Equality for Women, Peace for All

2020 Annual Report
The Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) is a coalition of women’s groups and other civil society organizations from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America, Eastern and Western Europe and the Middle East and Arab World, mostly from conflict-affected countries. It has demonstrated impact in bringing local voices to influence global policies on women’s rights, peace and security; and in translating global policies into practical actions that improve the lives of local populations.

GNWP is coordinated by the International Coordinating Team, based in New York, where it is registered as a charity. GNWP Board, management and staff are experts in women’s rights, gender equality and peace and security. We come from diverse backgrounds and have extensive experience in implementing programs and leading advocacy in conflict-affected and post-conflict countries, as well as in working at grassroots, national, regional and international levels.

Our Vision

Our vision is an equal and peaceful world in which women's and girls' rights are promoted and protected, and they are recognized as peacebuilders and decision-makers.

Our Mission

Our mission is to empower women and amplify their voices to build sustainable and inclusive peace. We empower women, young women and girls, especially those living in local communities, to bridge the gap between global policies on Women and Peace and Security (WPS) and practical and necessary actions on the ground, and to achieve greater recognition and meaningful participation of women as key influencers and decision-makers.
What We Do

GNWP’s programs are shaped by the lived realities of women and girls in crisis- and conflict-affected communities. We address persistent challenges and emerging threats through our four strategies:

- **From local to global, from words to action:** Full-cycle Implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda
- **Local voices in global spaces:** Using action research to influence policies and highlight local women’s agency
- **Elevating young women as leaders and agents of peace:** enhancing capacities of young women and girls to promote and protect their rights, hold duty bearers accountable and find peaceful solutions to conflicts
- **Supporting feminist, localized humanitarian action and crisis response:** strengthening humanitarian-peace nexus through promoting local women and youth peacebuilders as decision-makers in humanitarian emergency response

Learn more about us at: [www.gnwp.org](http://www.gnwp.org)
The beginning of 2020 provided a crucial global momentum to the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP)'s work in advancing women's and youth's rights, gender equality, peace, and security. The year marked the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 20th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSC) 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS), the 5th anniversary of UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security, and the 5th anniversary of the Sustainable Development Goals. The implementation of these important international instruments and normative frameworks has been slow and uneven because of lack of political will from governments and multilateral institutions, and the year began with mobilization, organizing and strategizing on how to close this gap. And then, the COVID-19 pandemic struck.

The pandemic has had and continues to have multiple negative impacts on our work towards sustainable and inclusive peace. It aggravated existing conflicts, disrupted peace negotiations, side-tracked the implementation of peace agreements and Localization of WPS. It slowed down our trainings on literacy, leadership, peacebuilding, and economic empowerment with women in refugee camps and host communities. The changes in donor priorities also pose a challenge to the sustainability of our peacebuilding and humanitarian efforts.

But there was no time to fret. These harsh realities called on us to act swiftly and work with local women and youth to respond to the crisis and mitigate the impact of the global health crisis while continuing our peacebuilding work.

We were ready to do this, because adapting to changing realities and responding to urgent crises is what GNWP, its partners and thousands of women peacebuilders around the world do. Humanitarian crises and violent conflicts are the realities, in which we have worked for over a decade. Since our establishment, we have worked with local women peace activists, youth community leaders, indigenous leaders, and local government authorities who have lived through conflicts and crises and who have innovative solutions for their problems. They only need to be heard and supported. Our work with these local actors, who are the peacebuilders and frontline responders, enabled us to deliver life-saving services and influence peace and political processes for many years, but more so during this prolonged COVID-19 pandemic.
During this extraordinary time in our history, we need a bold vision and long-term, transformative approaches more than ever. At GNWP, we will continue to focus on women-led and community-based peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and gender-sensitive humanitarian response that puts women, youth, and the local population up, front, and center.

We continue to grow and broaden the reach of our work. In 2020, we expanded our Young Women Leaders for Peace to Myanmar and Ukraine, and initiated our work with the media for gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive reporting in Kenya. Despite the pandemic, we held over 60 major events and engaged over 5,000 community members, civil society and policy-makers. To ensure efficiency and inclusivity of our work and management, we expanded our Board and Leadership Team and revised our organizational structure. We have also appointed Regional Focal Points in East and West Africa, Latin America, and Central and South Asia. This has further broadened our geopolitical perspectives and increased our racial and cultural diversity.

