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The International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) is a US-based non-profit organization that promotes inclusive and sustainable peace in countries affected by violent conflict, extremism, militarism, and closing political space. Recognizing the gendered impact of conflict and the transformative role of women peacebuilders (WPBs), ICAN fulfills its mission through a dual strategy of:

- Shaping and influencing the peace and security policies of governments, multilateral organizations, and the wider international community by providing thought leadership, strategic advice, and gender-responsive analysis and operational guidance; and

- Sustaining and strengthening a global movement of innovative, locally rooted WPBs to have voice and influence wherever matters of peace, violent conflict, rights, and human security are determined.

ICAN brings the word and spirit of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the global Women, Peace and Security agenda to life.

**ICAN FULFILLS ITS MISSION THROUGH FOUR PROGRAMMING AREAS:**

- **The Women's Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL)** is a leading global alliance of independent women-led organizations and practitioners specializing in peacebuilding, countering and preventing violent conflict and militarism, and promoting peace, resilience, equal rights, and pluralism.

- **The Gender & Extremisms Program** provides research evidence, good practices, and guidance on integrating gendered analysis and drawing attention to the expertise of women peacebuilders in policymaking and programming related to preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE).

- **The Innovative Peace Fund (IPF)** is the only independent, global, multi-donor fund dedicated to financing and strengthening women-led peacebuilding and P/CVE organizations.

- **The Better Peace Initiative (BPI)** provides guidance, tools, and support to enable inclusive and gender-responsive mediation and peacemaking.

**WHO WE ARE**
HOW WE WORK

ICAN IMPLEMENTS THE FOLLOWING FIVE STRATEGIES ACROSS ALL OF ITS PROGRAMS:

INNOVATE & PROVIDE THOUGHT LEADERSHIP:
Given its position as a bridge between the international policy community and locally rooted women-led peacebuilding organizations across the world, as well as its expertise in gendered security and peace analysis, ICAN offers a unique perspective and nexus on many of the most pressing issues of our day. By offering fresh perspectives and creating and implementing new solutions, ICAN helps to define, broaden, and improve the discourse and practice of peace, the resolution of wars, and the prevention of violent extremism.

MOBILIZE & PROVIDE RESOURCES:
ICAN provides access to financial resources, as well as strategic advice, mentoring, and capacity-building development for its partners so their work can have broader and deeper impact in their communities.

ENABLE ACCESS & 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. Through regular contact with its partners, ICAN is also able to receive critical early warning news and cutting-edge analysis and insights from the frontlines, and helps ensure they are adapted into policy.

TELL THE STORIES:
Sharing the stories of its partners’ inspirational work is critical to raising awareness and generating wider understanding and support for WPBs. ICAN undertakes this through traditional and digital publication of articles, as well as audio-visual tools that are integrated into its policy outreach and disseminated across social media.

ICAN takes a holistic approach to the nature and practice of its partnerships by providing personal, professional, and institutional support. This helps strengthen the individuals involved and sets in place organizations and structures to enable more people to participate and deepen the bench with younger generations.

ICAN provides solidarity and emotional support to WASL members whose work is often undertaken at great personal risk.

Through the ICAN platform, WASL members are afforded opportunities to strengthen their skills, demonstrate their expertise, and broaden their impact with partners across other fellowship, funding, and award platforms.

Leveraging its knowledge and expertise, ICAN works to strengthen the programming, management, and fiscal sustainability of WASL’s member organizations, as well as provide strategic guidance for the next generation of peacebuilders and activists.
2019 seems like a distant memory since the coronavirus pandemic has enveloped our lives. It would be easy to reminisce, but it was a difficult year for many living through violence and conflict globally. Women peacebuilders (WPBs) witnessed a spike in the threats they received from both state and non-state forces. As advocates and strategists, we were still fighting to get the long-standing commitments of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda implemented on the ground where WPBs bear the brunt of responsibility to protect their communities from violence while also building peace.

Globally, two trends became evident. While more states and multilateral organizations became WPBs supporters, key members of the UN Security Council (UNSC) sought to erase long-standing commitments in the agenda. ICAN worked closely with allied states to contribute to two new UNSC resolutions led by Germany and South Africa. We succeeded in securing governmental obligations for the protection of WPBs and amplified calls for funding to women's peace organizations.

Within ICAN, 2019 was a year of reflection and consolidation. From the outset, ICAN had a dual goal of affecting policy changes and elevating women peacebuilders to inform and inspire the world in the pursuit of peace. I founded ICAN in 2005, five years after the Security Council’s adoption of the landmark Resolution 1325 on WPS, for which I had advocated. In those years I led in-depth research documenting how WPBs risk their own lives to find the humanity in others and foster peace to resolve intractable conflicts through dialogue rather than death and destruction. But in terms of implementing the agenda, I also saw the inertia and apathy plaguing the policy world.

ICAN is an alternative platform that enables WPBs to have more systemic engagement with the politicians, militas, diplomats, and technocrats making decisions about their lives. Experience has taught me when caught in a crisis it is essential to understand not just the negative but also the positive forces at play. When past practices or solutions no longer work, we have the responsibility to imagine and create new ones. WPBs who protect and care for their families are strategists, we were still fighting to get the long-standing commitments of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda implemented on the ground where WPBs bear the brunt of responsibility to protect their communities from violence while also building peace.

Insecure Women: The Gendered influences national and global policies. By 2019, this work had evolved into ICAN’s Gender and Extremisms program for WPBs involved in preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) that promotes collective learning and became the founding members of the Women’s Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL), ICAN’s global platform, and prompted the first ICAN forum in 2012. Many of the participants across Aceh, Colombia, Liberia, Israel-Palestine, Sri Lanka and Uganda, which culminated in the 2010 report, determined. Violence alone should not be the ticket to the talks. What The Women Say: Participation and UNSCR 1325, and prompted the first ICAN forum in 2012. Many of the participants became the founding members of the Women’s Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL), ICAN’s global platform for WPBs involved in preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) that promotes collective learning and influences national and global policies. By 2019, this work had evolved into ICAN’s Gender and Extremisms program and a flagship study co-published with the UN Development Program (UNDP), Invisible Women: The Gendered Dimensions of Return, Rehabilitation and Reintegration from Violent Extremism, which has been widely distributed and well-received.

ICAN’s Better Peace Initiative (BPI) addresses a second gap we identified—that WPBs need technical assistance to support their negotiating substantive issues such as ceasefire, disarmament, governance structures, and constitutional matters that arise in peace processes. The BPI produces practical guidance and tools on gender responsiveness and how to ensure the inclusion of WPBs in peace processes. In 2019, from Afghanistan to Ukraine to Cameroon, our advice, tools, and guidance informed not only WPBs but also diplomats.

The 2010 study also revealed how women’s peacebuilding organizations were falling between the cracks in terms of access to resources. Funds that supported women’s rights did not fund peacebuilding, and the peace and security sector was not recognizing women-led peace work. As for international or bilateral donors, their administrative demands were too high for WPBs.

Having piloted local grantmaking since 2008, we became motivated to establish a structured funding mechanism. Thus our fourth program, the Innovative Peace Fund (IPF), evolved. In 2019, the IPF not only channelled resources to partners but also provided them with strategic, fiscal, and evaluative guidance that in turn enabled many to leverage additional support.

2019 was a productive year thanks to my dedicated, professional team and board. We were pleased to welcome Ambassador Gina Abercrombie Winstanley to our Board of Directors. In March, I had the honor of speaking about Women and Violent Extremism at the annual UN Friends of PVE ambassadorial meeting with UN Secretary General António Guterres. In November we were delighted to welcome HRH The Countess of Wessex and Norway’s Foreign Minister, H.E. Ine Marie Eriksen Søreide, to our 2019 Annual Forum.

