

ICW-CIF

**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES FEMMES**
Founded 1888

ICW Statement to mark the International Day of Peace 21 September 2023

The International Council of Women (ICW-CIF), a Non-Governmental Organization in consultative status with ECOSOC, has strived to advance equal rights for women since its inception in 1888, holding steadfast in its mission to work for peace in all spheres of life. ICW-CIF firmly supports the efforts of the United Nations (UN) and of the International Community to ensure that all human beings, including women and girls, will be able to reach their full potential and equally participate in the peace process.

This year, the UN is devoting the International Day of Peace to the theme, “ACTIONS FOR PEACE: OUR AMBITION FOR THE GLOBAL GOALS,” with the aim of bringing the international community to act as “activists” in doing their utmost to work towards reaching this noble goal. The meaning is simple: how can our individual and collective actions affect and foster global peace? How can each one of us help overcome the flaws and injustices which continue to prevent us from achieving a more egalitarian world?

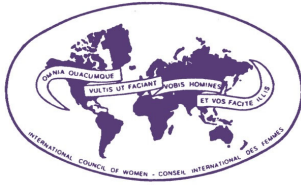
Women do not start wars, but they do suffer heavily from the consequences. Indeed war/conflict spurs much higher rates of sexual violence. It renders women acutely vulnerable to poverty, to the loss of jobs and to the destruction of assets, such as homes and businesses (as in the recent case of Afghan women). Essential health services also crumble, underlined by a maternal mortality rate that is 2.5 times higher on average in conflict and post conflict areas! According to the UN Refugee Agency, women comprise 70% of the refugees worldwide and are put at greater hardship than men in these situations, based upon their gender.

Armed and other types of conflicts, terrorism and hostage-taking, aggression, ethnic, tribal, and religious conflicts (as in the cases of Pakistan, Myanmar, Ethiopia e.g.), xenophobia, poverty, hunger and other denials of economic, social and human rights, are all, currently, an on-going reality affecting millions of people, mainly women and children.

Actions for peace and global solidarity cannot be timelier at this time of new challenges facing the world today, which are the direct results of poverty, climate change, unrest, and conflicts in so many parts of the globe. The International Day of Peace clearly gives the opportunity to further advocate for the survival, well-being and dignity of women and girls affected by crises worldwide.



Headquarters : 13 rue Caumartin – 75009 PARIS - France
Administrative address: 40 ter, route de Montesson - 78110 LE VESINET – France
secretariat@icw-cif.org #66#90# : #<#3# 90#
www.icw-cif.org #



ICW-CIF

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES FEMMES

Founded 1888

By taking into account women’s capabilities and vulnerabilities, including the provision of access to education and skills development training, as well as assistance to income-generating and other activities for women, the international community can promote the full participation of women in peace-building.

We need to develop innovative approaches to break the old paradigms about women and peace and focus on groundbreaking initiatives to ensure women’s full and effective participation in decision-making. **Women must sit on the “decision-table” and be partners in implementing the 4 pillars of UNSCR 1325 – participation, prevention, protection, relief and recovery.**

We need to make sure that women are sensitized to recognize their role in society and the importance of making their voice heard in conflict resolution and in peace-building.

The Preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states, “recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.” Therefore, recognition and respect for human rights of all people, including women and girls, are critical to building and sustaining peace. As such, actions for peace should encompass efforts to promote and preserve the equal human rights of women and girls.

ICW-CIF stands-up for all women and girls who are struggling to access and preserve their fundamental rights to education, economic independence and self-determination, and joins hands with other national and international organizations for that ultimate goal. Most notably our ambition to attain the global Sustainable Development Goals depends on our actions for peace!

To reiterate, ICW-CIF firmly supports the United Nations’ call **“to take action for peace: fight inequality, drive action on climate change, and promote and protect human rights.”**

