

ICAN

International
Civil Society
Action
Network

For women's rights, peace and security

PEACEBUILDING IN A TIME OF PESSIMISM



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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LETTER • FROM • THE



"What we don't see in the news is the most powerful story of all."

2024: The statistics alone were overwhelming: 56 armed conflicts involving 92 countries; over 300 million people in urgent need of humanitarian assistance; and 120 million forcibly displaced by war. From Gaza to Sudan and Ukraine, we witnessed the flagrant erosion of international law and the normalization of impunity—civilians, once again, paying the highest price.

Militarization became the default response to political crises, with global military spending surpassing \$2.4 trillion. Already the economic cost of war is staggering: \$19 trillion lost annually—equal to 13% of global economic output. There is no means of counting the cost to the human soul, the shattered hearts and lives of children, or the destruction of nature.

Meanwhile, investments in diplomacy, education, and healthcare shrinking, fraying our societal fabric, deepening inequalities, and giving rise to extremisms. With inadequate response from the institutions that were created to prevent these atrocities, all of this has led to a total deficit of trust, which is the real currency of inclusive growth.

The space for humanity and common sense may be shrinking, but at ICAN we continue to believe in a radically different vision of the future: one rooted in dignity, justice, pluralism, and leadership for peace. This is a version of life that is already being driven by women peacebuilders at the frontlines of conflict, many of whom are our partners in the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL).

These community-based trust brokers rarely make headlines, and that's precisely the point—peace is woven and built calmly. In 2024,

we celebrated the "non-events": the violence prevented, the hope sustained. In Syria, our partners fostered dialogue to prevent the spread of violence as the old regime was toppled. In Afghanistan, where girls are being bricked into silence, our partners provided mental health care, economic alternatives, and support to prevent suicide and early marriage. In Sri Lanka, they built bridges of reconciliation between divided communities.

From Pakistan to Colombia, Brazil to Kenya, our She Builds Peace campaign elevated the voices of women peacebuilders and helped rebuild trust between communities and local institutions. These are not random acts. They are the outcomes of deliberate, courageous, imaginative, and sustained peacebuilding. At ICAN, we are proud to support and stand with these leaders—providing strategic, financial, and emotional solidarity where we can.

FOUNDER • AND • CEO

In 2024, we expanded our role as both convener and catalyst. Highlights included:

- Convening our biannual ICAN Women Peace and Security Forum, gathering 120 peacebuilders from over 40 countries to strategize and recharge.
- Deepening and expanding WASL to 84 women-led organizations in 42 countries.
- Granting over \$2.1 million in 25 grants to partners in 9 countries including 11 grants in Afghanistan
- Facilitating dialogue and documenting the effective strategies of women peacebuilders engaging security forces to build community safety.
- Supporting Sudanese women's participation in the August '24 Geneva ceasefire and humanitarian talks.
- Providing emergency support to WASL partners including in Palestine and Syria.
- Launching *If You Were in Charge*, a podcast spotlighting bold, visionary activists and peacebuilders redefining leadership from the ground up; and Continuing our policy advocacy, urging policymakers and multilateral bodies to recognize civil society as critical actors in fostering the peace, resilience, equality, and pluralism and needed to withstand the rise of autocracy and extremism

2024 was also a time of transformation and evolution within ICAN. I was invited to spend six months in Berlin as a Richard Von Weizsäcker Fellow of the Robert Bosch Academy. It was a privilege and an opportunity for me to return to field research, studying the rising extremisms and the weaponization of identities with a focus on societal polarization and pathways for social cohesion and pluralism in Germany and Europe.

During my time away, France Bognon, Director of our Innovative Peace Fund (IPF), took the reins as Interim CEO and navigated many of the year's challenges. On my return, we set in motion a process for the evolution and succession of ICAN's leadership to match the growth of the organization's reach and breadth of our work. It is a pleasure to have France join me as ICAN's new Co-CEO and Managing Director as we enter 2025.

Some may believe peace is achieved through war. We know it is built by people who protect, reconcile, and reimagine society daily. In a time of weak-man leadership who rely on weapons and armies, we celebrate the strong women in our midst, who rely on their humanity and heart to find solutions.

To our partners, allies, and supporters: thank you. Your trust enables us to keep doing our work.

Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE
Founder and CEO



France Bognon
CO-CEO, Managing Director



OUR • MISSION

Recognizing the gendered impact of conflict and the critical role of women peacebuilders, we:

- Shape and guide peace and security policies through thought leadership, strategic advice, and gender-responsive analysis;
- Foster a global movement of locally rooted women peacebuilders to have voice and influence in matters of peace, conflict, rights, and human security; and
- Bring the word and spirit of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda to life.



ICAN promotes
inclusive and
sustainable peace
globally.

“As we approach the 25th anniversary of WPS, we need to reimagine multilateralism as an ecosystem—where civil society, governments, and international organizations work together, based on the comparative strengths of each, are agile and proactive, while listening and supporting each other’s solutions and approaches.”

– Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE, Founder and CEO, ICAN

GUIDING • PRINCIPLES

To foster positive, peaceful, socio-political change, our guiding principles at ICAN are as follows:



WHAT • WE • DO

Inclusive and Gender Responsive Peacemaking

ICAN offers strategic advice, accompaniment, and practical guidance on how to ensure inclusive and gender responsive peace processes.

This includes:

- Strategic advice to mediators, negotiators, and accompaniment to our partners involved in peace processes;
- Producing accessible resources demonstrating the “how to” of inclusivity, ranging from animations and best practice guides, to simulations and trainings in multiple languages and for different audiences.
- Advocacy and evidence sharing to demonstrate why and how civil society—especially women peacebuilders’—contributions to peace negotiations and processes result in better agreements and more sustainable peace.



ICAN's Protection Framework Action Tool



ICAN's Sanam Naraghi Anderlini speaks at the 2024 Challenges Forum, Berlin

Protection of Peacebuilders

When societies are polarized, women peacebuilders often take on the lonely and dangerous work of reaching across the divisions. But this peace work puts them at risk.

ICAN's work in support of our partners' protection has included:

- Comprehensive protection guidance, policy development, and advocacy;
- Digital security assessments;
- Mental health and psychosocial support; and In-country grantmaking and emergency response.

The Triple Nexus of Peace, Humanitarian, and Development Work

Women peacebuilders are active, preemptive, and responsive to man-made and natural crises. The trust and access they have in their communities makes them uniquely effective as essential workers. They are the first, last, and always responders.

Internationally, there is growing recognition of the need to integrate humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding programming, often referred to as the “triple nexus.” We support and fund our partners to respond to their communities’ needs as crises arise. We also advocate for donors to break their siloed funding models to enable local actors to respond to multi-crises, with urgency, agility, and cost-efficiency.

Gender and Extremisms

ICAN and our partners in WASL have been early responders to the threat of rising extremism. We highlight the centrality of visceral identities including gender, faith, and ethno-nationalism to the ideology, recruitment, and practices of contemporary transnational movements. These movements recognize women’s power and influence in society, especially in families and communities, so they attempt to co-opt and coerce them into their ideology. In preventing and countering violent extremism, our approach is to foster positive alternatives anchored in PREP: Fostering Peace, Resilience, Equality, and Pluralism.

Our work includes:

- Informing and transforming the policies, analyses, and practices pertaining to the prevention and countering of violent extremism (P/CVE);
- Providing gender analysis, technical support, and training to highlight the pioneering work and expertise of women peacebuilders;
- Investing in innovative practices by our partners and enabling peer exchanges across countries;
- Documenting effective practices and case studies.



Mira Kusumarni, Founder and Director, Empatiku, and ICAN's Stacey Schamber with National Bureau of Counter-Terrorism Official, Indonesia

HOW • WE • WORK

ICAN pioneers the integration of gender responsiveness and inclusivity in peace and security through cutting-edge research, global advocacy, and practical tools, while supporting a global network of women peacebuilders who translate policy into transformative action on the ground.

Drawing on their lived experience, women peacebuilders shape global peace and security policies with their innovative solutions—and continue to bring these policies to life on the ground by translating commitments into transformative, community-driven action.

Network & Movement Building

Peacebuilding is lonely and dangerous work for many. Solidarity is essential. ICAN puts network and movement building at the heart of our work, spearheading the **Women's Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL)** and the **She Builds Peace** campaign. We also support our partners' efforts to expand the depth and breadth of their reach within their countries, while connecting them across continents and contexts to share and exchange their practices and experiences.



Investing & Grantmaking

Developed in 2015, 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.



"[I am a] member of several networks, but ICAN has overcome barriers to offer a unique model of a large family to find solutions and professional, emotional, and personal support."

— Rudina Çollaku, Executive Director,
Women's Center for Development and Culture, Albania



Clotilda Andiensa Waah, Founder and CEO, CAGEAD, and ICAN's Stacey Schamber at the U.S. Department of State

Advocacy & Education

With expertise in gendered security and peace analysis, practical experience in mediation and direct contact with frontline peacebuilders, ICAN offers a unique perspective on many of the most pressing issues of our times. Our advocacy and educational efforts aim to define, broaden, and improve policy discourse and the practice of peacebuilding, the resolution of wars, and the prevention of violent extremism, particularly by highlighting the centrality of gender responsiveness and the agency of women.

Research & Publications

ICAN conducts cutting-edge research, evidence mapping, and analysis of inclusive peacemaking, gender and extremisms, the protection of peacebuilders, and other interrelated subjects. Governments, multilateral organizations, academics, and civil society internationally use our resources to inform staff and guide the development of gender-responsive policies.



Building Skills & Expertise

ICAN supports our partners' sustainability and capacity by providing them with mentoring, ongoing technical and strategic guidance, accompaniment (advisory support), trainings, and peer-to-peer learning tailored to their distinct needs.

ICAN works at the frontlines of today's most complex crises, our partners are often the first to prevent violence, and the most trusted actors leading reconciliation, protection, and lasting social transformation.

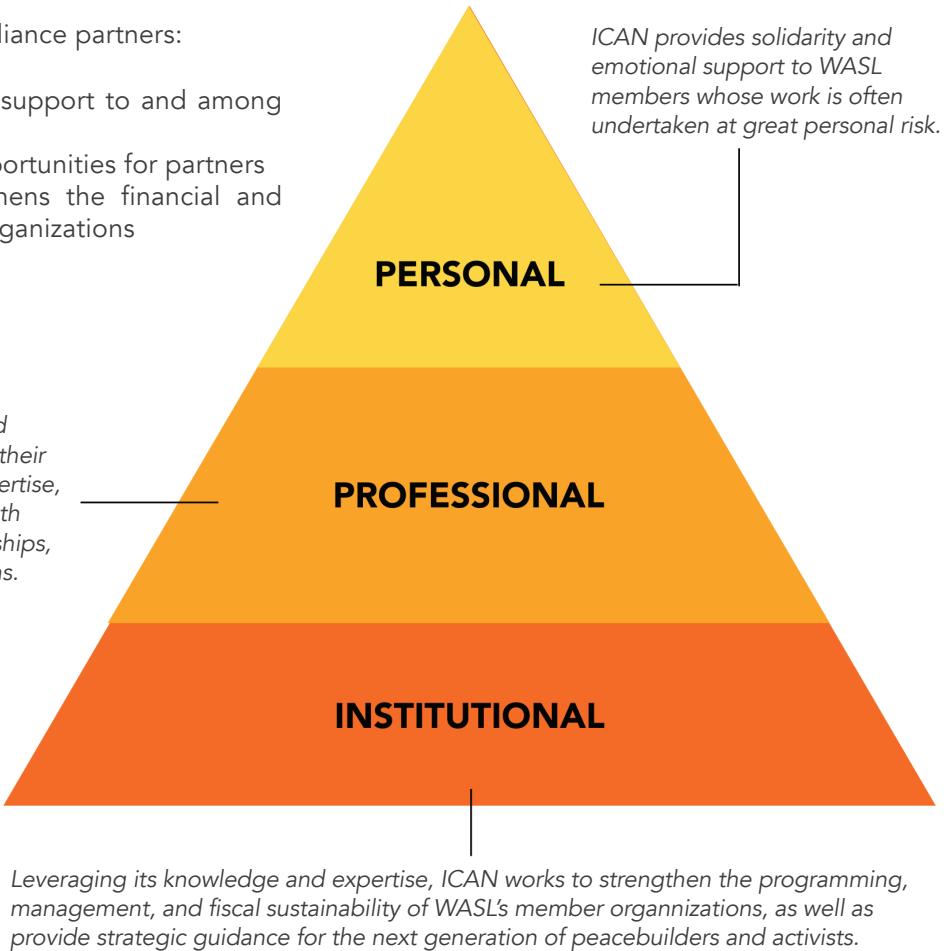
NETWORK • AND MOVEMENT • BUILDING

ICAN has spearheaded the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL) since 2015. It is the first locally rooted, global alliance of independent women-led peacebuilding organizations specializing in addressing violent extremism and conflicts by promoting peace, resilience, equal rights, and pluralism.