The year 2020 has been a very challenging one on many fronts. Still, it has also provided rare opportunities that tested our resilience, demanded us to be agile, and made us a stronger organization. Despite the continuing, and in some cases deepening, backlash against peacebuilding and gender equality, this year has also created new advocacy opportunities. Discussions about reducing weapons spending, the need for intersectional approaches to peacebuilding, and the importance of human security – which had been a part of our advocacy and our Localization program for years – have entered the mainstream. I am incredibly proud that Team GNWP stands strong with our bold vision and transformative approaches that enable us to contribute to a feminist, peaceful, just, and prosperous future.

Maria Victoria (Mavic) Cabrera-Balleza
Founder & Chief Executive Officer
Global Network of Women Peacebuilders
2020 Key Highlights: A Year in Review

2020 was not an ordinary year for a number of reasons. On the one hand, it was the year that marked the 20th Anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 – the groundbreaking international law that gave rise to the WPS agenda, and frames much of our work at GNWP. It was also the year of the 25th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+25), 5th Anniversary of the UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS), 70th Anniversary of the United Nations (UN), and the Peacebuilding Architecture Review. The preparations and advocacy ahead of these commemorations have started well in advance and, as we entered 2020, women activists and peacebuilders were prepared for the critical milestone year. On the other hand, as the preparations advanced, the world was shaken by the outbreak of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has impacted GNWP’s work across the world – requiring us to innovate to adapt to the new reality and the increased use of digital spaces, respond to new challenges and threats to women’s rights and sustainable peace, and leverage the emerging opportunities. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we continued to expand our programs, and work with local and national authorities, civil society and women and youth peacebuilders in local communities, as well as regional and global policymakers.

In 2020, we:

- **Expanded Young Women Leaders for Peace** program to bring together young women and men peacebuilders from Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, South Sudan, and Ukraine and strengthen their leadership, skills and resilience to be at the forefront of peacebuilding and humanitarian response in their communities.

- **Facilitated discussions with governments and civil society on the implementation of the peace agreements in Colombia, the Philippines, and South Sudan.** We demanded women’s meaningful participation in the Afghan peace talks and called on the parties to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict to recommit to inclusive peace and protect lives and rights of civilians.

- **Launched Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and Media competitions in five countries** and generated increased gender-responsive coverage of armed conflict and of the COVID-19 pandemic in Colombia, Georgia, Kenya, Moldova and the Philippines.
▶ Held trainings, meetings, focus group discussions and interviews with over 5,000 global, regional, national, and local policy-makers – both in person and online.

▶ Distributed 13,000 face masks, food packs, hygiene packs, condoms and pregnancy test kits, in partnership with women and youth peacebuilders in Colombia, Kenya, the Philippines and South Sudan. We also supported our civil society partners in Ukraine to hire mental health professionals to provide psychosocial counseling to women activists and victims of domestic violence.

▶ Launched of the COVID-19 and WPS database to document the impact of the pandemic on peacebuilding and highlight women’s leadership; and collaborated with the New York University to analyze the impact of the pandemic on women’s peace activism.

▶ Led civil society advocacy for the integration of Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security agendas in the Generation Equality Forum that led to the establishment of the Compact on WPS and Humanitarian Action.

▶ Conducted action research and published reports and policy briefs on issues ranging from sexual slavery, through the impact of corruption on WPS, to women’s roles in implementing peace agreement.

Read more about our achievements in 2020 below!
National ownership, local leadership. We reached 880 people through in-person, hybrid and virtual capacity-building activities and workshops in Bangladesh, Colombia, DRC, Georgia, Indonesia, Kenya, Moldova, Myanmar, the Philippines, South Africa, South Sudan and Ukraine. For example, in Cauca, Colombia, GNWP and its partners organized a virtual Localization workshop, which brought together local authorities and local women and historically marginalized groups, to discuss their peace and recovery priorities, to be included in Local Development Plans. Over half of the participants we engaged (55%) were young women under 35. However, we also worked with male gender equality allies – who constituted 10% of all participants.

Harnessing the power of digital connectedness. We reached 4,631 people through 31 global and regional events. The events featured youth and women peacebuilders from around the world, and provided them with a platform for effective advocacy on Women, Peace and Security, Youth, Peace and Security, Sustaining Peace and humanitarian action!