Despite the global challenges of 2019, we ended the year on a healthy footing institutionally and financially. Our dual strategy of strengthening our partners locally while sustaining our peace and security analysis and global policy work has been particularly effective as we encountered the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The solidarity and financial support we provide our WASL members helps them serve their communities and mitigate the effects of violent conflict, and now the pandemic. Our dialogue with governments, the UN and other policy institutions continues to inform their efforts to ensure gender- and conflict-sensitive responses to tackling the crisis. These are uncertain times, but I am grateful to ICAN’s team, board, and WASL and government partners for their trust in our commitment to making peace, human security, resilience, equality, and pluralism a reality. By changing the present, we change the future.

Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE Founder and CEO
“ICAN always looks for the potential and builds upon it.
I remember in 2010, ICAN trusted me to lead the What the Women Say study on UNSCR 1325 in Liberia.
You never asked about my educational qualifications. Rather, you supported me all through the study.
We completed and launched it in the US. The study raised my profile and, as a result, I got many more opportunities to lead studies.”

cerue konah garlo
Senior Gender Specialist
Coordinator of the Carter Center’s Women and Access to Information Efforts in Liberia
2019 KEY HIGHLIGHTS

COPENHAGEN
Program Director Melinda Holmes addresses Danish Parliament on GBV in War and Conflict.

OSLO
ICAN and UNDP launch Invisible Women: Gendered Dimensions of Return, Rehabilitation and Reintegration alongside Norway’s 2019-2022 NAP on WPS.

BERLIN
Program Director France Bognon chairs working group on the WPS agenda and civil society initiatives at German Federal Foreign Office convening.

DOUALA
WASL member Hamatu Allamin (Nigeria), France Bognon and Melinda Holmes join the Commonwealth Secretariat’s CVE Unit to train WPBs in Cameroon.

BERLIN
ICAN partners with the German Foreign Office; the Center for Feminist Foreign Policy; and WASL members from Afghanistan, Colombia, and Syria on a WPB workshop, The Missing Ingredient: Women Peacebuilders as Critical Allies in Strengthening a Fragile Peace.

SRI LANKA
Sanam Naraghi Anderlini meets with communities and key government and diplomatic personnel.

KHARTOUM
Sanam Naraghi Anderlini accompanies ICAN’s gender-responsive and inclusive mediation work at the 4th Conferenc World Mediation Forum.

CAUX
ICAN and WASL members facilitate Towards An Inclusive Peace Forum, a workshop on the protection of peacebuilders.

ABUJA
Helena Gronberg and France Bognon conduct Training on Gendered and Inclusive Mediation for the Nigerian Women Mediators Network, with WILPF-Nigeria.

GENEVA
France Bognon partners with the International Service for Human Rights at the Human Rights Council’s 34th Session of the Universal Periodic Review to present recommendations on women’s rights and protection.

AMMAN
Helena Gronberg presents ICAN’s approach to coalition building at From Roadblocks to Roadmaps: Together to Strengthen Women’s Political Participation.

BEIRUT
Founder and CEO Sanam Naraghi Anderlini convenes an advisory meeting with Norway’s ambassadors to Arab states on the implementation of their WPS NAP.

NEW YORK (UN HQ)
WASL members Halima Mohammed (Kenya), Sabrina Moussal-Balch (Trinidad & Tobago), and Mira Kusumarni (Indonesia) are featured participants with UNDP at Advancing a Holistic and Gendered Approach to Return, Rehabilitation and Reintegration from Violent Extremism.

BEIRUT
Melinda Holmes participates in British Council workshop on Lebanon’s national P/CVE strategy.

NEW YORK
ICAN and the Permanent Missions to the UN of Canada, the UK, Norway, and South Africa host The Better Peace Symposium II.

BEIRUT
Melinda Holmes addresses UN Women workshop on gender-sensitive P/CVE programming.

LONDON

BERLIN
Program Director France Bognon chairs working group on the WPW agenda and civil society initiatives at German Federal Foreign Office convening.

TUNIS
ICAN partners with UN Women, UNDP and NGOs at Forum on Gender Equality to lead WPW discussions with WASL members from around the world.

ROME
ICAN senior leadership train the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network on inclusive and gendered mediation.

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“Extremist movements... know women are key conduits for conveying values into their families and communities. ... They are also pivotal to sustaining the movements, from cooking and providing sex to supporting logistics; acting as recruiters, financiers, and protectors; and producing children to enable the longevity of the movements.

These movements have realized that if they tap into women’s aspirations and grievances..., they can get women of all ages, but especially the young, to join.

In other words, they are co-opting and exploiting the women’s empowerment agenda.

It is an uncomfortable truth to say that while globally we are good with the rhetoric of equality and empowerment, we have not delivered sufficiently. These movements are actually delivering results to many women and girls who are truly invisible in the eyes of their societies and states.

And precisely because they understand women’s potential power and influence, these groups are also focused on silencing, [and] if necessary killing, women’s rights and peace activists who speak out against them.”

Excerpt from Keynote Remarks by Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE
March 2019 Annual Friends of PVE meeting with UN Secretary General Guterres

In March 2019, ICAN Founder and CEO Sanam Naraghi Anderlini and WASL member Halima Mohamed, Executive Director of Coast Education Center, Kenya, were the keynote and featured speakers, respectively, alongside UN Secretary General António Guterres at the Group of Friends for Preventing Violent Extremism meeting. A key convening in the UN’s WPS Agenda, the annual event was organized by the Governments of Norway and Jordan and attended by more than 20 Permanent Representatives to the United Nations.

“My community, my country - like many others - has challenges with resolving violent extremism. But we also have the solutions and commitment – because those affected are our family members, neighbors, our own friends and communities.”

Halima Mohamed
Executive Director
Coast Education Center, Kenya
Women’s rights activists are the longest standing, socially rooted, transnational groups mobilizing for peace, countering rising extremism, and providing an alternative vision for the future.

WASL Founding Statement

“In times of crisis and celebration alike, the solidarity and support from WASL feels like an embrace that wraps around the entire globe.”

Melinda Holmes
WASL Program Director

Between 2012 and 2014, ICAN convened annual meetings of women peacebuilders from across the world and consulted existing women’s networks and peacebuilding organizations to assess the benefit of creating a new global alliance.

Its decision to spearhead the Women’s Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL) in 2015 as the first global women’s network to embrace women’s leadership in addressing violent extremism and promoting peace, resilience, equal rights, and pluralism (PREP) was a result of the trust and consensus of ICAN’S civil society partners and governmental supporters, most notably the Royal Norwegian Government.
In the five years since its launch, the alliance has grown into a global community of WPBs and women-led organizations that are addressing extremism and advocating for peace, pluralism, and rights in communities affected by violence.

ICAN’s strategy is to strengthen its WASL members’ connections horizontally across countries, vertically to policy spaces, and diagonally with the media, academia, religious leaders and other sectors that influence peace and security nationally and internationally.
“Sisterhood needs to be earned. In the WASL family we have tried very hard to earn your love, respect, and friendship. Why? Because we care for each other. We understand each other’s pain.”

Senator Mobina Jaffer
QC and Chair, ICAN Board

“It gives me great pleasure to call myself a founding member of WASL, an entity which grew beyond our imaginations and is today a global platform for women peacebuilders to share and learn, a safe space filled with sisterhood and solidarity.”

Visaka Dharmadasa
Founder and Chair of Association of War Affected Women (AWAW) Sri Lanka

“WASL is a United Nations of women peacebuilders. Women who have worked 24/7 to manage and resolve crisis and conflict in their local communities but have rarely been heard by international decision makers or in the corridors of power. WASL connects us like a rosary of beads, diverse but coming together unified, strong, and with one voice, fighting for a world free of discrimination and intolerances based on social, economic, religious, political, and ethnic differences. Being in WASL is also about a sense of sisterhood, of feeling and love and being present in real time, for each other around the world.”