By 2024, WASL comprised **84** organizations and **140** individuals across **42** countries.

ICAN offers three tiers of support to alliance partners:

- Personal solidarity and emotional support to and among partners
- Professional development and opportunities for partners
- Institutional support that strengthens the financial and managerial structures of partner organizations





"[WASL provides] the possibility of being able to join forces between different contexts and among the diversity of women in favor of a common and global goal."

– Wendy Toro, Women, Peace, and Security Team,
Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica (CIASE), Colombia

Scaling Across – Strengthening the Ecosystem

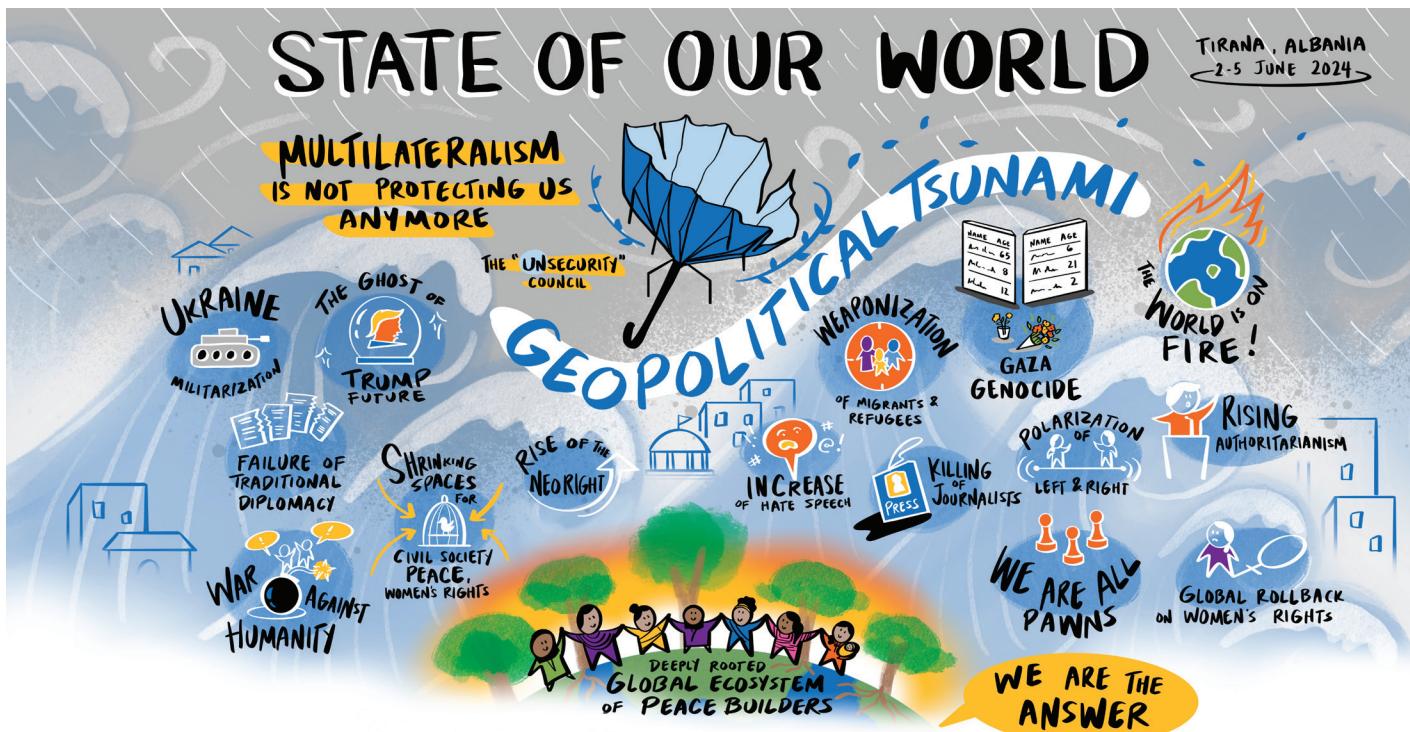
We recognize and value the unique and complementary contributions of each member. Our strategy is based on scaling across to expand the alliance's reach and impact. We weave the net to connect our community-based partners to deepen their impact locally, while connecting them globally, to foster a healthy ecosystem of civic activism for peace, resilience, equality, and pluralism.



ICAN • FORUM • 2024

Over four days and 20 sessions, the Forum addressed three inter-related themes:

- **The State of the World**
- **The State of our Field**
- **The State of Ourselves**



“The Forum offers three Ss: Safety, solidarity, and safety—safety to feel at ease and speak freely, solidarity with peer organizations to elevate our voices together, and time to strategize based on collective analysis of challenges, opportunities, and actions.”

— France Bognon, Co-CEO, Managing Director, ICAN



The 10th ICAN Women, Peace, and Security Forum

Peacebuilding in a Time of Pessimism

The ICAN Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Forum is ICAN's signature biennial event, bringing together peace strategists, experts, and practitioners from 40 conflict and crisis-affected countries.

In 2024, amid rising geopolitical turbulence, and increased militarization, the 10th ICAN Women, Peace, and Security Forum convened in Tirana, Albania, co-hosted by WASL member the Women's Center for Development and Culture Albania (WCDCA). 120 participants from 40 countries attended the Forum.



FORUM RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Harness the power of independent networks and their solutions.

Women's peace coalitions, like WASL, act as bulwarks against escalating threats and provide alternative pathways of action when governments or institutions are paralyzed. We must prioritize strengthening these first responders. They are taking on the responsibility to protect their communities when other institutions lack the capacity or political will.

The Forum calls on policymakers to recognize:

- The expertise of women peacebuilders;
- The value of cross-context and intergenerational collaboration in peacebuilding;
- The imperative of centering local needs and self-determined solutions in global policies and practices.



"We have been telling those who call themselves the leaders, the funders, the partners, those who make decisions, that they should allow us to define peace through a woman peacebuilder's lens. We live it, we know it, we see it, we breathe it every day."

– Esther Omam, Executive Director, Reach Out Cameroon



Robinah Rubimbwa, Executive Director of COACT



Forum participants outside the Albanian Parliament



Rudina Collaku, Executive Director of WCDCA, with President Begaj



Caryn Dasah, Founder and Executive Director, Hope Advocates Africa, Cameroon, speaks to the Albanian President

2. Elevate peacebuilders' narratives and assert the importance of their work.

Articulating and sharing the journeys, strategies, and stories of women peacebuilders, individually and collectively, is critical to advancing feminist leadership. This rich body of human experience is inherently valuable and deserves proper compensation, promotion, and inclusion.

We can create durable normative and policy shifts by highlighting the strategies of local peacebuilders. We can demonstrate the universal and indigenous nature of women's peacebuilding by documenting their strategies of weaving together culturally rooted knowledge and traditions with faith-based teachings and international laws and policies as they work to achieve ceasefires, prevent violent extremisms, or confront sexual and gender-based violence.



"This work is critical—controlling our own narratives so we get to determine what we see and do, and the process. For centuries, women's stories have not been documented. Today will be history for tomorrow, so in documenting our work, we get to be recognized in history."

— Sabrina Mowlah-Baksh,
Peace Activist and
Community Organizer,
Trinidad and Tobago

FORUM RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Address trauma from and through our peacebuilding approaches.

Trauma informs and is imbued in all peace and security work, from community-level work to high-level negotiations. In peacebuilding and peacemaking work, we must understand and address how trauma affects everyone touched by a conflict. Simultaneously, threats to women peacebuilders—physical, digital, and emotional—continue to grow, jeopardizing and informing their work.

As women peacebuilders with a feminist lens in the context of peace mediation, we balance the past, present and future. We cannot let the traumas of the past shape the present and future—as that takes the trauma forward. Instead, we must focus and imagine the future—what we aspire to and what we seek to avoid—letting that guide the actions of the present, to then enable us to address the past.



"Taking care of myself isn't selfish. We deal with work that traumatizes our mind and bodies. Realizing that I need to take care of myself has liberated me and made me a more effective peacebuilder."

— Robinah Rubimbwa, Executive Director, Coalition for Action on 1325 (COACT), Uganda



Ride for Peace in honor of Enass Muzamel





Ashanti Anna, Women Relief Aid, South Sudan



Hafida Benchehida, Algeria; Rosa Emilia Salamanca, CIASE, Colombia; Mossarat Qadeem, PAIMAN Alumni Trust, Pakistan

4. Reimagine security policies with a feminist perspective that puts care at the center.

Women peacebuilders are challenging the trends of rising militarization and the narratives that weapons bring security. Instead, from ground-up perspective, they seek to democratize national security discussions and decision-making, by taking a people-centric approach to security, and asking simple questions: What causes insecurity for women in communities? What makes young men feel safe? This transparency and simplicity reveals how a blend of economic, political, environmental, spiritual, and physical indicators of safety are the key markers of security. While militarization may be useful for deterrence, the proliferation of weapons and militarization of society is a profound threat to social cohesion and ultimately, national security.

We must rethink security at all levels—personal, communal, national, and international.



"The world is confused today, [with policymakers] trying to find forms of security that make us more insecure day by day, minute by minute. That's why it's important for the women to redefine security, and ask, 'What do we mean by security?'"

— Visaka Dharmadasa, Founder, Association of War Affected Women (AWAW), Sri Lanka

WASL IN THE WORLD 2024 - KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- In January, Madaniya (Sudan) and ICAN met Norway's Special Envoy for Sudan to discuss peacemaking processes for Sudan and the inclusion of women peacebuilders.
- **Legislative Assembly - Sao Paulo, Brazil:** In April, Think Twice Brasil launched a Practical Guide for Local Implementation of the WPS Agenda.



"As soon as we became a member of [ICAN-WASL], we experienced a leap of authority in our national context. I am being called to talk in very high-level meetings, to engage with public policy on [the WPS agenda]. Being part of an international network gave me the chance to open the door that no one was entering."

– Gabriele Costa Bento Garcia, Co-Founder and Director, Think Twice Brasil

- **Brussels VIII Conference - Brussels, Belgium:** In April, ICAN and the Center for Civil Society and Democracy (Syria) co-hosted "Together for Detainees, IDPs, and Refugees: A Syrian Women's Call," where Helena Grönberg (ICAN) gave opening remarks.



"CCSD is determined to further the WPS agenda by breaking the silence, gaining representation in the Syrian political dialogue, and fostering partnerships crucial to addressing challenges related to Syrian refugees, detainees and missing persons."

– Helena Grönberg, Program Director, ICAN





- **CIASE Women's Forum - Bogotá, Colombia:** In July, Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica (CIASE) convened 40 Colombian women from 22 regions to reaffirm the relevance of the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda in Colombia amid the Total Peace Plan's stalling progress. The collective reviewed the policies of the Total Peace Plan, to accelerate women's participation in the process, and envision a strategic and feminist approach to sustainable protection and security.

WASL AT THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

- **UN Security Council – New York, NY:** In October, Abir Haj Ibrahim (Mobaderoon, Syria) and Wai Wai Nu (Women's Peace Network, Myanmar) spoke before the UN Security Council.

“It is not enough to express support for women’s participation if the conditions for their participation do not exist. Conflict prevention, protections of human rights, and accountability are essential if women are to take their rightful place at the peace table.”

– Wai Wai Nu, Executive Director, Women’s Peace Network, Myanmar



“I stress the need to expand consultations and coordinate with the active women peacebuilders in Syria and across the region. With their unique experiences and creative visions, women peacebuilders are the most capable of offering initiatives that help end violent conflicts and achieve sustainable peace.”

– Abir Haj Ibrahim, Co-Founder, Mobaderoon, Syria

WASL IN THE WORLD 2024 - KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **ASEAN International Conference on Women, Peace, and Security – Manila:** In October, 12 members of WASL from the Philippines, Pakistan, Syria, Palestine, Thailand, Tunisia, and Indonesia, together with ICAN's Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE and Isabela Karibjanian, spoke as panelists and keynote speakers in seven events.

