

**The Network  
for Religious  
& Traditional  
Peacemakers**



# 2022 Year in Review

*Grassroots efforts for  
sustainable peace*

[peacemakersnetwork.org](http://peacemakersnetwork.org)



# GREETINGS OF PEACE



*Youth fellows and the Peacemakers Network Executive Director, Dr. Mohamed Elsanousi, at the UNAOC Forum in Fez, Morocco.*



*Peter Nsenkeng of UN Mediation Support Unit, Ambassador Heino Timo of Ministry for Foreign Affairs Finland, and Tomi Järvinen of Finn Church Aid attend the Steering Group meeting.*



*Ilwad Elman, Elman Peace and Human Rights Center, and Dr. Mohamed Elsanousi, Peacemakers Network Executive Director advocate for youth inclusion in peace processes at the Second Assembly of the African Conference for Peace in Mauritania.*



*Meeting between Ambassador of Finland to Thailand, H.E. Jyri Jarviaho, Network Secretariat members and representatives of the Norwegian Embassy in Bangkok.*



*ALLY Youth Fellows in Bangladesh share their policy recommendations at the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Secretariat.*



*Peacemakers Network Secretariat highlights the work of its members at the Abu Dhabi Peace Forum*

**Dear Friends,**

**Despite the multitude of global crises, the unwavering efforts and collaboration across sectors in 2022 has fostered hope and inspiration for a peaceful future.**

The Network Secretariat continues to implement its 2020-2025 Strategy alongside its members and supporters by engaging religious and traditional actors in mediation, dialogue, and peacebuilding processes in innovative ways. In collaboration with our Members and Supporters, we continue to respond to the long-term negative developments of complex conflict dynamics, increased insecurity, climate emergencies, and shrinking civil space, to name a few. Our work is conducted through the prioritization of Sustainable Development Goal 17 - partnership for the goals- and ensures that religious and traditional actors are identified as key actors to address these challenges and are meaningfully included in all peacebuilding processes and that efforts are rooted in local ownership.

In 2022, we were delighted to convene our members for an in-person Advisory Group Meeting, graciously hosted by the Sultanate of Oman. We are continuously inspired and encouraged by the passion, enthusiasm and unwavering commitment of Peacemakers Network members to find innovative and inclusive ways to collaborate to address some of our most pressing global challenges. To date, our membership is the most diverse and inclusive group of Network members; it is incredible to see the growth of the organization, with recognition that we still have room to grow to advance the diversity of our membership and stakeholders.

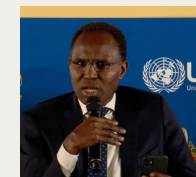
We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Finland - Center for Peace Mediation, the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman and Finn Church Aid for their support to the Core Function of the Peacemakers Network. Their generous support is a critical factor in fulfilling our strategic mission and vision.

This year, we recognize the visionary lens and contributions of former Finn Church Aid Executive Director, Mr. Jouni Hemberg and wish him a very restful retirement. As such, it is our pleasure to welcome Mr. Tomi Järvinen as the new Executive Director of Finn Church Aid. We look forward to continuing our partnership to advance mediation and peace processes around the world.

Throughout 2022, the work and collaboration of our members, supporters, and grassroots actors showed tremendous resilience, responsibility and dedication to support one another and our communities. Now, more than ever, we must come together as one community to collectively strive for inclusion and mutual understanding. We look forward to continuing to champion the role and capacity of local peacemakers, and working alongside our members, to promote sustainable peace and the actualization of the 2030 agenda.

On behalf of the entire Peacemakers Network family, we wish you a very prosperous and blessed New Year.