Mossarat Qadeem
Executive Director of Paiman Alumni Trust
AMMAN
The Youth Leadership Development Foundation (Yemen), convenes an Arab region learning and exchange workshop, From Roadblocks to Roadmaps: Together to Strengthen Women’s Political Participation.

CAIRO
Dr. Khaleda Arfaoui, Founder of the Dali and Senda Association for Peace (Tunisia), participates in Promoting Women’s Roles in Post-Conflict Societies in the Arab Region, a high-level ministerial conference convened by LAS and UNDP, in cooperation with the EU.

NAIROBI
Sureya Roble, Executive Director of Advocacy for Women in Peace & Security – Africa (Kenya) contributes to UN Sanctions and Gender Issues, an expert meeting convened by the Government of Canada.

DOUALA
ICAN and UNDP present the report Invisible Women at an event hosted by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Hamsatu Allamin, Founder of Allamin Foundation for Peace and Development (Nigeria), Melinda Holmes and UNDP participate in local media interviews.

GAZIANTEP
Two Turkey-based Syrian organizations provide MHPSS training (with IPF support) for staff members to be able to conduct psychosocial training and community awareness-raising activities.

ADDIS ABABA
Robinah Rubimbwa, Coordinator the Coalition for Action on 1325 (Uganda), and Visalak Dharmadasa, Founder of the Association of War Affected Women (Sri Lanka) speak on building partnerships with local community groups, women’s advocacy groups and other stakeholders at WP’s experts meeting ahead of UN Peacekeeping Ministerial.

AWARD
Dr. Amel Grami, Professor of Gender, Security, and Religion at Mannouba University (Tunisia), is the recipient of an award presented by the Tunisian General Labor Union and L’Association des Femmes Tunisiennes pour la Recherche sur le Développement.

KABUL
The Afghan Women’s Network (Afghanistan), publishes a six-point agenda based on views and opinions of Afghan women for the Moscow peace talks.

ABU DHABI
Cherifa Kheddar, President of the Djaazairouna Association of Families of Victims of Islamist Terrorism (Algeria), participates in Empowering Youth and Promoting Tolerance: Practical Approaches to Preventing Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism, a joint UN – UAE Regional Conference for Arab League Countries.

SRI LANKA
The Asian Muslim Action Network issues We Stand Together for Religious Harmony and Tolerance, a policy statement in response to the 2019 Easter attacks.

AWARD
Zarqa Yaftal, Director of the Women & Children Legal Research Foundation (Afghanistan), Dr. Amina Rasul-Bernardo, Co-Founder of the Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy, and May Sabe Phyu, Kachin activist and Director of the Gender Equality Network (Myanmar) receive UNDP’s 2019 N-Peace Award. Salma Yusuf (Sri Lanka) and Bushra Qadeem Hyder (Pakistan) are also nominated.
**THE AMERICAS**

**NEW YORK**
Fatima Al Bahadly, Director of the Al-Firdaws Society (Iraq) presents her work on deradicalization, peacebuilding, and conflict resolution at the International Peace Institute’s policy forum, Mobilizing Men as Partners for Women, Peace and Security, and at a side event to the Commission on the Status of Women, co-convened by ICAN and the Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice.

Muna Luqman, Chairperson of Food4Humanity (Yemen) briefs the UNSC and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, calling for an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire, the restoration of the government, and the inclusion of at least 50% women in all negotiating parties.

**ATLANTA**
Senator Hafida Benchehida, mediator and former Algerian MP; Hind Turki, representative of the Libyan Women’s Forum; Rajaa Altalli, Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Center for Civil Society and Democracy in Syria and Turkey; Reda Eldanbouki, Director of the Women’s Center for Guidance and Legal Awareness in Egypt; Muna Luqman, Chairperson of Food4Humanity (Yemen); and Melinda Holmes attend the Carter Center’s 12th Human Rights Defenders Forum, Building Solidarity Toward Equality For All.

**WASHINGTON DC**
Fatima Al Bahadly (Iraq) meets with members of Congress, the State Department, and the World Bank, as well as the Norwegian and Canadian Ambassadors to the United States, to discuss her work in Basra and the need for renewed support for civilians in Southern Iraq.

**AWARD**
Rosa Emilia Salamanca, Executive Director of Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica (Colombia) is the recipient of the Wilton Park & Marsh Christian Trust’s 2019 Marsh Award for Peacemaking and Peacekeeping.

**EUROPE**

**LONDON**
Visaka Dharmadasa (Sri Lanka), Mossarat Qadeem, Co-Founder of PAIMAN Alumni Trust (Pakistan), and Sanam Naraghi Anderlini celebrate International Women’s Day at a reception at Buckingham Palace hosted by HRH The Countess of Wessex.

**WILTON PARK**
Nancy Yammout, Co-Founder and President of Rescue Me Association for Rehabilitation of Detainees (Lebanon), presents on the rehabilitation and reintegration of citizens at Developing a Shared Approach to Families of Daesh Fighters in North-East Syria, an experts meeting convened by UK FCO.

**OSLO**
May Sabe Phyu and Surood Ahmad, Al-Amal Association (Iraq), participate in Ending Sexual & Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Crises, a conference hosted by the Governments of Norway, Iraq, Somalia, and the UAE in collaboration with the UN, OCHA, UNFPA, ICRC and other multilateral partners.

**OPEN ASIA / Armanshahr (Afghanistan) and the Justice, Human Rights & Gender Civil Association (Mexico) convene a workshop on transitional justice alongside ICAN’s annual forum to exchange knowledge and assess the need for capacity building, technical support, and gender inclusion, as well as redress for SGBV in conflict and transitional settings.

**MADRID**
Hamsatu Allamin, Mossarat Qadeem, and Sanam Naraghi Anderlini participate in the Women and Peace panel during the Peace With No Borders conference hosted by the Comunidad de Sant’Egidio, marking the first time the annual event included a focus on the role of women in peacebuilding during its annual event.

**AWARD**
Ahlem Naisraoui, Founder and President of Young Leaders Entrepreneurs (Tunisia), is honored as a 2019 Aspen Ideas Festival Fellow.

Bushra Qadeem Hyder, Founder and Director of Qadims Lumiere School & College (Pakistan), is honored in New York by the Global Hope Coalition as a 2019 Global Hope Hero.
“The Better Peace Initiative pushes boundaries to enable women peacebuilders’ expertise, trust, and deep knowledge of their communities to reach the echelons of power.”

Helena Gronberg
BPI Program Director

Today’s wars and conflicts are more complex than those of the past. While it is necessary to have both state and non-state armed actors involved in negotiating peace, to prevent or resolve them effectively, it is imperative to include peace actors, civilians, and women in the peace process.

With knowledge of on-the-ground realities, peace actors are active in every aspect of peacebuilding, from providing relief to refugees and mediating local ceasefires to negotiating agreements, countering violent extremism, disarming fighters and helping with reconciliation. Yet their know-how and commitment is still absent from peace processes.

For over two decades, ICAN’s leadership team, staff, and partners have been thought leaders and pioneers in the practice of inclusive and gender-sensitive mediation and peacemaking. Since establishing its Better Peace Initiative (BPI), ICAN has been able to share its knowledge and practical experience with a wide community of policymakers, mediators, and peace practitioners.

Specifically, the BPI offers advisory services that include gendered conflict and peace situation analyses and process design, innovative multi-media and multi-lingual tools, and rapid response grants to women-led peace coalitions to enable their participation in peace processes.

