
In front of the Federal Parliament in Bern, we distributed the brochure “No care, no peace” to draw the attention of parliamentarians to the fact that care work must be at the centre of peace work. The brochure was produced as a result of civil society's contribution to the Swiss implementation of UN Resolution 1325. Our co-president Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold (right) was part of the event.



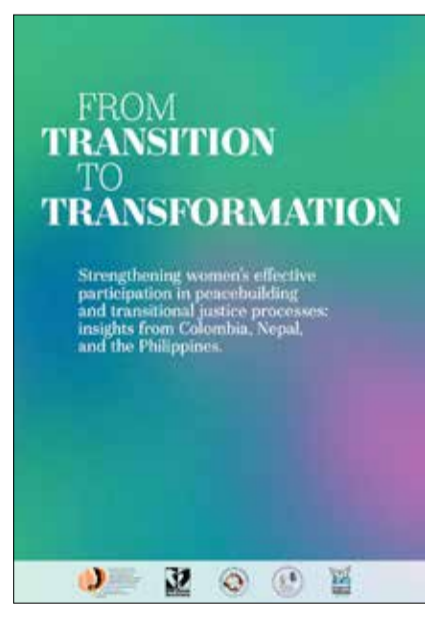
**Peacebuilding in Kenya**  
Our partner Coalition for Peace in Africa organised training for peacebuilders in Nakuru County on conflict analysis and management and trauma awareness. They designed peacebuilding strategies, including how to apply UN Resolution 1325 “Women, Peace and Security” in Nakuru. The county experiences cycles of violence during elections, including due to land conflicts and ethnicised politics; the event was held with a view to the August 2022 elections.



**Women for more security**  
In eastern Ukraine, a few months before the country-wide outbreak of the war, participants of Women's Peace Tables developed their own projects, including the course “Healthy Woman – Healthy Community” that included self-defence training. The main aim was to broaden their understanding of all forms of discrimination, to jointly develop strategies for their safety and thus contribute to systemic change.



**Solidarity with Myanmar**  
At a virtual meeting of our regional coordinators, board and team members, participants decided to spontaneously show solidarity with the people of Myanmar following the military coup in February. Among them our Board member Margo Okazawa-Rey from the USA (centre) and our team members Annemarie Sanca and Carla Weymann (top left and centre) from Bern.



**Women in peace processes**  
This publication, developed jointly with our partners in Colombia, Nepal and the Philippines, contains findings on the effective participation of women in peace processes and peacebuilding (see “Peacebuilding”).

**OBITUARY FOR KAMLA BHASIN**

## Farewell to a dear companion

In 2021, an unwavering feminist and a tireless campaigner for a world without wars and violence passed away. Kamla's commitment focused on peace, gender and human rights around the world and in her home country of India. She helped to build PeaceWomen Across the Globe because she was convinced that it is above all women who can end wars and establish peace.

Kamla was an important companion to our founder, Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold and the team behind the initiative “1000 Women for the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize”. In 2003, she became co-president of PeaceWomen Across the Globe.

In South Asia, Kamla was a highly respected feminist, poet and author. After her death on 25 September 2021, numerous obituaries appeared, including in the New York Times.

We said goodbye to our sister at a memorial service in 2021.

You can read Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold's tribute to Kamla on our website under Board – Kamla Bhasin.

# No peace without care work

What contributes to increased security? Governments' answer to this question is usually an increase in police and military spending and the introduction of laws like Switzerland's Police Measures Act, which Swiss voters approved in 2021. At the time of voting, we warned about police arbitrariness and the endangering of fundamental rights. Such laws have little to do with genuine security.

The arms industry continues to increase its profits with military equipment. However, the pandemic has made it clear: it is not armaments but care work that is fundamental to everyone's sense of security.

In the civil society monitoring of the Swiss national action plan on the "Women, Peace and Security" agenda, we showed how socio-economic hurdles and care work impede women's political participation and peace work. Our conclusion is that without care work there is no peace. With a publication and a con-

ference, we pointed out that care work, which is predominantly done by women, limits their peace work. Care work must be recognised and the conditions under which it is carried out must be improved. We were also able to contribute the findings of this project to the civil society shadow report on CEDAW, the UN Women's Convention.

We also support our partners in empowering women to participate in political and peace processes. In the Philippines, women's organisations reminded decision-makers of their obligations in transitional justice at a forum of the GZO Peace Institute. An unexpected result was that they promised to support a new law in parliament against discrimination based on religion and ethnicity. This also contributes to security.

More about our political work on our website under Activities – Advocacy and – Campaigns.