#PeaceCannotWait: During COVID-19, social media has become a primary source of information and channel for activism for peacebuilders around the world. We continued to expand our social media presence, and reached over 1.1 million impressions on our tweets throughout the year. In 2020, we gained 2,500 followers on Twitter, 2,600 subscribers on Facebook, and we doubled our following on Instagram, where we now have over 1,115 followers, all of which regularly engage with our content.
In September, we launched a global social media campaign #PeaceCannotWait, to call on national and international policymakers to sustain their commitment to addressing the root causes of conflict and supporting local peacebuilders during the COVID-19 response and recovery. Globally, 120 persons – including civil society, government and UN representatives – participated in a Tweet-a-thon, using the hashtag, and their tweets were viewed 120,000 times in a single day. Our own tweets using the #PeaceCannotWait hashtag reached a total of 31,300 impressions in a single day on the International Day of Peace.

At the same time, recognizing the potential harmful impacts of social media, in September, we launched the #FacebookPromotesViolence campaign to raise awareness of the platform’s role in inciting and enabling violence, spreading hate speech, amplifying ethnic tensions and fueling misinformation, which disproportionately affects marginalized populations, including women, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex and asexual (LGBTQIA+) people and minority groups.

**Global policymakers meet civil society influencers.** More than 2,350 people heard the perspectives of grassroots women and youth, exchanged experiences, and reflected on the priorities for the implementation of the WPS and YPS agendas during GNWP’s advocacy events. In New York, GNWP organized various panel discussions and bilateral meetings at the UN during the 64th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325, and the 5th anniversary of UNSCR 2250. GNWP also organized bilateral and close-doors discussions. For example, during the 20th Anniversary of Resolution 1325, GNWP organized a meeting between the South Sudan Troika (Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States) and women from South Sudanese civil society. In December 2020, GNWP hosted a Global Consultation on Youth, Peace and Security, with over 140 young women peacebuilders in attendance, focused on operationalizing the agenda and increasing partnerships among key actors.
During the COVID-19 pandemic, effective implementation of the WPS and YPS commitments, including gender provisions in peace agreements, is more important than ever. We continued our work to support civil society and local communities in ensuring effective implementation and holding their authorities accountable for implementing WPS and YPS resolutions and peace agreements. We also worked with journalists to build broad-base support for gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive COVID-19 response and recovery and ensure that peace and WPS are not de-prioritized during the pandemic!

**Spotlight on:** Localizing peace during the pandemic: Implementation of the peace agreement in Colombia

In Colombia, GNWP, in partnership with the Red Nacional de Mujeres (RNM) and with support from the Norwegian Development Agency (NORAD) has been using its **Localization of WPS strategy to foster effective and inclusive implementation of the peace agreement** between the government and Fuerzas Amadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) since 2018. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has forced GNWP, RNM, and local women peacebuilders in Cauca and Tolima with whom we work, to adapt to new ways of learning, working, and living in an uncertain scenario. But the pandemic did not stop us!

**Supporting women peacebuilders to adapt to COVID-19**

Lack of skills to use digital technology is among the most important factors contributing to the gendered digital divide. To continue to enhance the capacities of women leaders to monitor the implementation of the peace agreement, and adapt to the realities of virtual work, GNWP and RNM provided **trainings on the use of digital technologies.** This resulted in the increased understanding of communication platforms (such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams), shared drives and messaging apps among **75 local women peacebuilders** from Cauca and Tolima.

Following the digital skills’ training, RNM and GNWP organized weekly virtual capacity-building workshops in Cauca and Tolima to provide them with a space to discuss and monitor progress on the implementation of the peace agreement in their communities. With GNWP’s support, RNM also created a phone hotline for the women leaders who need psychosocial and/or technical support, to be able to continue their work. Despite the increased burden of care work and other challenges created by the pandemic, the women participated in the online workshops with enthusiasm. As one of the participants in Tolima put it:
"the best way to protect the agreement is to study it, so we can hold the government accountable. If we don’t fight for our rights, who will?"

While advancing their peacebuilding work and advocacy, women peacebuilders were also at the forefront of the crisis response, collaborating with indigenous guard to distribute 10,000 hygiene and food packages, as well as sexual and reproductive health products (such as condoms and pregnancy tests) to most vulnerable women and girls, including those living in remote, indigenous communities.

