



Aims

- To engage women in their role as creators of peace at every level of society
'Now each time I am about to do something I ask myself: By engaging in this action, am I going to build or destroy peace?' Romania
- To pre-empt violence and despair by addressing the roots of conflict in and around us
'If I want the next generation to be free of bitterness, then I need to be free of bitterness. What seeds am I sowing in my home?' Australia
- To encourage and connect existing 'peace builders'
'I always thought that peace makers had to go to college and have a law degree...but now I've taken part in Creators of Peace I realise that I too am a peace maker.' Papua New Guinea
- To build just, caring and inclusive communities for all
'Through Creators of Peace, we are empowered and united in supporting our people. We were like one heart and many veins.' Syria

Creators of Peace is a program of Initiatives of Change

Initiatives of Change works to inspire, equip and connect people to address world needs, starting with themselves. Active in 70 countries world-wide, and spanning diverse cultures, backgrounds and religions, it focuses on trust building, ethical leadership and sustainable living. Initiatives of Change is an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).

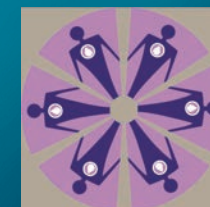
The programs and activities of Creators of Peace worldwide are conducted mainly by volunteers. Donations are needed to spread the activities of Creators of Peace.

For more information go to
www.cop.iofc.org
or email creatorsofpeace@iofc.org



**'There is no way
to peace.
Peace is the way.'**

A.J. Muste



**Creators
of Peace**



Background

'We all pretend that someone else is the stumbling block to peace...Could that someone be myself?'

- Anna Abdallah Msekwa,
Tanzanian leader and politician

Creators of Peace (CoP) was launched in 1991 at the Initiatives of Change centre in Caux, Switzerland.

It is an international women's initiative empowering women to be radical peace builders by:

- building networks of friendship and forgiveness across racial, religious and social divides
- sharing responsibility for their part in the perpetration of conflict and its resolution
- breaking the chains of hate and revenge.

'It was an intense experience for me, rediscovering myself, looking deeper into my inner self and roots and opening my eyes to things that shape who I am now and how I react. Those three days are for me a beginning of a journey to start. I am now aware that I am not alone.' Egypt

How

'If you live with your hatred and anger, you block yourself off from others. Peace has to start with me.'
Timor-Leste

Creators of Peace action reinforces this important message and provides many avenues for women to work together toward peace.

These include:

- providing a safe space for dialogue across ethnic/racial/religious divides, based on the sharing of personal experience and information in a variety of forums, around conference tables, boardroom tables and kitchen tables
- promotion of Creators of Peace Circles
- workshops that increase the peace building skills of women in civil society and address the personal, moral and spiritual values needed for ethical leadership and sustainable action
- locally based initiatives that bring people together in community building activities
- the practice of deep reflection and listening to the inner voice, or God, as a source of inspiration
- to encourage a change of heart, starting with oneself, as a primary tool of peace creation.

Creators of Peace Circles

'I have had many avenues in life to challenge my mind. Creators of Peace gave me the opportunity and permission to go with my heart.' Australia

Creators of Peace Circles are small gatherings of women of different backgrounds within a community, who work together with trained facilitators to understand their peace creating capabilities. They go through specially designed material over a period of time to build bridges of understanding, friendship and trust. Another aim is to identify issues in the community with a potential for conflict, and resolve to take common action to practise their peace-building skills.

Creators of Peace Circles are held in over 40 countries worldwide, from Sydney to Sudan, Sweden to the Solomon Islands. If you would like to participate or find out more, please email creatorsofpeace@iofc.org

'These circles can make a simple but powerful contribution for everyone to have their pain acknowledged and their story heard...I have so much conviction about what I want to do in my own country but I didn't realise how much work I need to do in my own family.' South Africa