# Creating spaces for building peace

In many of our project countries, 2021 was all about working with our partners to create spaces for women to network, as well as to make available spaces safer for them to use for peacebuilding. Due to the Corona pandemic, physical encounters were severely restricted in many places, while some governments took advantage of the pandemic to restrict the scope of civil society actors. Virtual spaces gained importance.

In Palestine, the geographical fragmentation and the occupation are among the factors limiting civil society's scope for action. Virtual spaces therefore play an important role as places for networking and activism. For women, whose mobility is already limited by societal restrictions, they are essential. But even there, women experience threats, insults and discrimination. With our expanded 2021 programme, we are contributing to the protection of digital spaces with TAM - Women & Media Development's project. Women should be able to use digital spaces safely and thus participate in the structural change of their society.

What does "security" mean for the women who have to manage their everyday lives despite the conflict in Eastern Ukraine that has been going on since 2014? At the 12 Women's Peace Tables we held there in 2021 with our partner, KRF Public Alternative, affected women exchanged their experiences and views. While they do not all share the same views on the conflict, they do share its consequences: domestic violence, unemployment, poverty and lack of social security. These are the effects of militarisation, which perpetuates patriarchal structures and gender stereotypes.

In the pilot project, women and women's organisations created their own projects to make their everyday lives safer. The longer-term programme that follows on from this aims to work towards a peaceful, self-determined life for women in eastern Ukraine and their participation in political processes. Due to the escalated war in February 2022, we are working with our partner to realign the project.



Young people were the focus of one of our Palestine projects in East Jerusalem: our partner organisation Madaa trained them on how to advocate for the fight against gender-based violence and for women's rights.

## Knowledge exchange without borders

In 2021, we worked with our partners Comunitar (Colombia), Nagarik Aawaz (Nepal, cover photo) and the GZO Peace Institute (Philippines) on the publication "From transition to transformation", in a virtual space between the three programme countries and Switzerland. The focus of discussions was on questions like, how can the participation of women in peacebuilding and transitional justice processes be strengthened and what strategies can civil society organisations develop to achieve this goal?

The contexts in the three countries are different. But the findings collected in the report show that the project partners were able to learn from each other and broaden their knowledge. Which strategies were effective and what needs to be adapted for each context? What is needed for the effective implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution on "Women, Peace and Security"?

The experiences and knowledge of conflict-affected women gathered by the partners at Women's Peace Tables form the backbone of this publication. It offers practical recommendations for effective women's participation in peacebuilding and structural change. Above all, it shows how fundamental the networking of activists and conflict-affected women is – whether in physical or digital spaces.

Further information and the publication on our website under Activities – Projects.

# Networked for change

Peace activists in our global network used virtual spaces for exchange and shared learning in 2021, allowing activists from Palestine, Sweden and Lebanon, among others, to connect and share their activities at our demilitarisation webinars. The country contexts may be different, but the women share their concerns about peace policy.

With small grants, we support women in their efforts to implement the findings from the network in their own projects. An example is the Pacific island of Guam, where the indigenous population is protesting against the strong US military presence. The project facilitates intergenerational exchange between indigenous women on the question: how do we resist colonialism and militarism? Their findings: through political participation as well as through the preservation of traditional cultural values and practices, ancestral

knowledge and language. Together, these women are working for a more peaceful society in the midst of the on-going US colonial regime.

The project in Indonesia also emerged from a shared learning experience. Our project partner, who exposes abuses on palm oil plantations, is investigating how widespread gender-based violence against women workers by security forces is. The activists are using the findings to exert political pressure.

The activists from the network also used podcasts and videos to publicise their concerns. In Brazil, they produced a podcast on gender-based violence and intersectionality. These products are part of the findings from the national and regional projects that we are documenting and feed into the global network.

More information on our website under Network.

## Team and Board

The International Office consists of 9 people with a combined total of 6.1 full-time positions: Flurina Derungs (Director), Mithra Akhbari (Programme Officer and Deputy Director), Andrea Filippi (Programmes and Advocacy), Annemarie Sancar (Network and Programmes), Carla Weymann (Network), Christina Stucky (Communications), Franziska Vogel (Fundraising), Christa Bader (Administration) and Wirawan Butsri (Cleaning). Caroline Morrissey (Network) has retired.