**Holding local governments accountable for their commitment to peace**
The advocacy conducted by local women in Cauca and Tolima with GNWP and RNM’s support in early 2020 led to the inclusion of gender-responsive provisions in local development plans – “blueprints” for the local government’s work. During the virtual workshops, they came up with specific advocacy plans to demand accelerating the implementation of these provisions, in particular those related to women’s land ownership. The women also raised concerns about the slow pace of the transitional justice proceedings, especially for victims of sexual and gender-based violence, further aggravated by the diversion of funds from the transitional justice institutions during the pandemic.

**Social media campaigns: Amplifying local peacebuilders’ voices**
GNWP and RNM have translated the messages of local women peacebuilders into action at the national level. GNWP and RNM capitalized on the momentum of the #PeaceCannotWait campaign launched in September by running social media campaigns in Colombia, which reached nearly 150,000 users, amplifying the message of the local peacebuilders across the country.
Spotlight on: Harnessing the power of the media as an ally for inclusive peace and pandemic recovery in Colombia, Georgia, Kenya and the Philippines

At GNWP, we believe that media are a powerful ally in advancing effective implementation of the WPS resolutions. They provide local activists with information to hold governments accountable, and have the power to change narratives about gender and highlight women’s leadership, rather than portraying them as helpless victims. In order to effectively tap into the power of the media to advance the WPS agenda and increase the journalists’ own awareness and appreciation of their role, GNWP developed its Media and WPS program.

COVID-19 has made the power of the media more evident than ever, as fake news and misinformation have aggravated the pandemic’s impacts on conflict-affected communities. That’s why in 2020, we expanded our Media and WPS program with virtual and hybrid trainings for journalists in Georgia, Kenya and Moldova, and launched WPS and Media competitions in Colombia, Georgia, Kenya, Moldova and the Philippines.

Building journalists’ capacity for gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive reporting

During the trainings, the journalists discussed the basic concepts of gender equality, reflected on the different needs of women and girls in time of conflict and crises, and – with technical support from GNWP, its partners and local media experts – conducted a gender analysis of the content of local and national newspapers, to better understand how women are portrayed in the media. The participants also learned about UNSCR 1325 and other WPS resolutions and discussed the status of the WPS agenda implementation in their country, and their own roles in advancing it. The trainings equipped journalists with knowledge and skills necessary to produce gender- and conflict-sensitive reports on COVID-19 and on peace and security. Across the three countries, the journalists appreciated the opportunity to challenge their own perceptions and stereotypes, and committed to more gender-responsive reporting. As a participant of a hybrid (online and in-person) training in Kenya put it:

“You have given me something important to think about. After this training, I will retell the narrative of what women go through in conflicts – to show them as leaders, and not as helpless victims.”
Media and WPS competition

We also launched a Media and WPS competition in 5 new countries: Colombia, Georgia, Kenya, Moldova and the Philippines. The competition provides an incentive for journalists and journalism students to reflect on women’s experiences by submitting written articles, audio, and audio-visual materials. So far, we received more than 100 submissions to the Media and WPS competitions in Colombia, Georgia and the Philippines. Check out the winning pieces below!

- **Georgia:** Nino Chibchiuri, "Women on the occupation line in pandemic conditions"
- **Colombia:** Lidha Beltrán Valero, “La Resistencia en medio de la resistencia”
- **Colombia:** Jeimmy Lorena Gutiérrez Turmequé, “Xuacha Lucha Femenina y Popular”
- **Philippines:** Antonio L. Colina IV, “Dolls for Peace help empower women in post-war Marawi”
2020 Achievements: Local Voices in Global Spaces

Effective gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive policies require reliable data and gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive analysis! This is why in 2020 we continued our commitment to produce action-oriented research and quality publications on WPS, YPS and Sustaining Peace, to bring the perspectives of local women and youth peacebuilders to global policy-making spaces.

Spotlight on: COVID-19 and Women, Peace and Security Database

At the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, GNWP partners from across the world raised alarm about the impacts of the pandemic on their work, and on peace in their countries and communities. They emphasized that the crisis has exacerbated gender inequalities by further restricting women and girls’ access to necessary social, health, economic and education services, impacted efforts to build and sustain peace, and led to increases in communal violence and delays in the implementation of peace agreements has been interrupted.