THE BETTER PEACE INITIATIVE (BPI)
During 2019, ICAN continued to develop and translate the BPT’s sought-after guidance materials, including a new animation on gendered ceasefires and two new 10-Step Guides. The BPT simultaneously responded to real-time requests from WASL members to provide strategic advice to WPBs engaged in negotiations in Afghanistan, Cameroon, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

Throughout the year, ICAN also delivered adaptations of its certificate course trainings on gender-responsive and -inclusive mediation to a variety of stakeholders, including the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network and the Nigerian Women Mediators’ Network. Using thematic modules and practice simulations, the sessions enabled participants to apply a gendered perspective in negotiations on issues such as ceasefires, transitional justice, and natural resource conflicts.

ICAN’s senior leadership and WASL members used and showcased BPI materials at various named trainings and seminars, including the Xth Conference World Mediation Forum in Luxembourg in July (organized by the Université du Luxembourg and Université de Montréal), and the Better Peace Symposium II, in New York in May.

ICAN’s Better Peace Tool (BPT) offers practical guidance on why inclusivity matters and how to implement it practically by drawing on lessons and precedents from past peace processes.

In addition to being integral to the UN’s annual High-Level Seminar on Gender & Inclusive Mediation, the BPT provides multilateral organizations, as well as national and international peacebuilding NGOs and negotiating parties, with advice and sample criteria on how to identify and include women and other civil society peacebuilding organizations committed to the resolution of conflict through political and non-violent processes.

“ICAN is one of the few organizations from which I have learned action-oriented steps on Women, Peace and Security, rather than theory and policies.”

— Hannah Skeoch
First Secretary, Canadian Embassy
Kabul, Afghanistan
ICAN’s four-part framework guides users on how to integrate gender perspectives and effectively include WPBs in peace and security processes, as well as informs the thematic BPI animations, 10-Step Guides, and trainings.

**Concept, Context & Purpose**
- What is the issue being addressed?
- What are the changes needed?
- How are men/women affected?
- How do WPB articulate and envision the issues?

**Technical Support**
- Ensuring gender expertise among political, security officers in the mediation team
- Providing WPBs adequate access to thematic expertise and resources

**Political Actions**
- Ensuring WPBs recognition as peace actors in formal processes
- Committed to inclusive mediation design
- Holding mediators accountable for gender responsiveness & inclusion of WPBs

**Financial and Logistical Support**
- Provide resources to WPBs to prepare and engage in peace processes
- Support visa, travel and accommodation needs to venues where negotiations held
- Ensure the security and protection of WPBs

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**PREPARING FOR TALKS, DURING NEGOTIATIONS, IMPLEMENTATION PHASE**
ICAN’s short animations, which have been translated into multiple languages and distributed across the regions where WASL members are active, break down complex issues addressed in peace talks, explore them from a gendered perspective, and provide concrete steps to enable more inclusive processes that reflect realities on the ground.

In 2019 ICAN launched the animation, Gender Responsive and Inclusive Ceasefires: Why it matters, how to do it.

Women peacebuilders can enable and inform ceasefire negotiations based on their knowledge of communities and ability to access or talk to warring groups.

“The videos that ICAN makes are very important for us because the language is very simple, particularly for marginalized women. For this reason, it reached their minds and hearts, especially the images in the videos, which are very close to our reality. Women who saw the videos requested repeat screenings so they could bring their daughters.”

Najlaa Al-Sheekh
Kareemat Organization, Syria,
WASL member

ICAN’s 10-Step Guides are short, easy-access advocacy documents intended for use by diplomats, governments, and local peacebuilders to promote inclusive and gender-responsive peacemaking.

In 2019, ICAN produced several new guides, including 10 Steps to Ensure Gender Responsive Processes & Ceasefire Agreements (English, Arabic, French, Spanish, Farsi/Persian) and 10 Steps to Increase Women’s Participation in Peacekeeping and Reduce Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (English, French).

The 10-Step Guide on Gendered Ceasefires has been a crucial tool in our quest for women and civil society inclusion in Yemen. The UN, governments, and international organizations facilitating local, national, and regional ceasefire negotiations should utilize this tool as it puts the women, peace and security agenda into an actionable framework.

Muna Luqman
Chairperson, Food4Humanity
WASL member
Despite a growing momentum of support for women’s participation and gender responsiveness in peace processes, they are still marginalized once accords are signed and the transition period begins.

Additionally, while post-conflict states in transition rarely have the capacity to provide the services needed for a functioning society, they can fuel mistrust if they do not address people’s needs, and the vacuum left can be filled by militant actors. Civil society organizations (CSOs) are good partners for peacebuilding and addressing community needs. Moreover an independent and vibrant civil society is itself a key pillar for ensuring good governance and proactively addressing and mitigating new and potential crises. But international post-conflict processes exclude support to CSOs, particularly women’s organizations.

ICAN partnered with the UN Permanent Missions of Canada, the United Kingdom, Norway and South Africa to host a two-day high-level meeting focused on the gender-responsive implementation of peace agreements and the opportunities and risks that WPB face.

WPBs need to be recognized, supported and protected for the unique work they do and the risks they encounter. This includes:

- **Political and legal** protection, and inclusion of WPBs in international laws that protect human rights defenders.
- **Physical and psychological** protection including risk assessments and the development of contingency safety plans.
- **Public and social** recognition of WPBs through the media and among other influential socio-cultural forces, including religious leaders.
- **Financial** sustainability, such as direct, flexible grants to women’s peacebuilding CSOs.

The symposium outcomes formed the basis of WASL’s #SheBuildsPeace “Stand with Women Peacebuilders” call to action to mark 20 years of UNSCR 1325.
Today’s violent extremist movements co-opt and warp issues of ethnicity, race, religion and gender to elevate one group and divide societies. This makes them a uniquely modern force. ... [Doing] so in an age when most societies, communities and even individuals are diverse and pluralistic in nature further increases the threats they pose to the social cohesion and domestic peace architecture of countries globally.

Identity-based violent extremism movements have evolved from the fringes of society into the mainstream, from white supremacists in Europe and North America to movements such as Boko Haram and ISIS/Daesh and Hindu nationalists. Though they may look different from one place to the next, they are very similar in the way they pick on visceral identities like faith, race, or ethno-nationalism and try to claim that one identity is superior to others.

For some, the normalization of intolerance and dehumanization of others justifies violence. At a time when most societies are pluralistic, and individuals have “fusion” identities based on migration, mixed parentage, and sexual and gender orientations, movements that focus on a single “superior” identity divide communities and pose a serious threat to social cohesion.

So, what does this have to do with women? These movements all promote hyper-masculinity—women are meant to be subservient to men—much of which is laced with violence. At the same time, extremists understand the value and power of women to care for them and bear children to keep the movements alive.

They know women can influence their children and families by teaching values and ideals. In addition, they use women to raise money and transport weapons, as well as human bombs and shields.

Extremists often recruit women by tapping into their aspirations by promising them respect, belonging, purpose, income, and education. While many women are drawn to the promise of equality and empowerment and follow their husbands into the movements, others become ardent believers, justifying the violence and the subjugation of other women.

Women’s human rights defenders and peacebuilders are often the first to notice signs of growing radicalization. Many WASL members have pioneered effective P/CVE, often by offering positive alternatives to those most vulnerable to the lure of these movements.
ICAN’s Gender & Extremisms program demonstrates the importance of integrating gender analysis into policies and programs specific to P/CVE, including:

- Research and analysis
- Thought leadership and policy briefings
- Trainings and program planning
- Documenting and sharing good practices
- Peer-to-peer learning for WASL members
- Highlighting the successful work of WASL members through their participation in international policy spaces and media exposure

Throughout the year, ICAN convened multiple training workshops for international actors and supported the development of gendered national PVE action plans. Our team and WASL members advised and engaged with the UN and other multilateral organizations, including the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF), the British Council in Lebanon, and the Commonwealth Secretariat in Cameroon. ICAN became widely recognized as the go-to organization for integrating gender analysis and responsiveness into P/CVE programming.

ICAN also partnered with UNESCO to showcase and provide practical guidance on the relevance of gender perspectives to their Global Citizenship and PVE resources for educators.