Co-hosted by WASL member the Philippines Center for Islam and Democracy (PCID), the conference brought together multilateral, governmental, and civil society actors as part of the first international ministerial-level convening of its kind in Southeast Asia.

It was an opportunity for WASL members to share the impact and distinct nature of the Alliance's global work.

ICAN and WASL members participated in a number of sessions, including:

- High-level Ministerial Session
- Special Forum: Bridging Regions for Women, Peace and Security
- Reimagining Peace in the Middle East:
- NAPWPS Praxis: WPS National Action Plan Praxis



Members of WASL, ICAN, and allies in Manila

“Women have shown that their engagement isn’t just advantageous, it is essential for sustainable peace. Governments have a key role in this process, but they must actively engage with civil society, particularly women, to ensure that peace agreements are not merely political documents but living realities.”

– Amina Rasul Bernardo, President, PCID

WASL COMMUNITY CALLS 2024

In 2024, we held 21 WASL global community calls, to create space for solidarity, collective analysis, and sharing good practices among members of WASL and invited guests. Topics included:

- The Israel-Palestine Conflict
- Digital Peacemaking
- Lawfare
- Sports and Peacebuilding
- Artificial Intelligence and Peacebuilding
- Digital Security
- Open-Source Intelligence
- Honoring the lives of our beloved colleagues and friends Enass Muzamel from Sudan and Surrey Roble Hersi from Kenya

We also hosted guests including: Afghan Witness; AI4Peace; Crisis Management Initiative; the Foundation for Middle East Peace; the Open Society Foundations; Peace Direct; the Rockefeller Brothers Fund; the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund; and the governments of Canada, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.



“For me, WASL means inclusion, it means network connecting, it means resources.”

– Dr. Rudina Çollaku, Executive Director, WCDCA, Albania

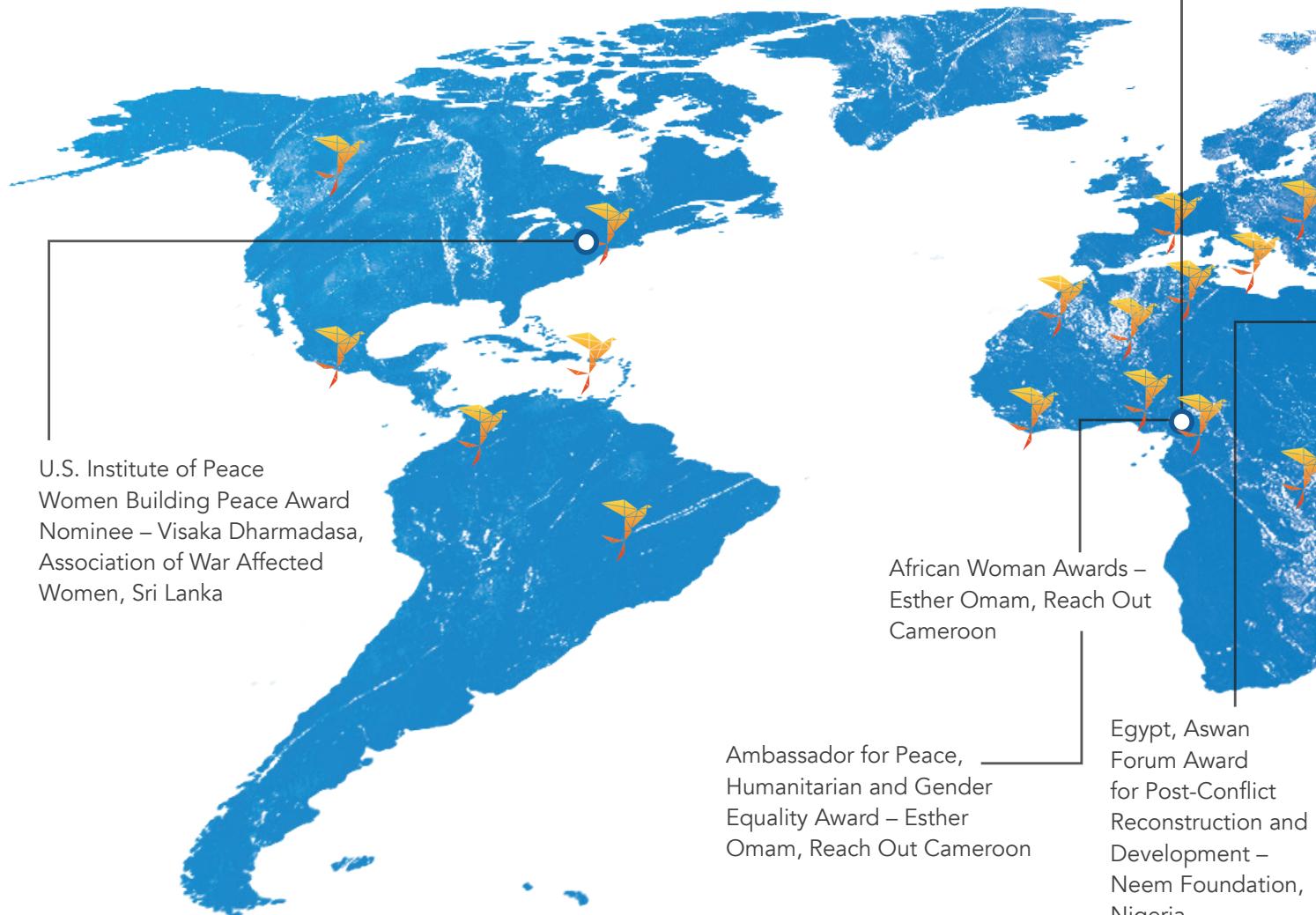


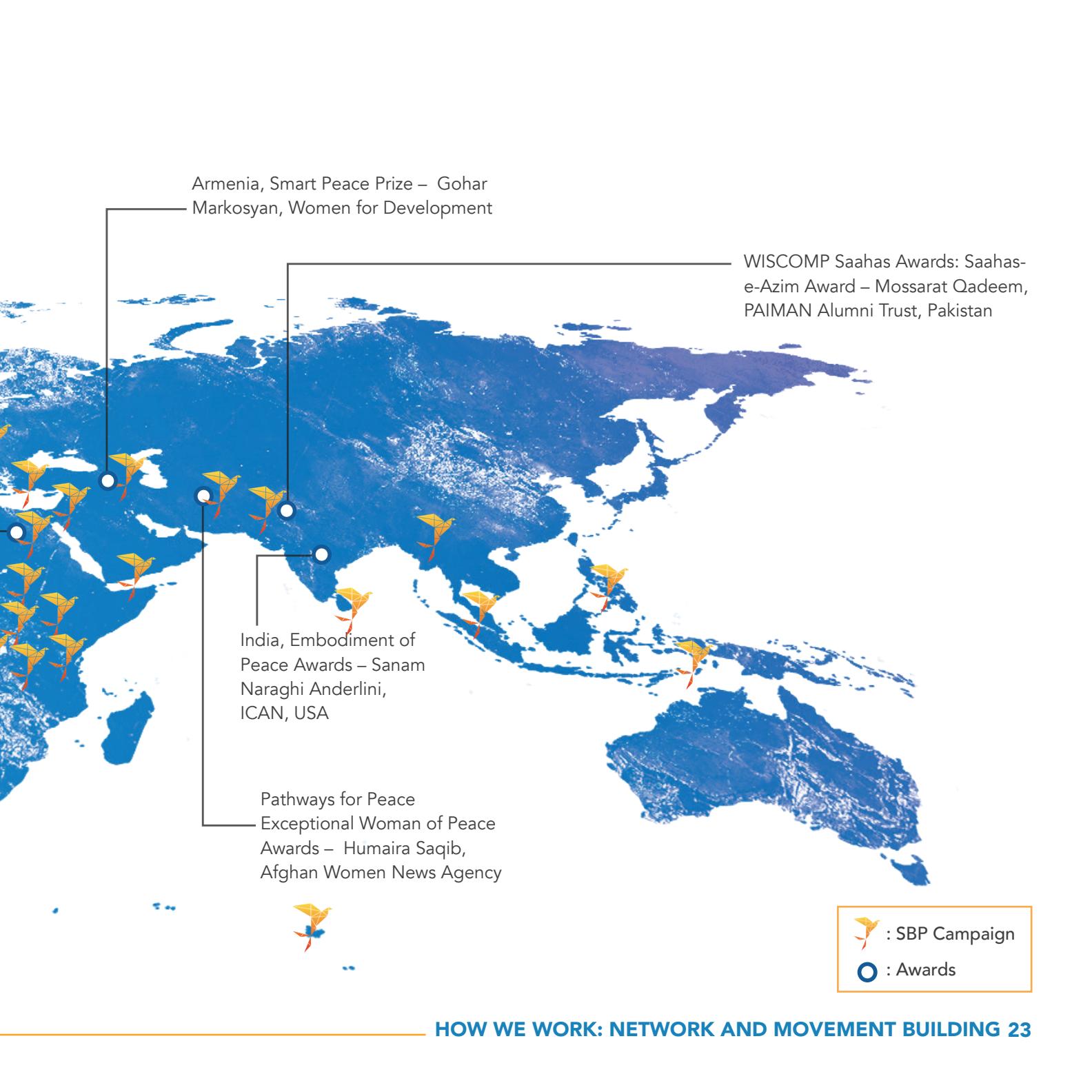


STAND WITH
WOMEN PEACEBUILDERS

WASL AWARDS AND THE GLOBAL SHE BUILDS PEACE CAMPAIGN

German Africa Prize – 1st National Women's Convention for Peace in Cameroon (including CAGEAD, Reach Out)







She • Builds • Peace

She Builds Peace is a collaborative campaign and a global call to action to stand with women peacebuilders. The campaign seeks to increase recognition of the unique and essential contributions of women peacebuilders to fostering security, justice, and peace in their communities. It calls on governments to fulfill their obligations of ensuring women peacebuilders are:

- Systematically engaged in peace and security decision-making;
- Protected to do their essential work; and
- Resourced effectively to enable the sustainability and expansion of their peace work.

ICAN's contributions to the campaign include investment in movement building, grantmaking, thought leadership, and advocacy.

- Since its launch in 2020, **49** WASL partners in **34** countries have launched the campaign. In 2024, **seven** WASL partners across five countries—Nigeria, Philippines, South Sudan, Syria, and Yemen—coordinated campaigns in their local contexts.

“I have been working as a community leader for years, but it was through this training that I learned about the Women, Peace and Security agenda and recognized myself as a peacebuilder.”

– NGO officer from Sao Paulo, Brazil

“SBP gave me tools to understand my role as a woman in peacebuilding and helped me believe again that change is possible when we work together.”

– A campaign participant, Abductees Mothers' Association, Yemen



Women Relief Aid She Builds Peace gathering

SPOTLIGHT: NIGERIA

In Nigeria, WASL partner the Allamin Foundation, led by Hamsatu Allamin, conducted dialogue training with **80** local women who are part of their She Builds Peace network. They gained increased awareness of deradicalization and transitional justice processes, which equipped them with the knowledge, mediation, and advocacy skills needed to navigate complex peacebuilding scenarios. Allamin also succeeded in gaining the support of Nigerian state authorities.

Nigerian government pledges to the She Builds Peace campaign:

- Nigeria Drug Law Enforcement Agency committed to collaborating with women peacebuilders on raising awareness about drug abuse and trying to establish a rehabilitation center for youth.
- The Ministry of Religion Affairs committed to increase awareness of protection (including sexual and gender-based violence) within communities and counter mis/disinformation.
- The Nigeria Police headquarters of Borno State committed to providing police presence and protection in public places to all She Builds Peace network members during their activities.
- The Military Northeast Joint Taskforce, Operation Hadin Kai recommitted to protection of women and children affiliated with Boko Haram, ensuring safe transition to government programs. They collaborate with the Allamin Foundation on disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration, and provided a grant to support their work.
- Borno Radio and Television committed to broadcasting messages against sexual and gender-based violence, and violence generally, especially during campaigns or elections.



Allamin Foundation-led workshop on GBV



Allamin at the Military Joint Investigation Center

Afghanistan: Not About Them, Without Them

For two years, ICAN has led *Not About Them, Without Them: Afghan Women's Voice and Vision Shaping the Future*, a program funded by UK International Development. We partnered with 30 Afghan women leaders and women-led organizations operating in Afghanistan.

