



Overview

Creators of Peace (CoP) is an international women's initiative started in 1991. It challenges women everywhere to:

- Share responsibility for their part in the perpetration of conflict and in its resolution
- Engage in the creation of peace at every level of society
 - Break the chains of hate and revenge
- Build networks of forgiveness and friendship across racial, religious and social divides

CREATORS OF PEACE (CoP)

FACT SHEET

BACKGROUND

The Creators of Peace (CoP) initiative was launched in 1991 at the Initiatives of Change conference centre in Caux, Switzerland by the Hon. Anna Abdallah Msekwa of Tanzania, a respected politician and leader of her country's women's organizations. In her inaugural speech, she urged everyone to 'create peace wherever we are, in our hearts, our homes, our workplace and our community. We all pretend that someone else is the stumbling block... Could that someone be myself?'

CoP is now a global network of people working on different continents through conferences – Caux, Switzerland '91 and '94, India 2001 and Uganda 2005 – and through workshops, personal encounters, community building activities and Peace Circles. A delegation attended the UN Women's Conference in Beijing (1995).

AIMS

- To engage women in their role as creators of peace at every level of society.
- To promote the transforming dynamic of a change of heart, starting with oneself, as a primary tool of peace creation.
- To pre-empt violence and despair by addressing the roots of conflict, in and around us.
- To encourage and connect existing practitioners of peace building.
- To raise awareness of the moral and spiritual prerequisite for effective social action.
- To build just, caring and inclusive communities for all.

HOW

'None of us lacks the vision for peace, what we often lack is the first step in action,' says Yukika Sohma, Japan, Pioneer of an NGO to care for refugees.

Creators of Peace action includes:

- Creating a transformative space for interpersonal, interethnic and inter-religious dialogues based on the sharing of personal experience and information in a variety of forums, around conference tables, boardroom tables and kitchen tables.
- Workshops for moral and spiritual capacity building to explore the dynamic of a change of heart.
- The practice of deep reflection or listening to the inner voice of truth, or God, as a source of direction.

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FACT SHEET

Contact

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HOW (CONTINUED)

- Promotion of Peace Circles – small, localized community gatherings of women who together work through material especially designed to deepen their friendship and understanding of each other and their peace creating capabilities. One aim of these Peace Circles is to identify issues in the community with a potential for conflict and then resolve to take common action.
- Locally based initiatives that bring people together in community building activities.

FINANCES

Until now Creators of Peace has attracted funds largely from individual donations. As its programme expands, CoP is seeking to broaden its funding to include foundations, governments, international organizations and corporations.

Activities are conducted primarily by volunteers.

Funding is principally required for:

- Bringing women together from different parts of the world, or even just within one community, for these transformative encounters.
- Follow-up visits and programmes.
- Development of materials, e.g. publication of Peace Circles literature.



Initiatives of Change

Building trust across the world's divides