We quickly realized that the negative impacts of the pandemic were exacerbated by the “epidemic of misinformation”. Fake news often led to refusal to follow preventative measures, and sometimes incited hate speech. Moreover, the leadership of women and youth peacebuilders who have been at the forefront of responding to the COVID-19 crisis, was rendered invisible. To address these challenges, GNWP developed a global database on the impact of COVID-19 and Women, Peace and Security, with support from UN Women and Ireland, documenting both the impacts of the pandemic on women’s rights and peace and security, and women-led responses to it.

Each database entry represents a distinct pandemic impact or response, compiled based on first-hand reports from women and youth peacebuilders, complemented by the review of emerging research on the impact of COVID-19 on WPS.
**Spotlight on:** Seeking Accountability and Preventing Reoccurrence: Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Slavery through the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda

Conflict-related sexual slavery is a widespread, systematic, institutionalized, and deliberate human rights abuse committed by state and non-state perpetrators alike. It continues to be institutionalized as a weapon of warfare, with reported incidences from Timor-Leste to Somalia to Guatemala, among many other countries. **Nevertheless, the global response to the crime has remained weak, failing to deliver adequate justice and prevent reoccurrence.**

With support from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), GNWP conducted research to strengthen efforts to improve the prevention of, protection from, accountability for, and relief and recovery from conflict-related sexual slavery examined through the WPS lens, with case studies in Iraq, Korea, and Uganda. The research includes voices of 90 survivors of conflict-related sexual slavery, women’s rights activists, local and national government officials, human rights lawyers, academics, grassroots peacebuilders, and global policymakers.

“Without justice, survivors cannot heal, seek closure, or start a new life.”
– Pari Ibrahim, the Founder and Executive Director of the Free Yazidi Foundation

“I saw victims transform into survivors and then finally human rights and peace activists. Telling their stories and campaigning for justice helped them recover their honor and heal the wounds in their hearts.”
– Japanese women’s rights activist
Findings:

▶ WPS agenda provides a crucial global policy framework with which to tackle conflict-related sexual slavery,

▶ However, the WPS resolutions do not refer to conflict-related sexual slavery. Consequently, National Action Plans (NAPs) on WPS fail to adequately address reparations, compensation, and restitution for victims.

Recommendations

▶ Strengthen specific provisions and language on conflict-related sexual slavery within the WPS Agenda and corresponding programs, policies, reports, NAPs, Regional Action Plans (RAPs), and Local Action Plans (LAPs).

▶ Use Localization of UNSCR 1325 is a tool to ensure that the needs of survivors of sexual slavery are met and to prevent the reoccurrence of the crime, through context-specific, locally-led and survivor-centered conflict resolution initiatives.

To learn more about the research publication, visit https://gnwp.org/sexual-slavery/.
Spotlight on: Examining the Intersections between Corruption, Human Rights and Women, Peace and Security

There is evidence that corruption affects women and men differently, and that it can lead to deterioration in security and trigger conflict. However, most of the research, analysis and policy that addresses corruption and transparency is gender-blind and conflict-blind. In 2019, GNWP with support from the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, Department of International Law (DIL) conducted research on intersections between Corruption, Human Rights, and Women and Peace and Security. This included field research in Nigeria and Nepal and in-depth analysis of existing policies and literature.

“Women have become commodities that are exchanged for food.”
— Woman interviewed in Nigeria on the impact of corruption in internally displaced persons’ camps.

Our recommendations:

1. Corruption should be systematically included in discussions on women’s rights and WPS.
2. In-depth gender and conflict analysis must be integrated in all policies and reporting on corruption.

Corruption has negative impacts on women’s human rights and security — including by undermining their access to justice; and aggravating forms of gender-based violence and harmful practices, such as child marriage.

When they meaningfully participate in decision-making, women can be powerful actors in preventing corruption.

However, many women are deterred from participating in politics, because they see it as corrupt.
2020 Achievements: Young Women as Leaders and Agents of Peace

Since 2014, over 8,000 young women and gender equality allies have been reached by our Young Women Leaders for Peace (YWLP) program. In 2020, the program expanded and evolved to respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on gender equality, peace, and security. In 2021, the program will expand to Colombia, Georgia, Lebanon, Rwanda, and Ukraine.