ICAN’s 2017 reports and recommendations regarding the importance of community policing and reforming economic and education policies to mitigate the spread of violent extremism and militarism were prescient and remained relevant not only to the 2019 global policy discussions but also to those in 2020 surrounding the impact of COVID-19.

Released in January 2019 in tandem with the Norwegian National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, the ICAN-UNDP report Invisible Women: The Gendered Dimensions of Reintegration and Rehabilitation from Violence Extremism quickly became recognized as a seminal work. The report’s findings and operational guidance continue to be disseminated and utilized by a range of stakeholders globally.

ICAN also partnered with the Prevention Project, UNDP and the UK government to produce Two Sides of the Same Coin, an analysis of the intersection of the global PVE, WPS, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) agendas. The report was released in time for the 2019 High Level UN General Assembly meetings. It provides recommendations on breaking the siloes and reducing the politicization of these global agendas to bring the urgent and necessary positive impact of both on the ground in fragile contexts.

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The challenges associated with the return, rehabilitation and reintegration of men, women, and children associated with violent extremist movements kept the P/CVE agenda at the forefront of global peace and security discussions and practices.

To better understand and address the complexities of dealing with returnees, ICAN partnered with the UN Development Program (UNDP) to produce *Invisible Women*, a comprehensive report that maps the gendered dimensions of return, rehabilitation, and reintegration from violent extremism, and establishes evidence-based best practices to address the challenges.

Recognizing that women and girls are often both the victims and perpetrators of such movements, the report explores the gender dynamics that are evident in every context. These range from the stigma that returnees face to their psychosocial, health, and economic needs and the ongoing risks they potentially pose to their families and communities.

The report also details the gaps in legal and judicial systems around the world and the role of the media and community actors—including families, tribal and religious elders, and women’s organizations—in addressing community fears and anger, ensuring safety from additional attacks, and rebuilding trust and social cohesion.

The report offers practical guidance for state and civil society organizations to coordinate the difficult work of assessing risk while leveraging their comparative advantages in deradicalizing, rehabilitating, and reintegrating returnees.


ICAN disseminated the report globally throughout the year, with translations in Arabic for the Tunis Forum for Gender Equality, as well as Albanian, by WASL member Rudina Colaku, Founder of the Women’s Center for Development and Culture (Albania).

Additionally, ICAN team members participated alongside the Commonwealth Secretariat, the OSCE, the Max Planck Institute and the British Council to share the report’s findings in Cameroon, Austria, Germany, and Lebanon.

“Invisible Women is a vast, in-depth and thought-provoking resource on the challenges and complexities of rehabilitating and reintegration women, as they have also been victims of violence and conflict.”

Fionnuala D. Ní Aoláin
UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism

“Having shared Invisible Women with my networks, including civil society and the university where I teach, the report has proved especially helpful when discussing best practices and what other countries are doing in comparison, as well as on the policy side as we lobby for implementation of the one-third gender rule, which aims to have more women in decision-making positions on matters of peace and security.”

Sureya Roble
Executive Director, Advocacy for Women in Peace and Security Africa Founder and Vice Chair, Sisters Without Borders
“The holistic support provided through the IPF enables local women-led organizations in conflict settings to use their agency and creativity to develop and determine their own solutions and interventions that are responsive to the true needs of their communities. The IPF recognizes that our partners’ positions as trusted community members and leaders with local knowledge make them uniquely able to foster and sustain positive peace.”

France Bagnon
Program Director, Innovative Peace Fund

Established to address the persistent funding gaps and related political, logistical, and programmatic obstacles faced by women peacebuilders around the world, ICAN’s Innovative Peace Fund (IPF) is the first and only independent, multi-donor, global grantmaking mechanism wholly dedicated to providing financial support and technical assistance to women-led peacebuilding organizations in countries affected by violent conflict, extremism, and militarism.

Through the IPF, ICAN enables local actors to determine the priorities and design solutions that are best suited to foster peace in their communities rather than be donor-driven. This ensures its WASL members have access to funds in a timely and safe manner. It also reduces the prohibitive application and financial reporting procedures for grantees while offering a solution to donors that are unable to oversee small and medium-sized grants.

While there is no annual tracking of the funding allocated to women’s peacebuilding organizations in fragile and conflict states, recent relevant statistics from the OECD (2012-2013) states, “women’s equality organizations and institutions in fragile states received USD 130 million, which represents 1% of gender equality focused aid to fragile states and economies.”

To date, there is no annually disaggregated data for women’s peacebuilding work, though the absence of tracking the paucity of funds is consistent with reports from local peacebuilders who consistently report that a lack of funds and resources remains the biggest challenge to sustaining peace.

2Connecting the Views of Local Peacebuilders on Sustaining Peace, International Peace Institute, 2017
When designing the IPF, ICAN consulted its WASL members to determine the type of work the fund would support, with particular consideration given to women-led initiatives that are not traditionally recognized or supported. They identified the following four thematic, interrelated women-led peace and security activities:

1. **Deradicalization of Fighters**
   - Deradicalization, rehabilitation and reintegration of fighters/militias, including women and girls.

2. **Positive Peace**
   - Promoting peace, security, resilience, equal rights, and pluralism to prevent the spread of extremism and militarism.

3. **Women Shaping Peace & Security Policies**
   - Increasing women’s representation and gender sensitivity in peace & security policy processes (peace negotiations, security sector reform, etc.)

4. **Conflict Related Sexual & Gender-based Violence**
   - Addressing violence against women and girls as related to conflict and violent extremism.

**THE NEXUS OF THE WPS AND PVE AGENDAS**

**WOMEN AS LEADERS AND AGENTS OF CHANGE IN:**

- Addressing violence against women and girls as related to conflict and violent extremism.
- Increasing women’s representation and gender sensitivity in peace & security policy processes (peace negotiations, security sector reform, etc.).
- Deradicalization, rehabilitation and reintegration of fighters/militias, including women and girls.
- Promoting peace, security, resilience, equal rights, and pluralism to prevent the spread of extremism and militarism.

**WHAT DOES THE IPF SUPPORT?**

ICAN’s foundational principal of Investing in Trust is central to the IPF’s approach of investing in interventions that will have the greatest impact. ICAN values its partners’ wisdom and judgment to assess the needs in their communities and offer solutions that will have the greatest impact and recognizes their access and standing in their communities as an invaluable asset. Integral to this principle of trust is allowing the partners the flexibility to adapt to changing contexts and adjust their programs as needed, while sustaining a focus on peacebuilding and the promotion of equality and human security.

Since its launch in 2015, the Innovative Peace Fund has awarded more than US $3 Million to 49 partner organizations around the world. An additional US $1.4 million from the 2019-2020 funding cycle is projected to be awarded during 2020.

**IPF IN NUMBERS (2015-2020)**

- **24 COUNTRIES**
- **102 GRANTS**
- **US $3 MILLION DISBURSED**
- **US $27,708 AVERAGE GRANT SIZE**

**IPF GRANTS AWARDED (2015-2020)**

- **$2,400,000**
- **$1,800,000**
- **$1,200,000**
- **$600,000**

- **2015-2016**
- **2017-2018**
- **2019-2020 (projections)**

**INVESTING IN WOMEN**

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Since its launch in 2015, the Innovative Peace Fund has awarded more than US $3 Million to 49 partner organizations around the world. An additional US $1.4 million from the 2019-2020 funding cycle is projected to be awarded during 2020.
"The issue is not just how much money is provided; it is about the quality of the partnerships. If you empower people from the field and listen to them and support them, so much gets done."

IPF Grantee

The IPF team provides one-on-one assistance to grantees including:

- Strategic guidance for innovations in project design,
- Financial management,
- Monitoring and evaluation, and
- Ongoing advisory and referral support.

