The International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) is a US-based non-profit organization whose mission is to elevate and amplify the voice and impact of women peacebuilders and their organizations promoting rights, peace and security in countries affected by violence, extremism and closing political space. We bring the word and spirit of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the related women, peace and security agenda to life.

We fulfill our mission through four approaches that cut across all of our programs:

**Access**

We globally connect locally rooted women’s peace organizations with the international policy arena. We provide them access to policymakers to demonstrate the added value of the gendered lens and offer strategic and pragmatic solutions to resolve conflicts and address violent extremism and militarism.

**Resources**

We provide access to financial resources and technical assistance. We also offer strategic advice and mentoring so that our partners can deepen and broaden the impact of their work across their communities.

**Connectivity**

ICAN provides a critical platform to foster communities of practice and thought leadership on existing and emerging issues of peace and security with a gendered lens and from the perspective of women peacebuilders. By virtue of having regular contact with our partners in over 30 countries, we are also able to receive critical early warning news, cutting edge analysis and insights from their frontline perspectives. We are able to convey this to policymakers in real time.

**Thought Leadership**

ICAN offers a unique perspective and nexus on many of the most pressing issues of our day. We draw on our rigorous analysis and dialogues with practitioners, academics, and policymakers to highlight new perspectives and broaden the existing discourses and practices on peacebuilding and preventing/countering violent extremism (P/CVE).
Our Programs

1. The Women’s Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL): The global alliance comprises some 60 locally rooted independent women-led organizations in over 30 countries. ICAN coordinates WASL members and partners by providing a platform for real-time outreach and information-sharing on a range of issues pertaining to P/CVE, inclusive and gendered mediation, and peacemaking. The annual ICAN “What the Women Say” Forum is our flagship event for partners to exchange ideas and strategies, as well as forge the collective identity and work of the alliance. As the WASL coordinator, ICAN engages with members on three levels simultaneously.

   - **Personal:** Given that our partners are working in difficult contexts, often at great personal risk, it is essential to provide solidarity and emotional support to each other when needed.
   - **Professional:** We provide them opportunities to demonstrate their expertise, as well as strengthen their skills and knowledge so they can deepen and broaden their own impact. We also provide opportunities for regional and peer-to-peer learning.
   - **Institutional:** For the sustainability of movement building, we provide institutional support to strengthen local organizations’ programming, management, financial capacities and help foster a new generation of local practitioners.

2. The Innovative Peace Fund (IPF): The IPF is a multi-donor fund that ICAN established to provide grants to WASL partners to undertake timely peace and P/CVE work in their communities. The guiding principle of the IPF is that we invest in trust and fund innovation. We value our partners’ deep local knowledge, trust their assessment of local needs, and invest in their judgment of what interventions will have the most impact. We maintain the highest standards of financial oversight and build their capacities too. In return, they trust us, as we offer strategic support and guidance so they can apply new approaches. The projects funded benefit from the advice and support of ICAN and other WASL members, but are fully owned and led by independent, locally rooted organizations.

   **IPF In Numbers (2015-2018)**
   - 21 countries
   - 77 grants
   - $2.1 million disbursed
   - $27,708 average grant size

In 13 years of working in this field, the partnership with ICAN has been the best we have experienced. IPF is truly a model for best practice implementation.”

- IPF grantee
3. The Better Peace Initiative (BPI): ICAN has pioneered the development and dissemination of practical guidance and tools on how to enable gendered and inclusive mediation and peace processes. We provide tailored trainings, mentoring, and strategic advice to international policymakers and nationally rooted women peace coalitions engaged in current peace processes. We use animations to share this knowledge. We also translate our materials as we believe that the right to knowledge is crucial for the empowerment and sustainability of women’s leadership and their participation in peace and mediation efforts.

4. Advocacy and Strategic Communications: ICAN has trusted relations with a number of governments, the UN, other multilateral organizations and international NGOs. This enables us to provide advocacy opportunities to our WASL members. In addition, together with the Norwegian government, we launched the Global Solutions Exchange (GSX) in 2016 as a platform for enabling systematic and structured engagement between our civil society partners and governmental and multilateral entities responsible for peace, security and P/CVE. GSX workshops allow us to delve into the most pressing and emerging security issues, with a focus on in-depth analysis and practical solutions and innovations that local actors have identified.

“ICAN has one agenda, and it is peace.”
- Sri Lankan woman peacebuilder
Interested in supporting ICAN?

Email info@icanpeacework.org

www.icanpeacework.org

ICAN brings together women who have worked with extremist groups and within very violent conflicts. I share and learn new strategies from them.”

- Ugandan woman peacebuilder