Spotlight on: Youth-led responses to COVID-19

In the Philippines and Indonesia, YWL members organized online community youth dialogues to build local ownership for ongoing peace processes and peace agreement implementation and to counter online radicalization by extremist groups and gender-based violence. They also led COVID-19 relief operations to deliver food, dignity kits, and health products to displaced women and girls in conflict affected communities.

In Bangladesh, YWL members led advocacy for gender-responsive humanitarian action which met the needs of Rohingya refugee and host community women and girls with local humanitarian actors and global policymakers. Across the border in Myanmar, the YWL program was officially established, galvanizing a youth movement for human rights, sustainable peace, and gender equality. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, YWL members from North and South Kivu adapted their microbusinesses to the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic. They also raised awareness of the Beijing+25 and the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) among local women and girls.

This year, the YWL program received international recognition for its pioneering efforts in enhancing the capacities of young women to take a stand against discrimination, gender inequality, and violent conflict in the Secretary General’s first report to the Security Council on the progress made in the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2250 and 2419.
**Spotlight on:** Launching Young Women Leaders for Peace Myanmar

“We are not afraid to hold our government accountable. We are ready to mobilize for constitutional reform and military accountability.” – Member, Young Women Leaders for Peace Myanmar

In 2020, GNWP expanded the YWL program to Myanmar with the support from Global Affairs Canada. Between 26 September and 24 October 2020, GNWP and its local partner, Yangon Youth Network (YYN), organized a series of online Training of Trainers (ToT) workshops that convened 27 young women leaders, LGBTQIA+ youth, and male gender equality allies from Yangon, Karen, Shan, Kachin, and Rakhine States. The ToT raised awareness and knowledge about the WPS and YPS agendas among young people in Myanmar. It also served as the official launch of the Young Women Leaders for Peace in Myanmar.

The implementation of the WPS and YPS resolutions in Myanmar has been quite bleak. Women, particularly from historically marginalized ethnic minorities, are significantly underrepresented in political decision-making, constituting only ten percent of the seats in the National Parliament. Similarly, while youth organizations across the country have an established record of involvement in community organizing and activism, young women and LGBTQIA+ youth have very limited or no opportunities to participate in peacebuilding and political
decision-making. During the training, the young peacebuilders developed initiatives to generate support in their communities for politicians who promote gender equality and peace. These include social media campaigns to amplify their messages and counter fake news and mentorship schemes between seasoned and younger politicians in communities. These initiatives are particularly urgent today, given the reports of continued conflict-related sexual violence among other human rights violations inflicted on the Rohingya.

Due to state repression against groups and individuals advocating for an end to the atrocities against the Rohingya, there is notable silence on this issue inside Myanmar. Thus, perpetrators within the government and military continue to enjoy impunity. Nevertheless, YWL members mobilized to advocate for the protection and preservation of the human rights of the Rohingya people, and other ethnic minorities. Following the ToT, on 14 December 2020, GNWP and the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations organized a closed-door panel discussion between young Bangladeshi, Burmese, and Rohingya peacebuilders and global policymakers. Young women peacebuilders and gender equality allies on the frontlines of the humanitarian emergency and conflict presented the challenges they encounter, their priorities, and recommendations for gender-responsive, sustainable, and localized interventions to the Rohingya Crisis. The meeting presented an opportunity to solicit greater commitments from the international community to demand accountability for the genocide and other atrocities against the Rohingya people, including sexual and gender-based violence.

Over the course of the year, YWL Myanmar has consolidated into a network of young women, gender equality allies and LGBTQIA+ youth, who will meaningfully participate in, influence, and lead community-based peacebuilding, and advocacy for the implementation of the WPS and YPS resolutions, human rights, and an immediate cessation of armed conflict and violence. They are a sign of hope in a country where independent civil society voices have been repressed for a long time!
Spotlight on: Connecting Young Women Around the World

As our YWL network grows, in 2020, we have created opportunities for young women peacebuilders from around the world to connect with each other to build a global youth movement for progressive social transformation.