We support and sustain the work of Afghan women, their leadership, their advocacy, and the work of their organizations as they move forward post-Taliban takeover. Our partnership has included grantmaking, mentorship, peer-to-peer exchange, joint advocacy, and documentation, and preservation of their strategic approaches in the challenging and rapidly evolving context of Afghanistan.

Prior to the Taliban's takeover in 2021, ICAN provided strategic guidance and financial support to WASL members in Afghanistan for over two decades. ICAN channeled more than \$750,000 to women-led peacebuilding organizations in Afghanistan prior to August 2021 and has facilitated and funded their work with more than \$2.5 million since.



Women and Children Research and Advocacy Network (WCRAN): A conversation with UN Special Rapporteur Richard Bennett

ADVOCACY & COALITION-BUILDING

Bringing our Afghan partners together to exchange and be in solidarity with each other has created lasting connections. In peer-to-peer exchanges (see page 50) and joint advocacy efforts, our partners work towards a shared vision for peace and gender equality in Afghanistan.

In 2024 our partners engaged in and led 20+ advocacy events and spaces.

Our partners' advocacy on gender apartheid was at the forefront of major milestones in the field of human rights and international criminal law in 2024, including ICJ and ICC arrest warrants for key Taliban officials.

ICAN's Afghanistan partners also came together for a joint letter on the Doha III process.

“As Afghan women, who have been used as tokens, bargaining chips, and justification for war and peace, we are especially invested in building a future of Afghanistan that ensures equal protection and promotion of our agency and rights.”

– Statement on the Upcoming Doha III Meeting on Afghanistan, June 2024

GRANTMAKING

In 2024, ICAN contracted **\$1,314,339** to 11 partner organizations.

Their work and vision stand as stark alternatives to the realities that the Taliban have established since the 2021 takeover.

Partners are providing critical skills in negotiations and mediation for conflict resolution, countering harmful gender stereotypes and norms, and working with communities to create social cohesion as a foundation to peacebuilding on the local and national scale. Many partners have integrated mental health and psychosocial support components into their work, to confront Afghanistan's mental health crisis.



“Being part of this program has connected me with a network of like-minded changemakers, making me feel supported and empowered to lead.”

MENTORSHIP

As a result of the countless decrees enacted by Taliban rule, Afghan women are forced to remain in their homes and have very few opportunities to convene. Responding to this, ICAN developed a mentorship program for 25 in four provinces community leaders.

ICAN provided the access to the tools, knowledge, and confidence they needed to drive meaningful change in their communities and beyond. The program included skills building for mental health counseling, as well as educational and livelihoods initiatives. Their projects directly respond to the social and economic challenges facing communities in Afghanistan, particularly in relation to women's rights and empowerment.

One mentee launched a sewing and embroidery initiative, assisting 60 women to generate their own incomes. Another organized classes for 200 young girls on topics such as literacy and women's rights—a crucial effort in face of current bans on formal schooling for women.

By connecting passionate changemakers with experienced mentors, the program provides a structured framework for growth and resilience.



AWSDC's monthly women's peace Shura



Participants at NRDO's livelihoods training

STRENGTHS



STRENGTH IN OUR DIVERSITY

DIVERSE GENERATIONAL EXPERIENCE

INCREASE VISIBILITY

THREATS & WEAKNESS

KNOWLEDGE
CREATIVITY
INNOVATION
RESOURCE SHARING

GENDER
♂/♀
APARTHEID

COUNTRY CONTEXTS OF OPPRESSION

FUNDING DRYING UP

PATRIARCHY

ANGER, DESPAIR, AND HELPLESSNESS

COMPETITIVENESS

"WE WILL NEVER SEE PEACE"



The 10th ICAN Women, Peace, and Security Forum
Peacebuilding in a Time of Pessimism

ICAN
International Civil Society Action Network
For women's rights, peace and security



ICAN FO

RTUNITIES

INTERGENERATIONAL
DIALOGUE AND LEARNING



VISIBLE
SUPPORT FOR
ALLIES



SUPPORT
EACH OTHER'S
ADVOCACIES

REGIONAL CLUSTERS
FOR COORDINATION

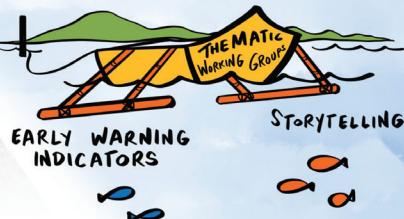


VIOLENT
EXTREMISM



CYBERTHREATS

FORUM 24 #SheBuildsPeace



“We are the movers and shakers of peacebuilding in our communities.”

– Esther Omam,
Executive Director, Reach Out
Cameroon

Visual story by
TOFU CREATIVES. COM

ADVOCACY

In 2024, ICAN supported WASL partners as they contributed to **over 65** advocacy events and panels. This included our team assisting partners in preparing and delivering remarks at the United Nations Security Council, leading international advocacy on recognizing gender apartheid in Afghanistan, and disseminating cutting-edge policy recommendations.

ICAN provides fresh perspectives, new solutions for the resolution and transformation of conflicts and violent extremism. Our ideas arise from our team and partners' years of practical experience and our evidence-based research.

ICAN also bridges divides, bringing our local partners to global policy spaces. We support them in bringing their analyses of ground realities and recommendations for action based on their lived experiences of peacebuilding to international decision-makers.

We help to reframe, broaden, and improve the discourse and practice of peace, security, the resolution of wars, and the prevention of violent extremism.

In 2024, ICAN conducted targeted bilateral dialogues with several governments, including the U.S., UK, Germany, and Norway regarding the application of the WPS agenda in their diplomacy related to Sudan, Afghanistan, the Middle East, and Syria.

As part of our public advocacy, staff delivered keynote speeches, university courses, and participated in over **20** panel presentations to policy and academic audiences. We organized **10** advocacy events with our partners and contributed to a further **45** events throughout the year.

Events and topics included addressing trauma in peacebuilding in Israel and Palestine, fostering social cohesion amid intense polarization, and centering the core role of women peacebuilders in all stages of peace and conflict resolution.

In October, ICAN Founder and CEO Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE launched "If You Were in Charge," as a podcast that reframes global challenges as global solutions, featuring pioneering activists and frontline peacebuilders.



"We must genuinely think about peace actors as critical actors in the conflict arena—not only as equal actors—but actually more legitimate actors—than the armed actors in the negotiation and resolution of conflict."

— Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE, Founder and CEO, ICAN, at the Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development 2024

ICAN & WASL 2024 STATEMENT: "24 YEARS AFTER UNSCR 1325: WOMEN, WAR, AND INSECURITY"

In October, ICAN and WASL released "24 Years After UNSCR 1325: Women, War, and Insecurity".

The statement articulates the alliance members' shared frustration as the 24th annual WPS Week was celebrated, while many UN member states continued to aid, abet, and perpetrate the wars on Gaza, Lebanon, Sudan, Myanmar, Syria, Yemen, and beyond.

24 Years After UNSCR 1325: Women, War, and Insecurity

As members of the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL), we commemorate the 24th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) with a heavy heart. For over two decades, we have dedicated ourselves to advancing peace and security. Yet today the world is plagued by escalating militarism and wars that once started, go on forever.

We felt deep frustration as the 24th annual WPS Week was commemorated at the UN, celebrating women's leadership in peace, while many UN member states aid, abet, and perpetrate the wars on Gaza, Lebanon, Sudan, Myanmar, Ukraine, Syria, Yemen, and beyond. Pervasive violence continues to spread beyond conflict zones, with women and girls often bearing the brunt of multiple intersecting crises. The return of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan has emboldened extremists and authoritarians alike, and ushered in a new era of gender persecution, setting a dangerous precedent for the rest of the world.

As women peacebuilders, and members of the WPS community, we have been at the forefront of efforts to mitigate conflict in our own countries, while valuing the multilateral system and its nonviolent conflict resolution mechanisms.

But we are tired of the hypocrisy of states which claim to champion peace but profit from the sale of arms used in countless atrocities. We are tired of the double standards that enable powerful governments to obfuscate international laws and shred our norms and means of equal coexistence, as peoples and states. We are tired of the empty promises of peace, justice, and inclusion.

We urge global leaders, the UN, and Member States to acknowledge the failure of "business as usual". We need a paradigm shift where peace is the goal and the strategy. Violence is not inevitable. It is a choice and tactic. True leadership for peace and equal coexistence requires the courage to talk, not to shoot. This is not idealism. It is the hard work that peacebuilders do every day, often risking their own lives.

One year ago, as the genocide in Gaza was intensifying, we reminded the world that violence begets more violence, extremism begets more extremism, but innocent people pay the highest price. After a year of inaction, we once again urgently call for an immediate ceasefire to protect civilians, allow the flow of aid, and facilitate the release of hostages and prisoners. We insist that international law be respected, and occupation ended, without which justice cannot be realized.

True security and peace for Palestinians and Israelis will not come through the barrel of a gun. The only lasting, viable solutions will come through radical dialogue—within Palestinian and Israeli societies and ultimately between them—and a willingness to accept co-existence in shared societies—within and across borders—rooted in equality, dignity, and common humanity.

It is not easy to speak so frankly. Many may disagree with our stance. We value partnering with governments and multilateral institutions in working for peace. However, to hold true to feminist principles and the WPS agenda's essence, we must practice what we preach: to dialogue in respect and reciprocity, not to silence or marginalize; to acknowledge the trauma and pain of people on all sides, without erasing histories or falling into false equivalencies; and to accept our responsibility towards future generations. The powerful and privileged have even greater responsibility.

The violence we are witnessing today is perpetrated by human beings and is not inevitable. It can be stopped. It must be stopped.

Every day could be the start of a different future, one free of violence and oppression, anchored in peace and human dignity for all.

From members of the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership. For current list of signatories, please see [here](#).

INCLUSIVE AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE PEACEMAKING

Peacemaking is always complex, but to be effective and sustainable, two ingredients are essential:

1. Political will on the part of warring parties to resolved differences through negotiations.
2. Inclusivity of social groups, especially civil society peacebuilders, to act as interlocutors. They bring experiences, needs, and solutions of the communities affected by conflict to the tables of negotiations and convey the compromises and agreements made in the political realm to the public.

2024 was a difficult year for peacemakers. Political will was absent in many of the worst conflict settings. The space for civic engagement was also drastically reduced, due to polarization and attacks on peacebuilders. Nonetheless, we persisted in creating space and opportunities to speak of the critical importance of inclusive and gender-responsive peacemaking.

SPOTLIGHT: SYRIA

Following the fall of the Assad regime in December, ICAN swiftly mobilized our partners, providing a vital space to share reflections, emotions, and strategic responses to the unfolding transition.

We amplified partners' recommendations for the transition across our broader networks and connected our partners bilaterally with governments and donors for advocacy opportunities. We also provided mentoring support for our partners as they engaged with the interim government.

We issued ***How to Win the Peace in Syria: Statement from the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership***, for international policy audiences.



"Since the start of the revolution, despite the immense risks and hardships, countless Syrian women took on the responsibility to protect their communities and displaced populations. As the international community faltered in its efforts to reach a political settlement, our locally rooted and independent Syrian partners and other civil society networks worked hard to foster societal change and peace from the ground up."

– *How to Win the Peace in Syria: Statement from the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership*

HOW TO WIN THE PEACE IN SYRIA: STATEMENT FROM THE WOMEN'S ALLIANCE FOR SECURITY LEADERSHIP

1. Double up on Support to Women's Leadership and Civil Society: Recognize, engage, fund, and support women-led and locally rooted civil society organizations as key actors in peacebuilding, social cohesion, and democracy. Ensure women peacebuilders' systematic and structured participation in all the political processes and levels, including transitional bodies, and security and governance structures.

2. Ensure an Inclusive Political Transition: Establish a clear timeline for democratic governance, adhere to international frameworks as still relevant, and support a comprehensive national dialogue involving all segments of society to address reconciliation and governance issues.

3. Protect Civilians and Civilian Infrastructure: Ensure the protection of all civilians and civilian infrastructure, protect Syrian heritage sites, and cease all military actions and violence that exacerbate suffering or destabilize the region.

4. Guarantee Human Rights: Uphold fundamental human rights, including freedom of religion, women's rights, and the inclusion of all diverse groups, including minorities, in Syria's political and social transition.