The fund also offers regional trainings to enable peer-to-peer learning across their peacebuilding programs.

The success of the IPF model is evident with respect to:

1. Our partners’ ability to deepen their reach, impact, and trust across their communities;
2. Their ability to incubate and seed new community initiatives and foster national networks; and
3. Their increased recognition and access to additional funding from national and international donors, including foundations, governments, and intergovernmental organizations that otherwise would not have known about or been comfortable funding small, locally rooted organizations.
In 2019, we changed the lives of 130 of these women and girls, giving them a sense of belonging, healing them of their psychological distress and trauma, and helping their communities understand and be empathetic. Today, five are enrolled in school, and nine have been successfully integrated back into society and are married to men of their choice. Many others are engaged in livelihood ventures that give them hope and alternative visions. They tell us, ‘We have made more than four times the money you gave us....other women in the camps now admire us ... I have enrolled my baby in school’.

Having created social networks and platforms for these women to speak, and amplified their voices and plights across national and international radio broadcasts, we have helped these women and girls to become leaders, and started a cycle of them supporting new arrivals to manage their traumas.”

“Nothing gladdens us more than our network of survivors of the extremist abductions—the innocent women and girls taken away from their families and forced into marriage, kept in sex colonies or turned into sex slaves, who have lost everything and have been rejected and stigmatized and were living in anger and frustration without any hope or aspirations.

The Initiative:
The Allamin Foundation, Nigeria
IPF’s Framework:
Conflict Related Sexual & Gender-based Violence
Deradicalization of Fighters
Grant Size:
US$25,000
Implementation Period:
November 2018 – January 2019

BACKGROUND:
In response to the humanitarian and social crisis in northeastern Nigeria that resulted from the Boko Haram-led insurgency, the IPF provided support to Hamsatu Allamin while she was working with the Federation of Muslim Women’s Associations in Nigeria (FOMWAN). As a direct result of the IPF’s support, Hamsatu formed the Allamin Foundation, and has since increased its capacities to be eligible to receive additional funding from external organizations, such as the Open Society Institute (OSI) and Amnesty International.

What began with an instructional handbook on how to engage women returnees quickly evolved into support for multiple social networks for survivors of sex trafficking and forced marriages, as well as for women living in IDP camps who were associated with or married to insurgents, enabling them to come together to share their stories and raise awareness about the issues.

In 2019, the Foundation’s work culminated in the awarding of small grants to thirty women survivors of sex trafficking or forced marriages to enable them to start businesses of their own and build the capacity needed to become financially independent.

IMPACT:
Allamin’s program directly empowered thirty survivors of sex trafficking or forced marriage in four different IDP camps throughout Nigeria, created a safe space for a number of other survivors to come forward to declare their status, and catalyzed a movement of still more survivors who were eager to join the Foundation’s social networks.

Many of the women who disassociated themselves from extremism, as well as those who fled from forced marriage or sex trafficking, were able to receive medical treatment, information, and resources to help recover and reintegrate back into society. Working directly with the host communities, Allamin was also able to raise awareness to help others understand the horrific experiences of the survivors.

Many of these women have not only been welcomed back by their communities; some have even gone on to start small businesses of their own—a first step toward economic empowerment and independence. More recently, Allamin held a dozen weekly radio programs to discuss their work and educate the public about the survivors. As a result, individuals who may have previously condemned and excommunicated these women are now calling into the radio station to show their support.
BACKGROUND:
Established in 2009 by WASL member Halima Mohammed, the Coast Education Centre (COEC) is a Kenyan non-governmental organization that focuses on mobilizing women against violent extremism. Recognizing that women are often the first to observe early warning signs at home, COEC initially began educating them with the knowledge and skills to intervene.

In 2016, the organization created a Rapid Counselling Unit, which offered women psychosocial support and guidance on trauma healing and linked them to financial institutions for economic support.

When the Government of Kenya launched its national CVE strategy in September 2016, which largely ignored the gendered impacts of violent extremism and the contributions of women to CVE, COEC mobilized regional consultations with 100 women across six coastal counties to address the gaps in the government’s strategy.

With support from the IPF, COEC created the Coast Women’s CVE Charter, which it presented to the Government of Kenya in October 2018 with the following recommendations:

- Establish psychosocial support centers at the county level
- Incorporate gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation of CVE policy and programs to enhance efficacy through adaptation of the Charter
- Work with bilateral and multilateral partners and make funding available for women-led organizations

In 2019, COEC hosted the first ever Coast Women CVE Conference, bringing together women and civil society members with government representatives from six coastal counties to discuss the gendered implications of PVE in Kenya and women’s leadership roles in promoting sustainable “peace.”

IMPACT:
By 2019, COEC had 1,645 direct and 5,000 indirect beneficiaries of its CVE outreach work. In terms of policy, the Government of Kenya accepted COEC’s recommendation to introduce partnership and coordination between civil society organizations, relevant ministries, and county governments on matters of security and human rights.

More recently, the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) announced its intention to amend Kenya’s national strategy on CVE. The new strategy, scheduled to launch in the second half of 2020, will include pillars on gender and victims of terror.

The Initiative: Coast Education Center (COEC), Kenya
IPF’s Framework: Women Shaping Peace & Security Policies
Grant Size: US$34,000
Implementation Period: July – September 2018 and March – May 2019

“ICAN 2019 Annual Report”
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“Peace in Syria needs Mobaderoon to be active and involved, using our innovation and creativity to not only create a better future but to actually stay alive! The IPF support enables us to keep going and remain hopeful.”

Abir Haj Ibrahim
Co-Founder, Mobaderoon, Syria

BACKGROUND:
Mobaderoon is a non-profit institution that supports civil society organizations throughout the Arab region by providing consulting and training services adapted to meet specific needs and challenges of local communities. Having been instrumental in connecting people and communities to one another across war-torn Syria, Mobaderoon is widely recognized for its ability to reach the country’s most vulnerable citizens despite ongoing military conflict, wholly fractured communities, minimal infrastructure, and a disproportionately high number of internally displaced persons (IDP).

Informed by its engagement with more than 7,000 women leaders across the country, Mobaderoon identified that Syrian women, though active in their communities, lacked a framework to situate their peace and prevention work in a national or global context.

With support from the IPF in 2019, Mobaderoon was able to nurture and “incubate” three small Syrian initiatives through its learning journey. Historically, these types of initiatives originate from community-based organizations, which are trusted locally but lack support and institutional capacity. Unlike many other donors who deem these “too risky”, the IPF invests in trust to empower local leaders like those nurtured by Mobaderoon to forge peace in their own communities.

IMPACT:
As a result of the IPF’s support, Mobaderoon created a formal network of emerging women peacebuilders in Syria by providing financial and technical assistance to three newly formed organizations—Hayat (Damascus), Peace Makers (Lattakia), and Nayzak (Homs)—and facilitating a series of capacity-building workshops for the women members.

Mobaderoon was able to provide additional funding and technical assistance to these initial three organizations to enable them to implement what they had learned during the capacity-building workshops and initiate their own projects to support women and increase women’s roles in peacebuilding processes and reducing extremism and violence. After ten months, each group transitioned to being financially and administratively self-sustaining.

Mobaderoon subsequently organized in-country high-level meetings, attended by local organizations, community leaders, and project coordinators, to assess the most critical issues facing Syrian civil society and develop viable solutions that would feed into conversations in the Civil Society Support Room (CSSR). Mobaderoon ensured these findings were heard by providing further financial and technical support to two civil society leaders to participate in the CSSR meeting in Geneva with the UN Special Envoy for Syria, as well as other international platforms focused on conflict resolution and peacebuilding in Syria.
As a woman, I know that there is much good in the men in our community and I wanted to work with them to end the violence everyone has experienced. I said to them "Let me find him in you. We will do it much better, in a circle, in a village together!"