With Gratitude,



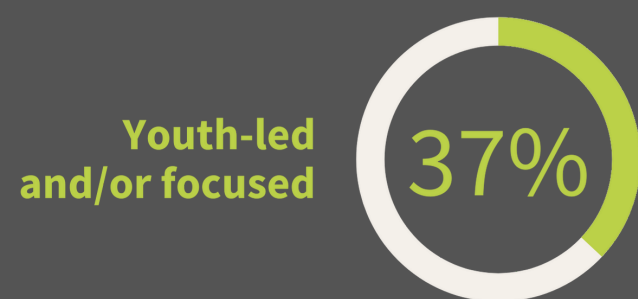
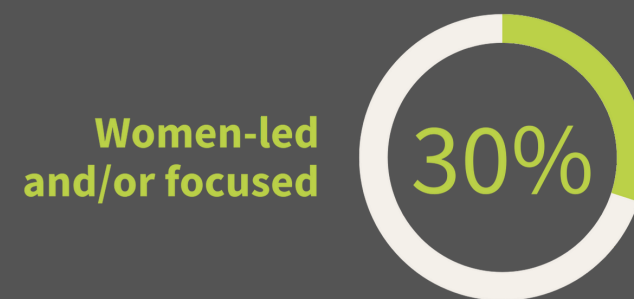
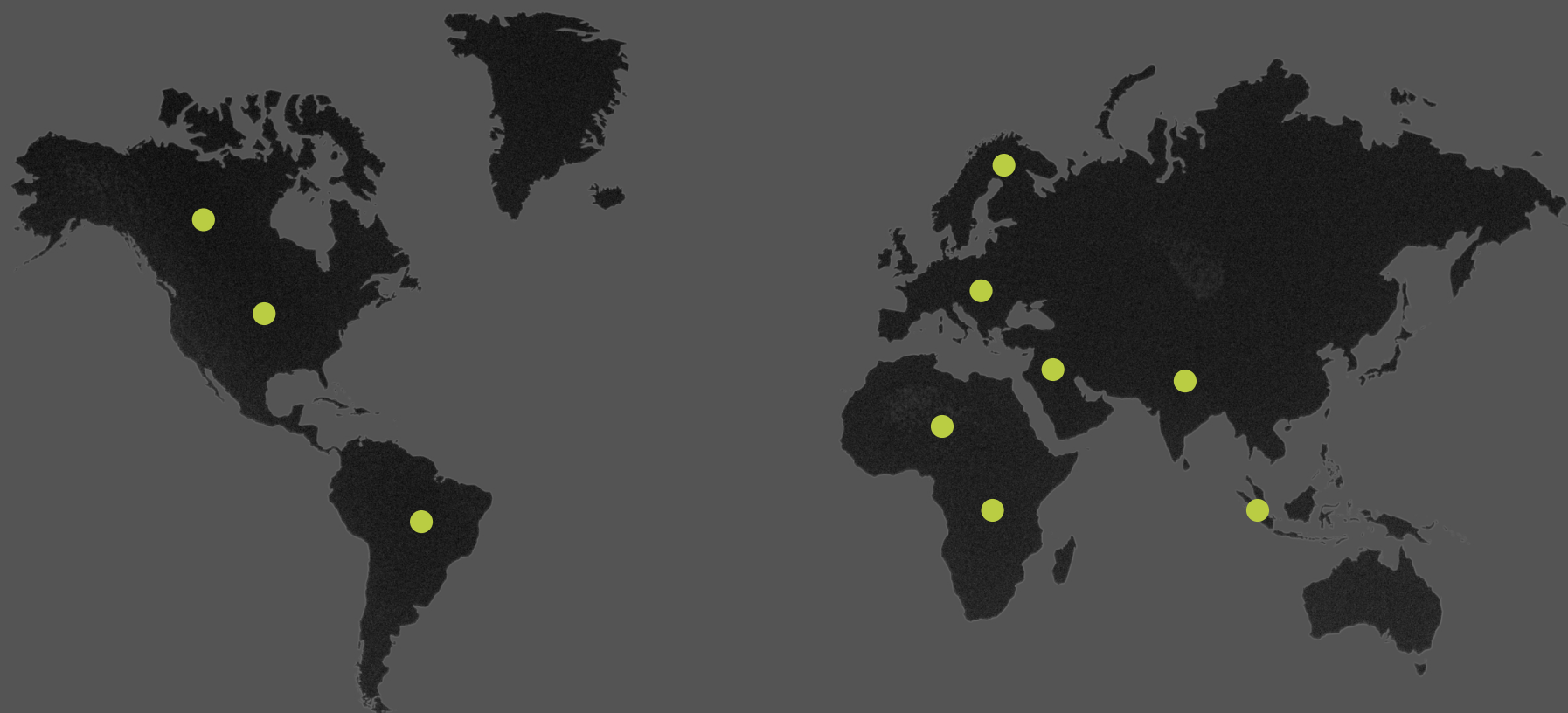
Dr. Mohamed Elsanousi



# MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

**The Peacemakers Network currently has 84 members based in 34 countries.**

The strength of the Network is rooted in cooperation and collaboration. Network members and supporters represent an array of actors, including inter-and-intra-governmental agencies, regional bodies, academic institutions, international and national organizations, civil society, faith-based organizations, and religious and traditional peacemakers.