5. Value Syria's Diversity: Actively support and leverage the rich cultural, ethnic, and religious pluralism of Syrian civil society to bridge divides, foster trust, and strengthen national unity and territorial integrity.

6. Provide Humanitarian Support: Deliver humanitarian aid to displaced populations and survivors of trauma, ensuring access to essential services and psychosocial support.

7. Support Reconciliation and Justice for Victims and Survivors: Provide comprehensive support for all detainees that have been freed, their families, and those mourning the deaths of their loved ones, contributing to broader justice and reconciliation efforts.



"Syrian women peacebuilders... are indispensable for this transition. The road ahead must safeguard and draw on their invaluable contributions to fostering dialogue, mediating disputes peacefully, and ensuring social cohesion among the rich tapestry of Syria's cultural and social identities."

— How to Win the Peace in Syria: Statement from the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership

SPOTLIGHT: SUDAN



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra



Joint Statement from the United Arab Emirates, United States, Switzerland, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the African Union, and the United Nations in Switzerland on

Sustainable Peace in Sudan: Integrating Sudanese women's perspectives, leadership and recommendations into peace and humanitarian efforts in Sudan.

We recognize the critical role women in Sudan play as agents of peace, as humanitarians, as experts, and as pillars of their communities. Their inclusion is instrumental – and indispensable – to achieving and sustaining peace in Sudan. We must listen to, and act upon, Sudanese women's perspectives and recommendations if we are to achieve meaningful results. We commend previous successful initiatives with Sudanese women under the auspices of the African Union.

Inspired by meetings with a diverse group of Sudanese women civilian experts, we are committed to advancing a shared goal: to address the plight of women and children in Sudan, as well as promote their goals and address their needs across the various tracks of these talks. We also commit to intensifying our diplomatic efforts to protecting all civilians, especially women and children, from all forms of violence, including sexual violence in conflict. This is why, today, the delegations established a technical group that will prioritize integrating the ideas and recommendations of women in Sudan. We will also continue to consult with Sudanese women as part of this ALPS* platform to amplify their voices as we work towards a future of peace and prosperity in Sudan.

*Aligned for Advancing Lifesaving and Peace in Sudan



"We recognize the critical role women in Sudan play as agents of peace, as humanitarians, as experts, and as pillars of their communities. Their inclusion is instrumental—and indispensable—to achieving and sustaining peace in Sudan. We must listen to, and act upon, Sudanese women's perspectives and recommendations if we are to achieve meaningful results."

– Joint Statement from the United Arab Emirates, United States, Switzerland, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the African Union, and the United Nations in Switzerland, August 22, 2024

Sudan Geneva Talks

Ahead of the U.S.-led ceasefire talks in Geneva in August 2024—supported by the ALPS (Aligned for Advancing Lifesaving and Peace in Sudan) group—ICAN played a key role in coordinating with other women's networks, civil society actors, and state partners to ensure meaningful participation and advocacy by Sudanese women. We partnered with the U.S. Department of State's Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues, the United States Institute of Peace, and Search for Common Ground to ensure and shape the participation of Sudanese women in the talks.

This included substantive input on the pre-talks agenda, selection criteria, and coordination of logistics and high-level meetings with partners. On-site in Geneva, ICAN advised the delegation on message prioritization, coalition-building, and maximizing advocacy impact.

We conducted bilateral advocacy, offering key government allies practical advice on ensuring a more systematic and structured participation of women peacebuilders in ongoing processes.

While progress was slow and fragile, we welcomed the official statement declaring the formation of a "technical working group to prioritize the ideas and recommendations of Sudanese women" and the commitment to continued consultation with them.

SPOTLIGHT: ISRAEL/PALESTINE

Berlin, Germany - Robert Bosch Stiftung and Alliance for Middle East Peace: In June, ICAN Founder Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE joined an experts' discussion on Israel/Palestine called "How to Carry On: Civil Society Peacebuilding Amidst Trauma".

She shared reflections on the importance of creating "People's Peace Processes" going forward, to break the cycle of failed exclusionary peace negotiations, and to ensure that Israeli and Palestinian civil society have the opportunity to hold their leadership accountable, while focusing on building a shared future.



“ “It’s not just political—we need a societal solution.”

— Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE, Founder and CEO, ICAN

“ “If I were in charge, my hope for all Palestinians would center around peace, stability, diplomacy, protection of human rights for everyone, economic development, and infrastructure.”

— Lucy Talgieh, Wi'am, Palestine

SPOTLIGHT: QATAR MEDIATION FORUM

Do Women Matter? – Qatar Mediation Forum: In December 2024, Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE delivered a keynote address at the inaugural Qatar Mediation Forum.

This is a new high-level venue to discuss the role of negotiation in today's challenging geopolitical context.

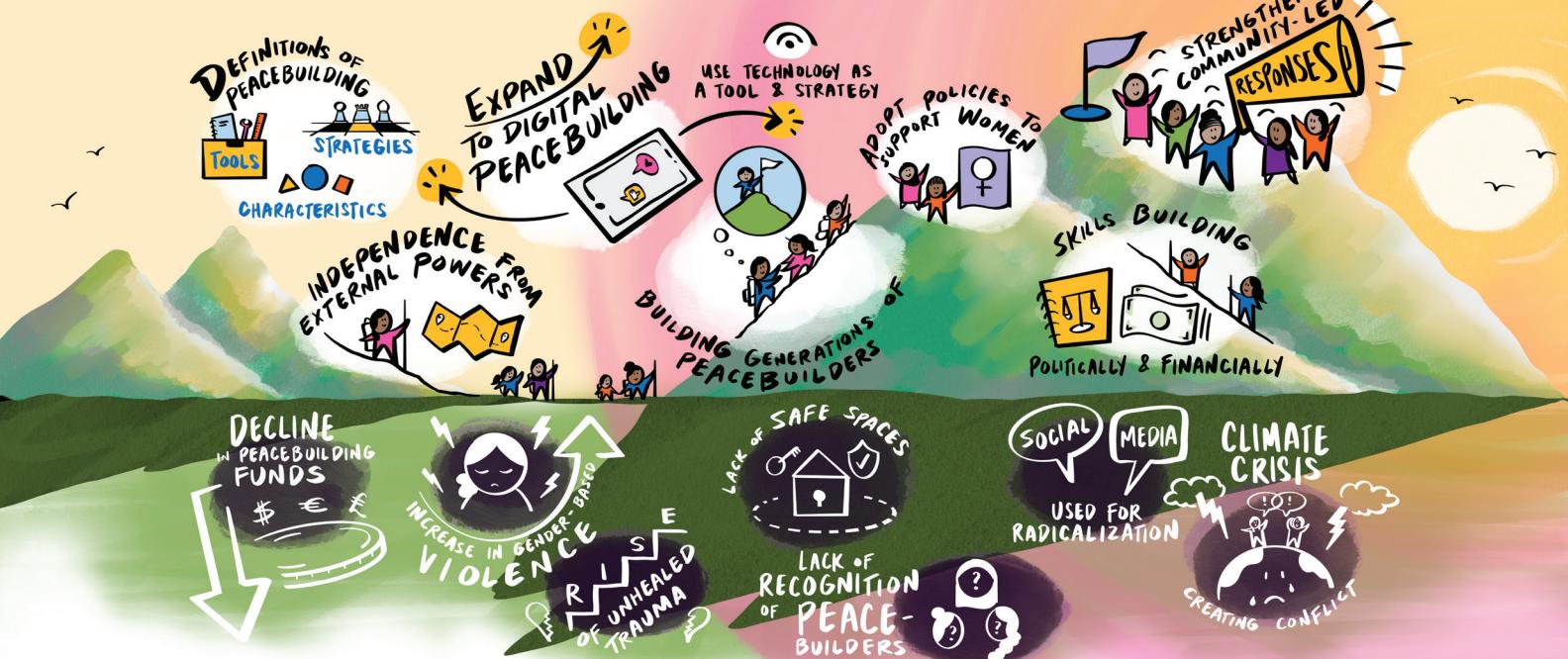
“The [WPS] agenda is not simply about equal opportunities for women in the status quo. It’s about every measure and effort we can make to strengthen building peace and human security, preventing violence and ensuring transformative equality, so that neither our sons nor our daughters have to face the horror of wars.”

– Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE, Founder and CEO, ICAN



STATE OF OUR FIELD

TIRANA, ALBANIA
2-5 JUNE 2024



“Investing in peace, rejecting violence, and building social cohesion are the most important thing we can do in times of conflict.”

— Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE, Founder and CEO, ICAN

SECURITY ACTORS & WOMEN PEACEBUILDERS



March 2024: ICAN led the “Bridging Positions, Building Trust: Women Peacebuilders and Security Sector Actors” initiative in New York, co-organized with the Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations.

It built on 12 years of ICAN’s experience documenting the work of women peacebuilders who confront security challenges, and investing more than \$2.95 million in our partners’ initiatives engaging security actors.

The initiative was prompted by two fundamental trends:

1. There are heightened levels of societal insecurity and violence throughout the world;
2. There is a growing divide between the human security priorities of communities and peacebuilders and the rising militarized national security priorities held by governments and international actors.

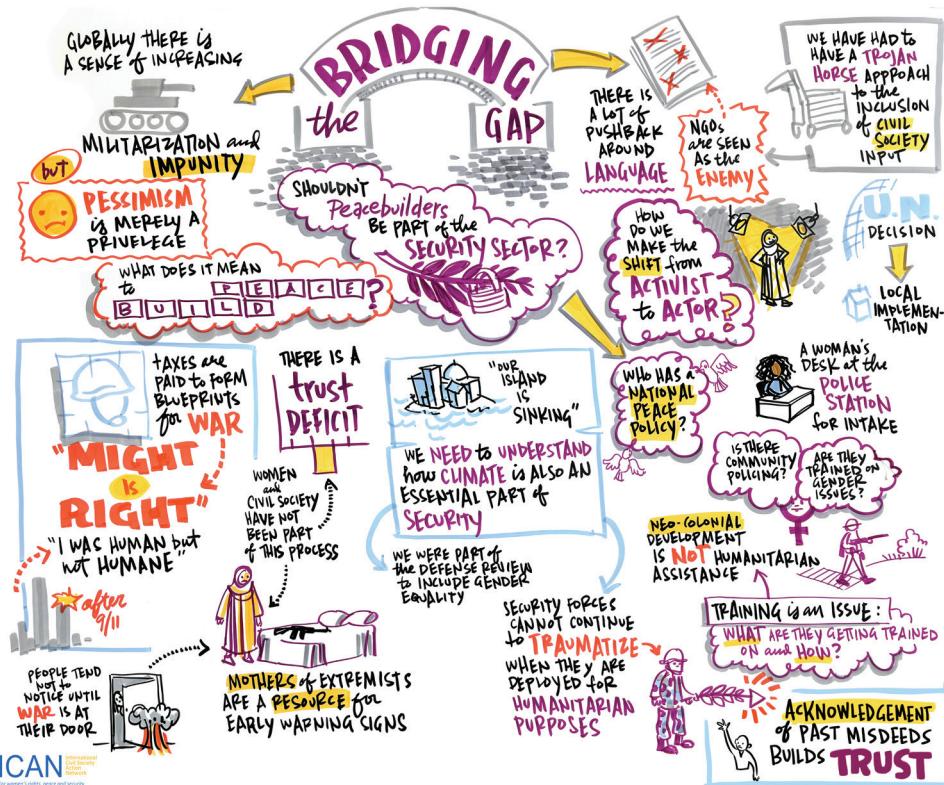
“Without the consent, willingness, and positive support of state security actors, it is not possible to succeed on your projects, whether peacebuilding or otherwise.”

– Shafqat Mehmood, Chairperson, PAIMAN Alumni Trust, Pakistan



We convened civil society women peacebuilders and security actors to:

1. Highlight security trends and challenges and bridge the gaps between human and national security priorities in fragile and conflict affected contexts;
2. Break down the siloes between civil society and security actors to demonstrate the value of gendered approaches, enabling an exchange of analyses, know-how and practical solutions;
3. Demonstrate the unique and transformative contributions of locally rooted women peacebuilders to addressing complex security challenges;
4. Highlight good methodologies and models for effective partnership between security actors and women peacebuilders, in peace processes and security operations;
5. Offer practical recommendations to enable systematic, gendered, and inclusive approaches in peace processes, security arrangements and policing practices.