On April 15, 2020, members of GNWP’s YWL program from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, and South Sudan came together in their first global exchange to share their experiences of preventing conflict and violent extremism, building peace, and addressing the COVID-19 pandemic in their communities. They were joined by women and youth leaders from Georgia, Kenya, Lebanon, and Ukraine. The virtual meeting created a platform for the young women to exchange experiences and knowledge on building peace, promoting gender equality, and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To commemorate International Youth Day, GNWP organized a high-level panel discussion on August 14, 2020 which convened members of the YWL program and young women in government, youth activists, and youth representatives of regional organizations from Canada, Chile, Finland, South Africa, Syria, the Philippines and the United States. The young women highlighted the need to invest in, recognize, and support young women’s leadership on global issues from promoting intersectional change on the frontlines of racial justice to access to education in conflict settings to COVID-19 response. They also had an opportunity to pose questions and make recommendations to global policymakers.

On the sidelines of the 5th anniversary of UNSCR 2250, GNWP organized a global consultation for over 70 young women peacebuilders and gender equality allies from across 30 countries to reflect on achievements in implementation of the YPS agenda. The consultation created a space for young women-led networks and women’s rights organizations to exchange experiences, reflect on their achievements, and identify key opportunities to accelerate the implementation of the WPS and YPS resolutions. Key recommendations for effective implementation of the YPS agenda from the consultation will be presented to UN Security Council Member States in 2021.

The WPS agenda brings both a gender and conflict lens to humanitarian action. Ensuring synergies between the WPS resolutions and humanitarian action leads to more inclusive, gender-responsive, and transformative crisis response and recovery, which builds community resilience, and prevents further outbreaks of conflict. These synergies are particularly important given the intersecting impacts of humanitarian crises, natural disasters and armed conflict on the lives of women and girls, and the critical roles women and young women play as both peacebuilders and first responders during crises. GNWP advances the peace-humanitarian nexus through our global, regional and national advocacy and work with local women and communities to build their resilience and support their work as first responders.

Spotlight on: Advancing the peace-humanitarian nexus

In February 2020, GNWP co-organized the Global Women’s Forum for Peace and Humanitarian Action with the Austrian Development Agency and the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund. Bringing together over 100 policymakers and international actors (including humanitarian actors and private sector representatives) and more than 60 women peacebuilders and first responders from across the world, the event provided a space to discuss women peacebuilders’ contributions to humanitarian action, and the synergy between peacebuilding and emergency response. The Forum’s outcome document – the Vienna 2020 Declaration – contains critical recommendations for feminist and localized humanitarian action.
GNWP also leads advocacy for gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive humanitarian action and crisis recovery through various global, regional, and local humanitarian coordination mechanisms including the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Gender Reference Group and the Global Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action.

In parallel to our advocacy, we enhance capacities of women and youth peacebuilders to effectively participate in decision-making on humanitarian action. In Bangladesh, GNWP trained local young women peacebuilders from the host communities in Cox’s Bazar on how to effectively communicate their views and needs to humanitarian actors and policymakers. This led to the development of a joint advocacy brief with UN Women, which encapsulates their recommendations on strengthening implementation of Bangladesh’s National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 in the context of the Rohingya Refugee Crisis.

**Spotlight on:** Generation Equality Forum Women, Peace, and Security and Humanitarian Action Compact

The GEF, which commemorates the 25th anniversary of the landmark Beijing+25, is a historic opportunity to galvanize global action on women’s rights and gender equality. Convening civil society, governments, the United Nations, and private sector organizations, the GEF provides critical momentum to build intersectional solidarity, accelerate implementation, strengthen accountability mechanisms, and mobilize funding for gender equality and sustainable peace.

However, the preparations for the GEF initially suffered from limited representation of grassroots women and youth peacebuilders and frontline responders. In addition, the official Action Coalitions and cross-cutting levers—the key outcomes of the GEF—did not include the specific constituency who work on WPS and YPS. In response, GNWP launched the civil society-led *Beijing+25 Women, Peace, and Security – Youth, Peace, and Security Coalition.* The Coalition brings together over 100 grassroots women and youth peacebuilders, national, regional, and global women’s rights and feminist organizations, and civil society networks from around the world. Its primary purpose is to ensure the meaningful participation of grassroots women and youth peacebuilders and frontline responders in the GEF and to ensure the integration of the WPS and YPS agendas in the Beijing+25 processes and outcomes.