Hassina Neekzad
Executive Director
Afghan Women’s Organization for Equality

BACKGROUND:
Founded in 2016, the Afghan Women’s Organization for Equality (AWOE) works to counter violent extremism in Herat province by reducing violence against women; promoting gender equality; and increasing acceptance of women’s roles in the peace, security, and political sectors. In addition to supporting marginalized rural women who have been victims of various forms of violence, AWOE also raises awareness among men to encourage them to assist with family conflict resolution and social peacebuilding.

With funding from the IPF, AWOE established a men’s network to intervene in cases of domestic violence and teach nonviolent forms of communication. It has engaged men in prominent roles in Afghan society, such as teachers, preachers, and mullahs, to leverage their influence and authority to shift attitudes and change behaviors.

By creating opportunities for men to participate in women’s rights and gender equality discourse, the network has demonstrated that the inclusion of men is not only possible, but vital for changing mindsets and reducing violence against women.

Having successfully created space for women to be heard by fostering understanding among men, AWOE was awarded a second grant to enable them to produce a documentary film on violence against women (VAW). The film tells the real-life stories of several women from a shelter in Herat that houses victims of physical and psychological abuse. It highlights the psychological impact VAW has on the victims, their families, and society as a whole.

IMPACT:
As a result of the IPF support, violence against children—especially girls—in the region has significantly decreased. The number of girls enrolled in school has improved, as has women’s social and political participation, with some rural women even stepping up to run for office at the provincial and district levels. AWOE also reported that villagers who had never shown affection in public are now seen outside their homes holding their young children.

Widely screened by AWOE and other civil society organizations, the documentary raised awareness about the depth of psychological and physical VAW throughout Herat province—a topic that was previously taboo—and encouraged the men’s network to take preventive action.

Media coverage about the film brought additional attention to and empathy for the psychological impact of violence. It prompted an increase in referrals to local clinics and shelters that provide support for women survivors of abuse.
CONTEXT

Within the international community, it is increasingly acknowledged that funding local organizations involved in peacebuilding and P/CVE is a necessary and efficient means of promoting sustainable peace. Yet directing resources to local civil society entities, particularly new organizations or those run by women and youth, requires changes in policies and institutional procedures. Many international donors also still assume that grantmaking to small and lesser-known local organizations is too risky.

Nowhere are these dichotomies more evident than in the international community’s assertions about women’s equality and leadership in peace and security issues. On the one hand, the UN, the OECD and governments repeatedly emphasize the importance of women’s civil society organizations (CSOs), while on the other hand women-led CSOs remain underfunded and overburdened.

OBJECTIVES

Working with a variety of stakeholders, ICAN sought to identify entry points and opportunities to improve funding processes and make resources more accessible to local peacebuilding organizations that can best impact their communities, including by:

• Developing guidelines and recommendations for donors and international organizations interested in supporting and safeguarding the work of women peacebuilders (WPBs) and women-led civil society organizations.

• Quantifying the impact of funding local women-led organizations directly involved in implementing innovative P/CVE solutions, with particular emphasis on the impact of small to medium-sized grants.

• Identifying peacebuilding and P/CVE best practices and lessons learned from WPBs who are active in their local communities.

OUTCOMES

As a result of the meetings, ICAN produced the following materials to address gaps in funding local organizations:

• A set of recommendations to donors to ensure best practices for supporting local women-led organizations engaged in Peace, Security and P/CVE work.

• A short video showcasing the innovative and impactful work of ICAN’s IPF grantees and how the IPF itself is a leading example of a trust-based, multi-donor funding model that provides support for peace and P/CVE work in local communities.

Focused on assessing the continued development and sustainability of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, as well as ideas and strategies for mitigating the threats and backlashes encountered by WPBs around the world, the event—which was held in Oslo, Norway—attracted more than 70 participants from 43 countries.

In addition to discussing the intersection of peacebuilding and human rights work, WASL members engaged with a host of external stakeholders about four key pillars of support needed for WPBs, including:

- Institutionalizing the WPS agenda and principles through policy and legislation;
- Security and protection mechanisms for WPBs;
- Funding for local women’s organizations in increasingly closed civil society space; and
- Advocacy through public outreach and engagement with the media and other sectors.

As part of the four-day event, ICAN and the UN Development Program (UNDP) convened a public day of discussions at the Nobel Peace Center: Institutionalizing Inclusive Peace and Security: The Role of Legislators as Partners in Supporting the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, which brought together WPBs and their supporters with members of parliament, civil society, and multilateral institutions to explore the role of legislators as partners in the WPS agenda and ways in which they could collaborate to ensure the recognition, inclusion, safety, and sustainability of WPBs.

High-level attendees included Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ine Eriksen Søreide; the Honorable Orozova Karamat Babasheva, MP from Kyrgyzstan; the Honorable Sladjana Zivkovic, MP from Montenegro; Sarah Lister, Head of Governance at UNDP and Director of UNDP’s Oslo Governance Centre; Marita Sorheim-Rensvik, Special Envoy for WPS from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and HRH The Countess of Wessex, who met members of WASL and spoke at an evening reception at the British Embassy.
Launched as a result of those consultations and in honor of the 20th anniversary of UN-SCR 1325 and the Women, Peace and Security agenda, *She Builds Peace* is a call to action to elevate the work of WPBs around the world and support them to **SOAR:**

**SAFETY:** Ensure the safety and protection of WPBs.

**OBLIGATIONS:** Ensure that governments fulfill their obligations to make peace and security decision-making inclusive.

**APPRCIATION:** Ensure that WPBs are recognized and appreciated for their courage and commitment.

**RESOURCES:** Ensure that women-led organizations receive the resources and funding they need to succeed.

Since 2018, ICAN has led consultations, research, and analysis with diverse stakeholders—most importantly WPBs—to determine the most urgent and effective actions needed to ensure their inclusion and success.
Global Affairs Canada values its partnership with ICAN and is proud to support the full participation of local women’s organizations to advance the Women, Peace and Security agenda through ICAN’s Innovative Peace Fund and Better Peace Initiative, in areas such as peace negotiations, conflict prevention, and peacebuilding.

Professor Marie-Joëlle Zahar
ICAN Board Member

Norway emphasizes that women’s empowerment and movement building is a critical force for sustainable peace free of impact from extremist groups. ICAN/WASL does not only share this view in theory, they are working with thousands of women in the field, actively engaged in preventing extremism and promoting peace.

Marita Sørheim-Rensvik
Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security
Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

“I have always strived to be part of solutions. In our effort to find a different way forward than constant conflict and war, ICAN is an invaluable part of the solution! Working with and supporting the efforts of the extraordinary people who make up this organization is a PRIVILEGE.”