Amina Rasul, PCID; Robinah Rubimbwa, COACT, Uganda; and Helena Grönberg, Program Director, ICAN

“Coming together is key to mobilizing a new form of community security.”

— Visaka Dharmadasa,
Founder, Association of
War-Affected Women
(AWAW), Sri Lanka

TRANSFORMING EXTREMISMS

Given the rise of polarization across all our societies in 2024, ICAN's advocacy on extremism emphasized the need for and means to foster social cohesion. We forged partnerships with the Social Change Initiative in Ireland, the Othering and Belonging Institute in California, and the Robert Bosch Academy in Germany to share our approach.



"We're living in this age where our societal diversity has led to differences, and divisions. We need to change course, valuing our diversity but seeing within it our similarities so that we can foster social cohesion."

– Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE,
Founder and CEO, ICAN

Belfast, Northern Ireland - Social Change Initiative:

In February, Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE spoke at the Social Change Initiative's Countering Violent Conflict & Polarization Conference in Belfast. With an audience of philanthropists, she highlighted the importance of women's approaches to fostering pluralism as a counterbalance to extremisms, and how philanthropy could enable women to have a force multiplier role in peacemaking.

Oakland, CA - Othering and Belonging Institute Conference: In April, Naraghi Anderlini shared international perspectives on women's contributions to peacebuilding and social cohesion to inform a US-based audience addressing polarization and division in the US domestic context.

Berlin, Germany - Robert Bosch Academy: As part of her six-month fellowship with the Robert Bosch Academy, Naraghi Anderlini participated in several speaking engagements and conducted cutting-edge research on identities, extremisms, and polarization. In April, she appeared on the "Think. Debate. Inspire." podcast to share her research and her work on fostering pluralism and social cohesion.

PROTECTION OF PEACEBUILDERS

As civic space shrinks, threats to women peacebuilders continue to grow and change. In person and online, women peacebuilders face distinct risks to their mental health, professional integrity, and physical security. In 2024, ICAN promoted the need for the protection of women peacebuilders to governments and international actors, as well as enabled trainings for women peacebuilders in the WASL network to take care of their own security.

Washington, D.C. - U.S. Institute of Peace: In September, ICAN Senior Program Officer Stacey Schamber co-facilitated a simulation on technology-facilitated gender-based violence for U.S. government representatives, "Digital Disruption: Unpacking the Power of WPS."

Secure Here and Now – A Peacebuilder's Security Assessment Tool Goes Global

Since 2020 ICAN has supported Colombian WASL member, CIASE, in its development of the Secure Here and Now tool—a holistic and feminist self-assessment tool to enhance the security of women peacebuilders and human rights defenders.

The tool comprises a battery of indicators to identify and measure risk factors in five key categories: 1) Emotional and cognitive security; 2) Physical security; 3) Spiritual security; 4) Economic security; and 5) Political security. It also helps peacebuilders identify strategies to mitigate the risks through protective actions and care routines.

In 2024, ICAN supported the testing and application of Secure Here and Now across the world with WASL members in Cameroon, Indonesia, Palestine, Syria, and Uganda.

In each country, our partners held workshops for local staff and peacebuilders to test the tool, identifying and mitigating security threats, as well as creating security plans for themselves and their organizations.



An exercise during CAGEAD's Secure Here and Now Workshop, Cameroon



COACT 1325's Secure Here and Now Workshop, Uganda

FEMINIST FINANCING FOR PEACE

In 2024, ICAN worked to expand international consensus on the need to support flexible funding mechanisms for feminist financing. Through new alliances, public speaking, and advocacy to donor governments, ICAN's team asserted the need to reframe risk and invest in trust.

Expanding our community of practice - ICAN and the Vitol Foundation

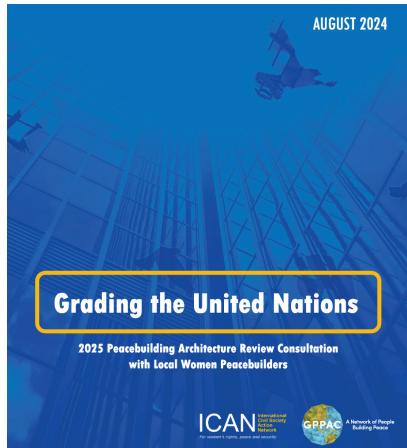
ICAN's new partnership with the Vitol Foundation represents a significant shift in donor practices to directly fund women peacebuilders' holistic crisis response and support their triple nexus approaches to peace, humanitarian aid, and development. We are expanding ICAN's community of practice into humanitarian sector, as we will work in tandem with Vitol to secure new partners to support our partners' humanitarian interventions—which they have long conducted without support from the donor community. Our work with Vitol represents a shift away from a traditional donor-recipient relationship to one of true partnership, where they are equally invested in the development and success of our partners.



Wilton Park - United Kingdom:

February, Interim CEO France Bognon attended the Wilton Park conference "Women's Rights Organizations & Movements in Crises: Pathways to Progress" alongside women-led organizations, funds, national governments, NGOs, and humanitarian actors. Discussions centered on reforming international funding mechanisms, humanitarian responses, and localization. Bognon spoke on feminist funding, ICAN's Innovative Peace Fund, and the innovative work of the women-led peacebuilding organizations in WASL.

UN PEACEBUILDING ARCHITECTURE REFORM (PBAR)



UN Peacebuilding Architecture Reform (PBAR)

Throughout the year, ICAN also partnered with the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), to contribute proactively to the 2025 UN Peacebuilding Architecture Reform (PBAR) process.

Tirana, Albania – ICAN Forum: In June 2024, we held consultations with our WASL partners and co-published *Grading the United Nations: 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review Consultation with Local Women Peacebuilders* with GPPAC.

New York, NY – United Nations: In October, ICAN Program Director Helena Grönberg and our WASL partners, Ghada Rifai, Co-Founder of the Mobaderoon Network (Syria) and Food4Humanity Founder Muna Luqman (Yemen) spoke at high level UN events. They highlighted the critical role of local peacebuilders in informing the official UN reform process, and the practical solutions that such actors can contribute beginning in early 2025.



“The donor community and development partners must consult local peacebuilders as equal partners in all aspects of decision-making. [...] So that local peacebuilders actually shape relevant policy and programming.”

– *Grading the United Nations*

BUILDING • SKILLS • AND • EXPERTISE

Throughout the year, ICAN provided a range of support to our partners, tailored to their needs, including strategic accompaniment to peace and transition processes, convening peer-to-peer exchanges, providing trainings, and delivering technical assistance.

PEER-TO-PEER EXCHANGES

Cross country peer-to-peer learning exchanges are among the most valuable aspects of WASL. Every year, ICAN facilitates a series of such exchanges, enabling our partners to learn from each other's peacebuilding techniques, share common solutions, deepen solidarities, and strengthen their impact.

The peer-to-peer exchanges vary in format, ranging from ICAN's biweekly WASL calls ([see page 21](#)) to in-country visits, and tool development, translation services, and online thematic clinics, responding to our partners' needs.

SPOTLIGHT: IRAQ & INDONESIA

In 2024, ICAN facilitated a peer-to-peer exchange in Indonesia between WASL members Empatiku (Indonesia) and Odessa Organization for Women's Development (Iraq). The visit included meeting with community stakeholders, government officials, and diplomatic missions, notably the Norwegian Embassy.

Local communities in both countries were severely impacted by the surge of ISIS/DAESH in recruitment and radicalization of families, including women and children. Many are now returning home, and tensions remain, despite state efforts at rehabilitation.

A key strategy that Empatiku has developed in Indonesia includes localized early warning systems linking community members to state actors. The peer-to-peer exchange enabled members of WASL partner, Odessa, from Iraq, to learn about the collaboration between Empatiku, community members, and the Indonesian authorities.



ICAN, Odessa, and Empatiku team members meet with officials from Pondok Kacang Timur



"You need to see the work firsthand. You need to experience the work on the ground with the teams and long conversations you have in a face-to-face setting."

– Maysoon Ahmed, Director, Odessa Organization for Women's Development

Sharing Knowledge: Empatiku's Community-Based Early Warning System



With ICAN's support, Empatiku translated their Guidebook for Building Community Resilience to Violent Extremism into English and plans to translate it into Arabic for Odessa and other WASL partners working in Arabic speaking contexts.

Impact of the Peer-to-Peer Exchange for Odessa

Odessa plans to establish similar Community-Based Early Warning Systems in its communities, adapting the approach to raise awareness of violent extremism through community dialogue.



Kusumarini, Ahmed, and ICAN's Rawan Kawhaji and Stacey Schamber

“Meeting WASL members in person gives a lot of added value in terms of getting in contact personally, allowing time to share experience and gain a sense of community with value to improve each other’s work.”

– Mira Kusumarini, Founder and Director, Empatiku

SPOTLIGHT: AFGHANISTAN & WASL MEMBERS PEER-TO-PEER EXCHANGES

As part of our *Not About Them, Without Them: Afghan Women's Voice and Vision Shaping the Future* program (see page 26), ICAN hosted a series of peer-to-peer events across the WASL network for our Afghan partners partners from other contexts. Forging solidarities across borders and generations, our peer-to-peer exchanges became essential fora for strategy development and connection between Afghans now divided across continents.

Learning from Yemen: A Triple Nexus Approach of Livelihoods, Development, and Peacebuilding

Women peacebuilders in Afghanistan increasingly and intuitively embrace and integrate humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding strategies in their work. Many incorporate livelihoods skills and income-generating activities, financial literacy, food delivery, and crisis response alongside their mediation and negotiations and peacebuilding efforts.

In the peer-to-peer exchange, Yemeni WASL partner, Muna Luqman, Founder of Food4Humanity, shared her experiences of mediating tribal conflicts driven by water disputes, by providing water pumps and securing their commitments to sending girls to school. In areas affected by food shortages, Luqman's work has included setting up bakeries while calling for protection of civilians. Partners discussed how a triple nexus approach could mitigate risks for women-led peacebuilding organizations in Afghanistan by enabling them to contribute to the economic wellbeing of communities, which the de facto authorities value.



"Thank you for the space as it is very informative for me...we can do a lot more activities on the ground if we come together."

– Jamila Afghani



"If we are united, we can have more influence on decisionmakers and policymakers."

– Zarqa Yaftali, Director, Women and Children Legal Research Foundation (WCLRF), Afghanistan

Global Solidarity: Advocacy to Address Gender Apartheid

South African Bernedette Muthien shared her experiences living under racial apartheid in South Africa. Muthien and the group reflected on the parallels between racial and gender apartheid. Together, they explored the opportunities and challenges that could come from a potential codification of gender apartheid in the Crimes Against Humanity Treaty. Partners stressed that unity was essential, and the concerns of local Afghan peacebuilders should lead international efforts.

SECURITIES OF CARE

Women-led organizations and peacebuilders in Afghanistan face myriad new risks and threats to their security since the Taliban takeover in 2021. The Taliban arbitrarily arrest citizens, assault people on the streets, raid homes and offices, and impose a litany of decrees restricting women's movement, participation, and existence in society. Our Afghan partners face increasing demands to respond to the needs of their families, staff, and networks, as well as their larger communities, at a time when there are no broader social safety nets or support systems. These pressures severely impact their mental health and wellbeing.

In response to the holistic security needs of our partners, ICAN commissioned a comprehensive security assessment led by Afghanistan security experts. The findings reaffirmed the increased security risks that women in Afghanistan face.

The assessment recommended:

- 1. Security for Women Leaders:** Provide funding to implement security measures that enable women to maintain leadership roles safely.
- 2. Support for Women's Advocacy:** Invest in programs promoting women's participation in decision-making and gender equality within organizations.
- 3. Safe Leadership Pathways:** Create secure work environments, both physically and digitally, for women leaders.

Drawing on the expertise of the WASL network, ICAN developed a menu of security services for our partners. This included mental health and psychosocial care and digital security services.



"We need to put on our own oxygen masks first before assisting others."

– WASL Peacebuilder



THE • INNOVATIVE • PEACE FUND • (IPF)

ICAN's Innovative Peace Fund (IPF) was the first and remains the 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.

The IPF provides a mix of flexible and programmatic funding to support projects, organizational development, and emergency rapid response in times of crisis.