On behalf of the Coalition, GNWP spearheaded advocacy for the intentional and effective inclusion of WPS and YPS in the GEF. We disseminated an open letter to the GEF Core Group, and produced an advocacy paper, which reflects
civil society messages on the WPS and YPS agendas, including their intersections with the other thematic areas of the GEF. As a result of the sustained, well-coordinated and strategic civil society advocacy, the GEF Core Group established the Generation Equality WPS and Humanitarian Action (HA) Compact. The Compact will serve as an accelerator and accountability mechanism to realize existing WPS and HA commitments. It presents a defining opportunity to increase the meaningful participation of women, young women, adolescent girls, and gender non-conforming individuals from conflict and crisis affected areas in decision-making at all levels on peace, security, humanitarian action, and gender equality. The Beijing+25 WPS-YPS Coalition developed a set of concrete recommendations, which were presented to the GEF Core Group.

In October 2020, GNWP was selected to join the Board of the Generation Equality WPS-HA Compact. GNWP will use its position on the Compact Board to promote synergies between the WPS and YPS agendas and humanitarian action in order to achieve more inclusive, gender-responsive, and transformative crisis response and recovery.

**Spotlight on: Gender-sensitive COVID-19 Response and Recovery**

**Latin America**
- In Colombia, RNM and Red Departamental de Mujeres de Cauca partnered with the indigenous guard in Cauca to distribute 10,000 facemasks and sexual & reproductive health products to indigenous women affected by the pandemic.

**Asia and the Pacific**
- In the Philippines, YWL, with support from GNWP, launched a social media campaign to counter fake news and hateful narratives related to the COVID-19 pandemic on the internet.
- GNWP’s partners in the Philippines also distributed 196 food packs, and 631 hygiene kits including facemasks, soaps and disinfectants to 237 vulnerable families, including internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in shelters.

**Eastern Europe**
- In Georgia, GNWP and Women's Information Center (WIC) trained and supported journalists to produce articles, radio and TV spots that highlight women’s leadership in peacebuilding & pandemic response.
In Ukraine, GNWP’s partners, Democracy Development Center & Zhiva Ya Charitable Foundation, provided online counselling to women leaders affected by burnout, the elderly and LGBTQIA+ persons that have been confined with homophobic family members during COVID-19.

Africa

- In South Sudan, GNWP’s partner, EVE Organization for Women Development drove caravans through markets in Juba, spreading information about the pandemic and how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in English and simplified Arabic. EVE also distributed face masks to over 1,000 persons attending the public markets.

- In Kenya, GNWP’s partner, Rural Women Peace Link (RWPL) reached over 4.5 million community members with radio messages about COVID-19 prevention measures and the importance of maintaining peace during the pandemic, which were translated to local languages. RWPL, with support from GNWP, also distributed 170 food packages and dignity kits, including feminine hygiene products to the most vulnerable.
### GNWP Finances in 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>$510,995</td>
<td>$498,923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Receivables</td>
<td>159,633</td>
<td>89,352</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td>670,628</td>
<td>588,275</td>
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<td><strong>Other Assets:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deposits</td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td>4,500</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Other Assets</strong></td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td>4,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>675,128</td>
<td>592,775</td>
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</tbody>
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| **LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS** |        |        |
| **Current Liabilities:**      |        |        |
| Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses | $20,490 | $46,735 |
| Deferred Revenue               | 654,297 | 524,387 |
| **Total Current Liabilities**  | 674,787 | 571,122 |
| **Total Liabilities**          | 674,787 | 571,122 |
| **Net Assets:**                |        |        |
| Unrestricted                   | 341    | 21,653 |
| **Total Net Assets**           | 341    | 21,653 |
| **Total Liabilities and Net Assets** | 675,128 | 592,775 |

| **REVENUE AND OPERATIONS**     |        |        |
| **REVENUE AND SUPPORT**        |        |        |
| Grants and Contributions       | $833,003 | $1,163,245 |
| Paycheck Protection Program    | $37,612  |         |
| Miscellaneous Income           | 100,970  | 66,974  |
| **Total Revenue and Support**  | 971,585  | 1,230,219 |

| **EXPENSES**                   |        |        |
| Program Services               | 893,896 | 1,118,099 |
| Management and General         | 99,001  | 90,517  |
| **Total Expenses**             | 992,897 | 1,208,616 |
| Change in Net Assets           | (21,312) | 21,603  |
| Net Assets at Beginning of Year| 21,653  | 50      |
| **Net Assets at End of Year**  | $341    | $21,653 |
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Become a member — if you are an organization working on advocacy and action on the Women, Peace and Security agenda, and are interested in joining our member — apply today!