- Ambassador (Ret.) Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley
United States
ICAN Board Member
ASIA

Aceh Women's League (LINA), Indonesia
Addu Women's Association, The Maldives
Afghan Women News Agency (AWN), Afghanistan
Afghan Women Skills Development Center (AWSDC), Afghanistan
Afghan Women's Network (AWN), Afghanistan
Afghan Women's Organization for Equality (AWOEE), Afghanistan
Asian Muslim Action Network (AMAN) – Indonesia
Association of War Affected Women (AWAW), Sri Lanka
Civil Society Against Violent Extremism (C-SAVE), Indonesia
Empathico (My Empathy), Indonesia
Gender Equality Network (GEN), Myanmar
IMAN Research, Malaysia
Insan Foundation Trust, Pakistan
League of Women Lawyers of Tajikistan
OPEN ASIA/Armanshahr, Afghanistan & Tajikistan
PAIMAN Alumni Trust, Pakistan
Philippine Center for Islam & Democracy (PCID), The Philippines
Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre, Pakistan
South East Asia Women Peacebuilders Network
Women & Peace Studies Organization (WPSO), Afghanistan
Women's Peace Network – Arakan, Myanmar
Yakjah Reconciliation & Development Network, India

Sarah Amaguram, Sri Lanka
Zarina Aliimshoeva, Tajikistan
Huma Chughtai, Pakistan
Rosa Effekhari, Iran & the United States
Amporn Marddent, Thailand
Mariyam Mohamed Didi, The Maldives
Kazemiy Mohaqqeqa, Afghanistan
Nika Saeedi, Iran & the United States

EUROPE & THE AMERICAS

Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica (CIASE), Colombia
Justice, Human Rights, and Gender Civil Association, Mexico
Women for Development NGO, Armenia
Women for Justice Foundation, Canada
Women's Center for Development & Culture, Albania
Women's Network for Dialogue & Inclusive Peace, Ukraine

Jennifer Freeman, Canada
Deeyah Khan, United Kingdom & Norway
Sabrina Mowlah-Baksh, Trinidad & Tobago
Dr. Neelam Raina, United Kingdom

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Al Tahreer Association for Development (TAD), Iraq
Al-Firdaws Society, Iraq
Al-Nasiah Club, Yemen
Almanara Foundation for Rights and Freedoms, Libya
Center for Civil Society and Democracy (CCSD), Syria
Dali and Senda Association for Peace, Tunisia
Djazairouna Association of Families of Victims of Islamist Terrorism, Algeria
Food4Humanity Foundation, Yemen

Iraqi Al-Amal Association (IAA), Iraq
Kareemat Foundation, Syria
Libyan Women's Forum (LWF), Libya
Moabaderoone: Active Citizens in Syria
Mobil‘un – Creative Youth, Tunisia
Mothers of Abductees, Yemen
Nuba Women for Education and Development Organization of Liberia (WEDOL)

Rasha Moussa, Palestine
Fatoum Bousalamaleitief, Tunisia

Sawssam Abou Zah, Lebanon
Aala Ali, Iraq
Dr. Kawakal Alwadeaie, Yemen
Sen. Hafida Benchehida, Algeria
Fatima Ezzahra Benoughaji, Morocco
Razan Elmoghribi, Libya and the Netherlands
Laylah Sanusi Emran, Libya

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Advocacy for Women in Peace and Security-Africa (AWAPSA), Kenya
Allamani Foundation for Peace & Development, Nigeria
Center for Advocacy in Gender Equality and Action for Development (CAGEAD), Cameroon
Coalition for Action on 1325 (CoACT), Uganda
Coast Education Center (COEC), Senegal
Kilgum Women's Peace Initiative (KIWEPI), Uganda
Neem Foundation, Nigeria
Reach Out, Cameroon
Somali National Human Rights Defenders Coalition, Somalia
South West/North West Women Task Force (SNWOT), Cameroon
Witness Somalia

Rasha Mousa, Palestine
Faten Nabhan, Palestine
Farah Salka, Lebanon

Cerse Konah Garlo, Liberia
Dr. Pauline Riak, South Sudan

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ICAN allocates nearly 90% of its funding to programmatic work, capacity building, grants, trainings, and advocacy, which has paid dividends for the organization and its WASL members. They not only benefit from strengthened institutions and increased participation in peacebuilding processes but are able to leverage their success with additional support from outside institutions.

### Financials

#### Consolidated Statement of Activities 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual Contributions</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations and Corporate Grants</td>
<td>10,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government / IGO Grants</td>
<td>2,028,010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fees for Service</td>
<td>27,404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Miscellaneous) Revenue</td>
<td>20,851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,113,407</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Statement of Financial Position

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash, Investments &amp; Equivalents</td>
<td>1,300,034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants &amp; Contributions Receivable</td>
<td>44,732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Receivables</td>
<td>664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>167,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposits</td>
<td>6,498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,519,648</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
<td>384,642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
<td>(199,607)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Net Assets</td>
<td>165,735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Net Assets</td>
<td>969,271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,135,006</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expenditure by Activity

- **Policy advocacy & strategic advisory**: 23%
- **Partners Support and Capacity Building**: 10%
- **Management and General**: 8%
- **Grants**: 31%
- **Workshops, Meetings, Conferences**: 20%
- **Publication, trainings resources and communication**: 8%
Mobina S.B. Jaffer, QC  
Chairman of the ICAN Board  
British Columbia Representative, Canadian Senate  
Chairman, Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights

Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE  
Founder and CEO, ICAN

Haideh Chubin  
Treasurer  
Managing Director, Deloitte

Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley  
Former US Ambassador to the Republic of Malta  
Formerly served as Secretary of State’s Special Assistant for the Middle East and Africa, Advisor to Commander of US Cyber Forces and Deputy Coordinator for Counterterrorism.

Deeyah Khan  
Documentary Filmmaker and Human Rights Activist  
Founder, Fuuse  
UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador

Marie-Joëlle Zahar  
Professor of Political Science & Director of the Research Network on Peace Operations  
Fellow, Centre for International Research and Studies, Université de Montréal  
Former Senior Expert, Office of the Special Envoy of the United Nations for Syria

Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE  
Founder and CEO

Rana Allam  
Strategic Communications Director

Olga Andrew  
Finance Director

France Bognon  
Program Director  
Innovative Peace Fund

Helena Gronberg  
Program Director  
Better Peace Initiative

Melinda Holmes  
Program Director  
Women’s Alliance for Security Leadership

Juliana Jackson  
Program Officer

Maya Kavalier  
Program Officer

Stacey Schamber  
Senior Program Officer

Andrea Tapia  
Communications Specialist

Yodit Willis  
Operations Officer

Malalai Habibi  
Program Assistant

Alex Brown  
Intern

Ellery Cushman  
Intern

Raneen Nasser  
Intern

Meredith Ogilvie-Thompson  
Consultant, Annual Report

Randi Yassir  
Evaluation Expert

Lama Dreibat  
Mandi Mourad  
Khalil Rostamkhani  
Interpreters / Translators

Drew DerNavech,  
Crowley & Co  
Graphic Illustrator

Abdel Azim Mohamed  
Publication Layout (Arabic)

Dario Pantosin  
Videographer

Reagan H. Smith,  
DHM Media  
Graphic Designer

Alta CPA Group, LLC  
Audit
### GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BPI</td>
<td>Better Peace Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BPT</td>
<td>Better Peace Tool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVE</td>
<td>Countering of Violent Extremism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRR</td>
<td>Deradicalization, Rehabilitation and Reintegration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCO</td>
<td>Foreign &amp; Commonwealth Office (UK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSX</td>
<td>Global Solutions Exchange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICRC</td>
<td>International Committee of the Red Cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGO</td>
<td>Intergovernmental Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPF</td>
<td>Innovative Peace Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAS</td>
<td>League of Arab States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHPSS</td>
<td>Mental Health Psychosocial Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAP</td>
<td>National Action Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCHA</td>
<td>United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCVE</td>
<td>Prevention and Countering of Violent Extremism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PD</td>
<td>Program Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREP</td>
<td>Peace, Resilience, Equal Rights and Pluralism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLICY</td>
<td>Gender Sensitivity in Peace and Security Policy Processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SGBV</td>
<td>Sexual and Gender Based Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNSC</td>
<td>United Nations Security Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNSCR</td>
<td>United Nations Security Council Resolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASL</td>
<td>Women’s Alliance for Security Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHRD</td>
<td>Women Human Rights Defenders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WPB</td>
<td>Women Peacebuilder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WPS</td>
<td>Women, Peace and Security</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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INSTAGRAM: @WHATTHEWOMENSAY
FACEBOOK: @WHATTHEWOMENSAY

WWW.ICANPEACEWORK.ORG
“We’re called ICAN because it’s very much about what I can do. We have an appetite for trust, as opposed to an appetite for risk, and engage by building trusted relationships and framing things in a positive and proactive way.”

- Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE
ICAN Founder and CEO