"ICAN's financial support, particularly flexible funding, has been essential. Without it, the Sri Lankan Collective for Consensus would not have been possible. This platform plays a pivotal role in influencing the government's reconciliation efforts. It has strengthened ongoing peacebuilding and provided the flexibility needed to respond with agility to emerging challenges."

– Association of War Affected Women (AWAW), Sri Lanka

IPF 2024 GRANT EXAMPLES

Kenya: Deradicalizing and Rehabilitating Women and Girls Affected by Violent Extremism

Coast Education Center (COEC) - \$60,000

COEC works in many of Kenya's most marginalized communities, impacted by violent extremism. With ICAN's support, COEC has integrated a gender perspective in Kenya's national policies and programs on the prevention of violent extremism (PVE).



COEC with county-level and government officials

In 2024, working in the Mombassa region, COEC undertook a mix of governmental advocacy and direct community activities. This included:

- Supporting the Kenyan Ministry of Women's Affairs' efforts to broaden access to resources for women and girls impacted by violent extremism
- Partnering with the police, civil society, and national counter-terrorism actors to strengthen their ability to prevent violent extremism
- Counteracting the narratives of extremist forces at the grassroots level
- Facilitating trauma therapy sessions for 50 women and girls
- Training 20 community counselors

Myanmar: Addressing Conflict Related Sexual and Gender Based Violence

Gender Equality Network (GEN) - \$40,009

A long-standing member of WASL, GEN is a network of 130 Myanmarese women's organizations dedicated to fostering gender justice in the country, with emphasis on mitigating and preventing conflict related sexual violence and supporting survivors.

GEN's IPF grant strengthened local leadership, enhanced gender-based violence (GBV) response mechanisms, and laid a strong foundation for gender justice in Myanmar through:

- Knowledge-sharing workshops, WPS fora, and intensive training for 90 women human rights defenders and peacebuilders
- GBV prevention programs that reached 191 women and providing critical support to survivors
- New cross-border partnerships with WASL members and women-led organizations to explore strategies for peacebuilding in difficult contexts

Syria: "Together for a Stable Society"

Zenobia - \$60,965

In 2024, Zenobia focused on social cohesion between IDPs and their host community in Northwest Syria.

Their work included:

- Training 30 young leaders in mediation, conflict resolution, and facilitation, who then led community dialogues
- Six collaborative community initiatives, four cultural events, and four panel discussions to promote security, belonging, and mutual understanding between the two communities
- Expanding their reach after the fall of the Assad regime
- Enabling women with disabilities to participate in their efforts



Participants engage in an exercise to show the links between diverse communities



Zenobia community initiative: social cohesion through art

Organizational Development Support

To strengthen ICAN partners' organizations, we facilitated capacity development in the following areas:

1. Monitoring and Evaluation

Training provided by Randa Yassir on:

- Gendered data collection for peacebuilding
- Impact documentation
- Developing indicators for lessons learning

2. Security

- Trainings on digital security with attention to the specific threats women face online led by Najia Haneefi and Ayaan Khalif
- Security assessments and strategies

3. Financial Management

- Trainings for our Afghan partners on the QuickBooks software

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS:

From 2022–2024, ICAN was part of the first cohort of INGO partners of the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund’s (WPHF) Rapid Response Window for women’s participation in peace processes. Our partnership with WPHF spanned grantmaking, network and movement building, advocacy, case study documentation, and inclusive peacemaking.

- We disbursed **\$588,772** in short-term grants to six organizations and provided **\$52,953** in direct support (logistics, travel, technical support) to three initiatives, including enabling Sudanese and Cameroonian women peacebuilders to attend peace dialogues.



Esther Omam (Executive Director, Reach Out Cameroon) in discussion with the Former Canadian High Commissioner His Excellency Richard Bale for the signing of commitments to support women peacebuilders at the Coalition Building Workshop in Mvan, Yaoundé.

THE UN'S WOMEN'S PEACE AND HUMANITARIAN FUND

The partnership model enables INGO partners to coordinate support and leverage each other's strengths.

In September 2024, ICAN, the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD), WPHF, and local partners—including WASL members CIASE and Corporación Conciudadanía—convened in Bogotá to share lessons and deepen partnerships to ensure greater gender-responsiveness and accountability in peace and security processes. This included public and bilateral dialogues with UN and embassy representatives.



Colombian partners, including CIASE and Corporación Conciudadanía joined ICAN, NIMD, and WPHF



ICAN, NIMD, and WPHF meet with CONAMIC, a coordination mechanism/network of indigenous women

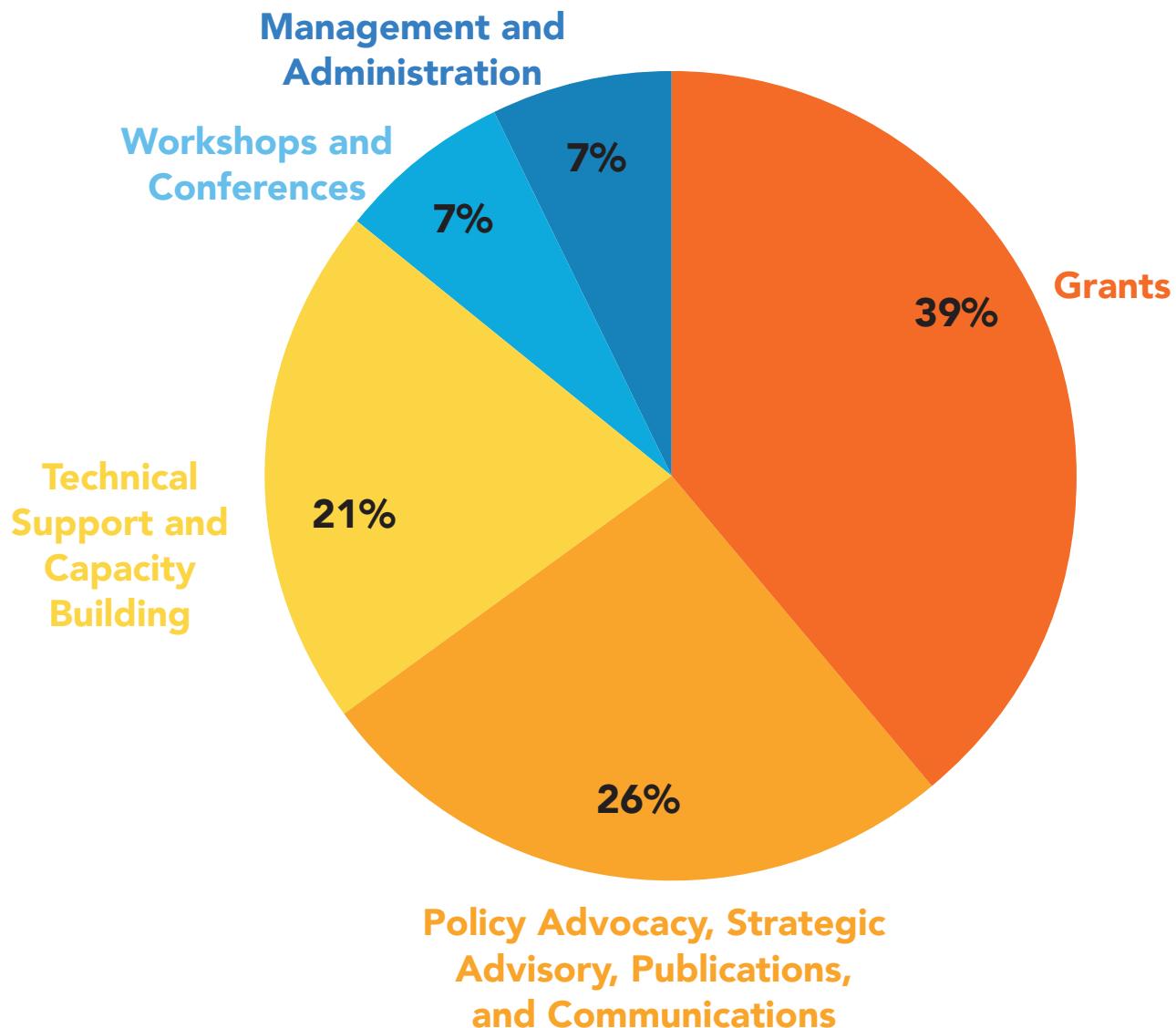
“This meeting created a unique space for collaboration and shared learning that goes beyond our usual gatherings. We felt it was particularly valuable given the pressing issues we face.”

– Rosa Emilia Salamanca, Executive Director, CIASE

FINANCIALS

Consolidated Statement in Numbers					Statement of Financial Position				
	2024	2023	2022	2021		2024	2023	2022	2021
Income									
Government/ NGO Grants	4,515,48	2,557,38	2,690,79	2,615,47	Cash, Investments, and Equivalents	2,426,488	1,390,601	1,302,257	1,005,362
Foundations and Corporate Grants	1,224,93	581,302	664,452	607,400	Grants and Other Receivable	301,726	223,409	173,993	129,932
Individual Contributions	17,489	121,946	46,188	105,382	Prepaid Expenses			13,600	202,779
Fees for Service			47,166	48,538	Deposits		3,332	3,332	4,452
Other (Miscellaneous) Revenue	33,762	32,142	10,947	1,774	Total Assets	2,728,214	1,617,342	1,493,182	1,342,525
Total Income	5,791,692	3,292,628	3,458,932	3,378,341	Liabilities and Net Assets				
Expenses									
Program Services	4,908,045	2,757,641	3,581,594	3,070,779	Liabilities				
Management and General Operational	371,525	328,798	352,770	358,562	Accounts Payable	120,095	89,509	225,743	70,044
Fundraising	32,965	52,274	79,331	14,795	Deferred Revenue/ Accrued Expenses	955,603	656,200	549,721	
Total Expenses	5,312,535	3,138,713	4,013,695	3,444,136	Total Liabilities	1,075,698	745,709	775,464	70,044
Change in Net Assets	479,157	153,915	(554,763)	(65,795)	Net Assets				
					Unrestricted Net Assets	506,876	363,754	313,757	293,077
					Restricted Net Assets	843,914	507,879	403,961	979,404
					Total Net Assets	1,350,790	871,633	717,718	1,272,481
					Total Liabilities & Net Assets	2,426,488	1,617,342	1,493,182	1,342,525

EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITY, 2024



ICAN • 2024

We extend our heartfelt thanks to institutional and individual donations and for all in-kind contributions.

Canada 

 **Norway**

 **UK International Development**
Partnership | Progress | Prosperity

 **Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund** 
A United Nations & Civil Society Partnership



Government Offices of Sweden
Ministry of the Environment

SUPPORTERS • AND • PARTNERS

ICAN honors the memory of Elaine Nonneman, lifelong activist and feminist social justice philanthropist, who died on November 26, 2024. Elaine was the founder of the Channel Foundation—ICAN's very first donor. We are forever grateful for Elaine's support.



**Robert Bosch
Stiftung**

PLOUGHSHARES FUND



 **Vitol** Foundation

2024 • ICAN • BOARD • NEWS

THANK YOU, SENATOR MOBINA JAFFER

In 2024, Senator Mobina Jaffer retired from the Canadian Senate, after 23 years of service, and stepped down as Chair of ICAN's Board. Senator Jaffer served as a founding member of the Board from 2006 and as Chair of the board from 2014-2024.

It is with immense gratitude and love that our entire team at ICAN bids farewell to Senator Mobina Jaffer, our longstanding ally and Chair of the ICAN Board of Trustees. Senator Jaffer—Mobina—has been an extraordinary force in the global movement of women peacebuilders. She believed in the vision of ICAN and had faith our ability to realize it. She was, and remains, a mentor and friend, strategic adviser, and all-around fairy godmother to us and to the countless members of our Women's Alliance for Security Leadership. Mobina joined us for many of our ICAN Forums. But she did not come to make speeches; she listened and advised, rolled up her sleeves, and got involved. No one in our alliance forgets the trainings she provided on how to improve their political advocacy and three-minute presentations. In difficult times, she helped many seek protection, and she offered comfort to many. She remains a role model for us. On behalf of ICAN and WASL, we wish her the very best in retirement. Mobina, we love you from the bottom of our hearts, from every corner of the world.



Senator Jaffer speaks at ICAN's 2017 Forum



"Senator Mobina has been more than a mentor; she has been a mirror reflecting the courage we often forget we hold. Her legacy is not just a chapter in our shared story but a timeless echo, calling us to dream bolder, act braver, and leave behind a world more just and luminous."

