Passion and commitment to women’s rights, gender equality, and peace and security drive our work at the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP). 2021 is the year that put our passion and commitment to the test and, at the same time, shone the spotlight much brighter! The availability of the COVID-19 vaccine brought hope and anticipation of recovery from the biggest global health challenge of this century. Thus, enabling us to plan hybrid and in-person implementation around the world. However, the continuing spread and the new variant of the virus required us to pivot again.

We are grateful to have a Strategic Plan that served as our roadmap in our ever-challenging and rewarding work. We are also delighted for its built-in flexibility that enabled us to adapt to the volatile global socio-political, economic, cultural, and environmental landscape.

We established GNWP to bring together, support, and highlight outstanding local peacebuilding projects in different parts of the world. We believe that local women and young people are at the center of these efforts. These are the initiatives we carried out in 2021:

We led civil society advocacy to establish the Generation Equality Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action (WPS-HA)

GNWP’s successful advocacy and collaboration with other women’s rights organizations, governments, and UN entities resulted in the establishment of the Compact, a global movement that calls for the redesign of peace and security and humanitarian processes wherein women, young women, and girls – including refugees, displaced and stateless individuals – meaningfully participate in decisions that impact their lives.
Implementing Locally, Inspiring Globally!

GNWP continued its pioneering work with mayors, councilors, indigenous, tribal, and other traditional leaders, grassroots women’s rights organizations, and youth groups in Armenia, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Georgia, Kenya, Lebanon, Moldova, Nigeria, Philippines, Rwanda, Uganda and Ukraine to implement the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the supporting Women, Peace and Security (WPS) resolutions in local communities affected by violent conflicts and crisis. 24 virtual and hybrid workshops on the local implementation of the WPS resolutions were held.

Read more

Ensuring that peace agreements are implemented.

Guns are never silenced after the signing of peace agreements. Research indicates that half of all post-war countries lapse back into conflict in the first decade after the end of fighting. Some of the critical reasons are the absence or lack of women in peace processes, lack of political will among the warring parties, and lack of awareness and understanding of the peace agreement. GNWP works with local women and youth peacebuilders to ensure that peace agreements bring positive change to local communities.

Read more
Training more youth peacebuilders!

We expanded the Young Women+ Leaders for Peace program into 10+ countries to unite youth peacebuilders from Georgia, Lebanon, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Ukraine and be at the forefront of peacebuilding. The impact of the YWL program was recognized by the United Nations Secretary-General in his report to the Security Council.

GNWP also launched the Civil Society Working Group on Youth, Peace, and Security in partnership with the United Network of Young Peacebuilders. With over 100 members, the Working Group is the only platform for sustained dialogue and advocacy between grassroots youth organizations and the United Nations Security Council.

Launched the Global Media and Women, Peace and Security Award

To recognize journalists who report the outstanding work of women peacebuilders! It's an important strategy to generate broad public support.

Enhanced the COVID-19 and WPS Database

To document the impact of the pandemic on peacebuilding and showcase the gender- and conflict-sensitive leadership, activism, and crisis responses of women peacebuilders.
Deepening the understanding of the intersection between
Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security agenda and other critical issues such as information and communication technologies. In 2021, GNWP’s research and knowledge-production team in partnership with academic and research institutions examined the use of information and communication technologies in peacebuilding, and how, at the same time, they can be used for propagating hatred and violence.

Read more

Strengthened our work on the nexus between WPS and gender-responsive Humanitarian Action

All humanitarian crises are gendered. Most of them happen because of violent conflicts. Moreover, humanitarian crises persist because conflicts remain unresolved, and there is widespread underdevelopment. Aware of the inextricable link between crises and conflicts, GNWP utilized the Triple Nexus approach in working with women and girls in Rohingya refugee camps and local communities in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh. It brought together the three components of its work: humanitarian response, development initiatives, and peacebuilding.

When GNWP first met the Rohingya women and girls in a camp in Cox Bazar, Bangladesh in 2018, many couldn’t read and write. Following the literacy and numeracy classes conducted by young Bangladeshi women we trained to become informal education teachers, they can now read and access important information about services for refugees. Since then, the young women and girls have undergone further training in humanitarian response, peacebuilding, and social enterprise.

Read more
Behind each of our achievements is the trust and dedication of all of you who support our mission to amplify women’s voices for more inclusive and sustainable peace. Your unwavering commitment and support sustains our programs, empowers our communities, and allows us to pursue equality for women and peace for all.

We learned a lot from the challenges we faced in 2021, and we celebrate our successes with you and thank you for your support!