The International Board in 2021 consisted of Co-Presidents Kamla Bhasin † (India) and Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold (Switzerland), as well as Sandy Fong (Fiji), Kin Chi Lau (Hong Kong), Alejandra Miller Restrepo (Colombia), Cecile Mukarubuga (Rwanda), Margo Okazawa-Rey (USA) and Marina Carobbio, Sidonia Gabriel, Anna Hess, Margret Kiener Nellen, Christine Menz and Susanne Schneeberger (all Switzerland). Marina Pikulina (Uzbekistan) and Pia DeFlorin (Switzerland) resigned in 2021. Due to the pandemic, there was no international board meeting; members met virtually on a monthly basis. The Swiss Board met for four other board meetings and two retreats. The Board work of about 4,000 hours was carried out on a voluntary basis.

The regional coordinators and our project partners volunteered approximately 11,000 hours.

Our warm thanks to all of them for their commitment!

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT (EXCERPT)

# Statement of Operations

Income	2021	2020
<b>Contributions from public institutions</b>	<b>138,509</b>	<b>113,243</b>
<b>Donations from foundations, organisations and institutions</b>	<b>848,040</b>	<b>453,750</b>
<b>Donations from churches</b>	<b>39,053</b>	<b>104,587</b>
<b>Privat donations</b>	<b>169,768</b>	<b>201,088</b>
<b>Various income</b>	<b>11,322</b>	<b>12,705</b>
<b>Total income</b>	<b>1,206,692</b>	<b>885,373</b>

Expenditure	2021	2020
<b>Direct project expenditure</b>	<b>297,072</b>	<b>265,995</b>
Material costs	74,961	33,015
Project contributions	222,111	232,980
<b>Personnel costs</b>	<b>630,339</b>	<b>592,457</b>
Salary costs (including social insurance benefits)	532,601	490,644
Social insurance contributions	86,844	80,394
Other personnel costs	10,893	21,419
<b>Operating costs</b>	<b>119,431</b>	<b>96,316</b>
Office and infrastructure	39,514	47,210
Third-party services	21,590	11,806
Running costs	5,581	7,835
Fundraising	8,726	10,735
Communications	8,513	13,170
Representational and networking costs	885	617
Board	25,797	3,943
Depreciation and amortisation	8,825	1,000
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>1,046,841</b>	<b>954,768</b>

<b>Operating result</b>	<b>159,851</b>	<b>138,535</b>
<b>Financial income and exceptional revenue</b>	<b>-1,923</b>	<b>-1,461</b>
<b>Annual result before change in fund capital</b>	<b>157,928</b>	<b>137,075</b>
<b>Change in fund capital</b>	<b>154,175</b>	<b>130,000</b>

<b>Annual results</b>	<b>3,753</b>	<b>7,075</b>
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# Balance Sheet

Assets	2021	2020
<b>Liquid assets</b>	<b>890,449</b>	<b>802,231</b>
Cash	886,048	800,631
Receivables from goods and service	990	0
Accrued income	3,411	1,600
<b>Fixed assets</b>	<b>17,701</b>	<b>12,892</b>
Tangible fixed assets	17,701	12,892
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>908,150</b>	<b>815,123</b>

Liabilities	2021	2020
<b>Current liabilities</b>	<b>40,899</b>	<b>105,799</b>
Payables from goods and services	26,859	28,953
Accrued liabilities	14,040	76,846
<b>Long-term liabilities</b>	<b>34,175</b>	<b>105,799</b>
Fund project Burundi 2021–2023	34,175	0
<b>Organisational capital</b>	<b>833,076</b>	<b>709,324</b>
Free capital	429,324	422,249
Tied capital	400,000	280,000
Annual profit	3,753	7,075
<b>Total liabilities and equity</b>	<b>908,150</b>	<b>815,123</b>

# Commentary

The limited audit of the annual financial statements was conducted 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 2021, PeaceWomen Across the Globe reported a profit of 3,753 Swiss francs. **69% of our total expenditure directly benefits our projects – a great deal of work is also carried out on a voluntary basis.** Income has increased

thanks to stable partnerships with donors. This allows for the further development of peacebuilding projects and our global network of women peace activists.

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

## 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 – and because of this, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts! With your support, we can work together with our partners to ensure that women have a say in and help shape peace processes. In this way, women peace activists exchange knowledge within the network and women's peace work becomes visible.

We would like to thank the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (Peace and Human Rights Division and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), the Wyss Foundation and the CARITATIS, FOKUS FRAUEN and Corymbo Foundations for substantial institutional contributions. We would like to thank Bread for the World, the Protestant Women of Switzerland World Day of Prayer collection, the Roman Catholic Parish of Münsingen and the Reformed Churches of Nidwalden and Worb for their valued contributions.

# Your donation in good hands.

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