— Mossarat Qadeem, Co-Founder,
PAIMAN Alumni Trust, Pakistan

ICAN WELCOMES THREE NEW BOARD MEMBERS



KAVITA RAMDAS

Kavita is a globally recognized advocate for gender equity and justice and an independent philanthropic advisor and consultant. She recently completed a year as the Activist in Residence at the Global Fund for Women. In 2023, she served as a visiting professor at Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs. Kavita is a Richard von Weizsäcker Fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy. As Director of the Women's Rights Program at the Open Society Foundations, the foundation made its largest ever investment in gender justice with a \$100 million commitment to the Generation Equality Forum in July 2021. Kavita is also the founder of KNR Sisters, a consulting venture for social justice movements and philanthropy. Kavita's previous leadership roles have included serving as Strategy Advisor for MADRE, an international women's rights organization; Senior Advisor on Global Strategy and Representative for South Asia at the Ford Foundation; and President and CEO of the Global Fund for Women.

TERRY GREENBLATT

Terry Greenblatt currently serves as Senior Advisor at Ploughshares, the largest foundation singularly committed to eliminating the threats of nuclear weapons. There, she initiated the Women's and Equity Rises initiatives, promoting diverse emerging perspectives and expertise and grassroots and frontline community leadership. She is a long-time women's peace and justice activist with extensive experience leading and raising funds for international foundations and organizations. Prior to joining Ploughshares in 2016, she co-founded Rawa: Creative Palestinian Communities Fund, served as the executive director of Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights, was Global Fund for Women's first Activist in Residence, and was the executive director of Bat Shalom, Israel's national women's peace organization.



SAWSAN CHEBLI

Sawsan Chebli was born to a Palestinian family in Berlin, where they lived stateless for 15 years. Chebli pursued an academic career, studying political science at Freie Universität Berlin. She then held various roles in the German Parliament, focusing on international politics, and human rights advocacy. In 2010, she became an Advisor for Intercultural Affairs to the Senator for the Interior at the Berlin Ministry of the Interior and Sport. In January 2014, she was appointed as Deputy Spokesperson at the Federal Foreign Office, making her one of the first Muslim women in Germany to hold such a position at the federal level. From 2016 to 2021, Chebli served as State Secretary for Civic Engagement and International Affairs in the Berlin government. In 2023, she published her first book, LAUT, which addresses the challenges democratic societies face due to social media and cyber violence. Since September 2024, Sawsan Chebli has been working at Doha Media City as Senior Advisor to the Chairman and the Board of Directors.

TEAM • AND • BOARD

THE TEAM

Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE

Founder and CEO

France Bognon

Co-CEO and Managing Director

Olga Andrew

Finance Director

Helena Gronberg

Program Director

Melinda Holmes

Program Director

Maya Kavaler

Program Manager

Sarah McMains

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Stacey Schamber

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Program Officer

Charlotte Morgan

Program Officer

Kendahl Tyburski

Program Officer

Yodit Willis

Operations Manager

Meenakshi Nair

Mass PhD Mellon Liaison Fellow

Noha Elsebaie

Program Fellow

Katha Ray and Clementine White

Program Interns



Members of the team at ICAN's 2024 Forum

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MOBINA S.B. JAFFER, QC

Outgoing Chair of the ICAN Board

British Columbia Representative, Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, Chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Diversity and Inclusion.

SANAM NARAGHI ANDERLINI, MBE

Founder and CEO, ICAN

DEEYAH KHAN

Award winning documentary Filmmaker and Human Rights Activist, Fuuse Founder, Sisterhood Magazine Founder, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador.

HAIDEH CHUBIN

Managing Director, Deloitte and Touche LLP

MARIE JOELLE ZAHAR

Professor of Political Science and 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.

ANDRÉ MUNDAL

Consultant at Boston Consulting Group, former diplomat with the Norwegian Foreign Service and Special Envoy for Women Peace and Security

KAVITA RAMDAS

Founder of KNR Sisters, a consulting venture for social justice movements and philanthropy. Former Director of the Women's Rights Program at the Open Society Foundations and CEO of the Global Fund for Women.

TERRY GREENBLATT

Senior Advisor at Ploughshares. Co-founder of Rawa: Creative Palestinian Communities Fund, former Executive Director of Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights, and former Executive Director of Bat Shalom.

SAWSAN CHEBLI

Senior Advisor to the Chairman and the Board of Directors of Doha Media City in Qatar. Former German politician. Author of LAUT, public speaker, and social media influencer.

CONSULTANTS AND SERVICES

Communications and Design

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Crowley & Co
Tofu Creative

Facilitation

Yvonne Shanahan

IT

Ciceroni
Elevation
M3 Technology Consultants

Monitoring and Evaluation

Randa Yassir

Photography and Videography

Erald Halili
Erik Uruçi

Travel

SkyBird Travel
Zemra Travel

Interpretation and Translation

Hamidullah Nikzad
Mandi Mourad
Marianne Kedemos
Moheb Najli
Ramin Kamangar

OUR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

ICAN partners with different universities to offer fellowship opportunities to graduate and post-graduate students.

Our longest standing partnership has been with the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame, whose students have worked with ICAN across a range of programs.



In 2024, ICAN hosted Kroc student Noha Elsebaie. She joined the Innovative Peace Fund team to support our grantmaking work and ICAN's presence at PeaceCon 2024.



In 2023, we launched the **University of Massachusetts (UMass) Mellon Liaison Fellowship** at ICAN, organized by the UMass-Amherst World Studies Interdisciplinary Project (WSIP) and funded by the Andrew Mellon Foundation and the UMass-Amherst Provost's Office.

ICAN offers UMass Mellon Fellows the opportunity to learn about both local women's peacebuilding practices and the workings of a global, coalition-building, peacebuilding organization. During their time at Mellon Fellows contribute their research skills, writing, collaborative conceptualization, and relation-building to our work.



In 2024, ICAN hosted Meenakshi Nair, who supported ICAN's post-Forum analysis and research related to our March 2024 Security Workshop.

“It was incredibly valuable to learn about ICAN’s commitment to ‘deep-place’ knowledge...whereby the peacebuilders on-ground in the context are treated as the experts on the conflict and requirements for peace.”

– Meenakshi Nair



WASL • MEMBERS

AFGHANISTAN

Afghan Women News Agency Organization (AWNAO)

Afghan Women Skills Development Center (AWSDC)

Afghan Women's Network (AWN)

Afghan Women's Organization for Equality (AWOE)

Armanshahr Foundation / OPEN ASIA

Equality for Peace and Democracy (EPD)

Kaaj Media Production

Salam Culture Serv Develop & Health Org

Wellness Prosperity and Socio-Empowerment Organization (WPSO)

Women and Children Legal Research Foundation (WCLRF)

Women for Peace and Participation (WPP)

ALBANIA

Women Center for Development and Culture Albania (WCDCA)

ALGERIA

Djazairouna Association of Families and Victims of Islamist Terrorism

ARMENIA

Women for Development NGO

BRAZIL

Think Twice Brasil

CAMEROON

Center for Advocacy in Gender Equality and Action for Development (CAGEAD)

Hope Advocates Africa

Pathways for Women's Empowerment and Development (PaWED)

Reach Out Cameroon

COLOMBIA

Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica (CIASE)

Corporación Conciudadanía

EGYPT

Appropriate Communication Techniques for Development (ACT)

Center for Egyptian Women Legal Assistance (CEWLA)

El Nadeem Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence

Ganoubia Hora

NAWRAS (New Women Foundation)

Nazra / Caucus Arab Women in Politics

Women's Center for Guidance and Legal Aid (WCGLA)

GERMANY

Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy (CFFP)

INDIA

Yakjah Reconciliation & Development Network

INDONESIA

Asia Muslim Action Network Indonesia (AMAN)

Empatiku Foundation

IRAQ

Al Firdaws Society

Iraq Al Amal Association

Odessa Organization for Women Development

Women's Voice for Peacebuilding

KENYA

Advocacy for Women in Peace and Security-Africa (AWAPSA)

Coast Education Center (COEC)

LEBANON

Knowledge Workshop (WHRD MENA Coalition)

Rescue Me

LIBERIA

Women Education and Development Organization of Liberia (WEDOL)

LIBYA

Libyan Women Forum (LWF)

MALAYSIA

IMAN Research

MALDIVES

Addu Women's Association (AWA)

MEXICO

Justice, Human Rights, and Gender Civil Association (JHRG)

MOROCCO

Union de l'Action Feminine (UAF)

MYANMAR

Alliance for Gender Inclusion in Peace Process (AGIPP)

Gender Equality Network (GEN)

Women Peace Network

NIGERIA	Hope Revival Organization (HRO)	LEBANON Farah Salka
Allamin Foundation for Peace & Development	Kareemat Center	Randa Yassir
Neem Foundation	Mobaderoon: Active Citizens in Syria	Sawssan Abou Zahr
PAKISTAN	Zenobia Syrian Women's Association	LIBERIA Cerue Konah Garlo
PAIMAN Alumni Trust	TUNISIA	LIBYA Laylah Sanusi Emran
Qadims Lumiere School and College	Dali and Senda Association for Peace	Thuraya Alshawish
PALESTINE	Mobdiun - Creative Youth	PAKISTAN Huma Chughtai
Wi'am: Palestinian Conflict Resolution Center	Young Leaders Entrepreneurs (YLE)	SOUTH AFRICA Bernedette Muthien
Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC)	UGANDA	SOUTH SUDAN Dr. Pauline Riak
PHILIPPINES	Coalition for Action on 1325 (COACT)	SRI LANKA Salma Yusuf
Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy (PCID)	Kitgum Women's Peace Initiative	Sarah Arumugam
Women for Justice in the Bangsamoro	UKRAINE	SUDAN Kamilia Ibrahim Kuku Kora
SOMALIA	Women's Network for Inclusive Dialogue	SYRIA Jomana Bazboz
Digital Shelter	YEMEN	TAJIKISTAN Zarina Alimshoeva
SOUTH SUDAN	Abductees' Mothers' Association (AMA)	THAILAND Dr. Amporn Marddent
National Transition Leadership Institute (NTLI)	Food4Humanity Foundation	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
Women Relief Aid (WRA)	Peace Track Initiative (PTI)	Sabrina Mowlah-Baksh
SRI LANKA	ToBe Foundation for Rights and Freedom	TUNISIA Dr. Amel Grami
Association of War Affected Women (AWAW)	Youth Leadership Development Foundation (YLDF)	Omezzine Khelifa
SUDAN	INDIVIDUALS	Dr. Samia Bousalama Letaief
Madaniya	ALGERIA Hafida Benchehida	TURKEY Dr. Ayse Betül Çelik
SYRIA	CYPRUS Magda Zenon	Isil Bas
Center for Civil Society and Democracy (CCSD)	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO	UNITED KINGDOM Dr. Neelam Raina
Deepening Awareness and Restoring Bridges (DARB)	Faida Mwangilwa Fabiola	UNITED STATES Dr. Alireza Eshraghi
DemoS	INDIA Mariya Salim	YEMEN Kawkab Alwadeai
	IRAQ Aala Ali	

IN TRIBUTE TO SUREYA ROBLE HERSI



Our dear sister, friend, and colleague, Sureya Roble Hersi passed away on Friday, October 25, 2024, in Mombasa, Kenya. Sureya was the Executive Director of Advocacy for Women in Peace and Security Africa (AWAPSA). She was among the earliest members of the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL), as well as a board member of the Coast Education Centre (COEC).

We met and supported her as she was establishing police cafes as an initiative to foster trust between the police in her community and the families and individuals who were affected by radicalization and recruitment into violent extremism. Sureya created a pathway for trust and peacebuilding, anchored in deep compassion and a holistic approach to crime and violence prevention and deradicalization.

Sureya was a force of nature—the very best of nature—with an immense heart and capacity for compassion, for those most vulnerable in her community. She was also an extraordinary strategic and imaginative thinker and courageous doer.



"Whatever decisions and policies are being put forth, women must be at the forefront."

– Sureya Roble Hersi



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**Dropping bombs is not power.
Sitting down at the table and facing
each other or looking into the future
from the same side of the table
—That's power and leadership"**

Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, MBE
Founder and CEO, ICAN

**"Peacebuilding in the
Time of Pessimism"**

ICAN International
Civil Society
Action
Network
For women's rights, peace and security