# WORKING GROUPS

## Inclusivity-based Community of Practice

This year, the Peacemakers Network held four Inclusivity-based Community of Practice meetings after officially launching in 2021. In January, the meeting focused on the aspect of protection and well-being, exploring areas of physical, mental, emotional, and online protection and well-being. In April, the meeting aligned with the Youth ECOSOC Forum and focused on how young people and Network members are advancing inclusive peace education. In July, the meeting aligned with the UN High-Level Political Forum and focused on how individuals and organizations are partnering to prevent and counter violent extremism. And finally in October, in preparation for the Peacemaker Network's 16 Days Campaign to Eliminate Violence Against Women, the meeting focused on how Network members and supporters are addressing gender-based violence in their work. The Inclusivity Community of Practice will welcome a new Steering Committee in 2023.



## Asia



The Asia Working Group (AWG) conducted four quarterly meetings in 2022 focused on three themes: prevention of violent extremism, hate speech and misinformation, and networking. Working under these themes, AWG members convened online to identify issues behind anti-democratic narratives and best practices on how to do meaningful advocacy to unlike-minded actors; share best practices in addressing hate speech and misinformation on social media, and; contribute to/ support the advocacy efforts in relation to the G20 summit and WPS/YPS agendas. To conclude the year, the Asia Working Group conducted an online campaign on the Peacemakers Network Asia Facebook and Twitter pages highlighting the voices of youth and the five pillars of the YPS agenda.

## Sub-Saharan Africa

The Sub-Saharan Africa Working Group (SSA WG) fosters collaboration among various international, regional, national, and local actors working in Sub-Saharan Africa with the shared goal of increasing the active collaboration between religious and traditional actors and other key stakeholders in peacebuilding, mediation, and conflict transformation. This year, the working group provided an opportunity for a knowledgeable group of people to come together and share their experiences and discuss the priorities facing religious and traditional peacemakers across contemporary Sub-Saharan Africa as it relates to the pandemic and its second-order impacts.



## Europe & MENA



The Europe (EU and Western Balkans), Middle East, & North Africa Working Group (Europe & MENA WG) fosters collaboration among various actors interested in exploring regional collaborations and cross-regional dynamics and trends affecting peacebuilding in Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. This working group serves as a platform for Network members, supporters, and interested actors to participate in sharing best practices, joint analyses, and insights on current topics and trends and building collaboration among actors working to advance inclusive peace and prevent violence.



# NEW RESEARCH



## The Status of Youth-Led PVE Efforts in South Asia

The European Union (EU)-funded [‘Amplifying Leadership of Local Youth’](#) project produced new publications on trends and challenges of radicalization in South Asia, including policy briefs and an analysis report. The briefs on Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) provide concise reviews of findings and policy recommendations related to strengthening the youth peace building sector in South Asia and specific countries as a mechanism for enhancing and broadening PVE activities throughout the region.

## Strengthening the Security and Resilience of At-Risk Religious Sites and Communities (SOAR): Baseline Research

The right to practice faith, and maintain and communicate religious beliefs are fundamental human rights. A baseline research report by the European Union [‘Strengthening the Security and Resilience of at-risk Religious Sites and Communities’ \(SOAR\)](#) provides a fundamental overview of seven countries (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Hungary, Austria) regarding the security of places of worship, religious demographics, legislation concerning church-state relations, threat picture and adopted national policies to mitigate hate crime. The data is based on interviews, media reports, the latest academic research and reports of EU-funded and state-funded research institutions.



## Research on Natural Resource Management in Mozambique

[‘Towards an Inclusive and Peaceful Society in Mozambique’ \(TIPS\)](#) is a European Union funded project which seeks to contribute to conflict prevention, crisis preparedness and response, and peacebuilding through inclusive natural resource governance and management in Mozambique. To bolster its effectiveness, the TIPS project conducted research on existing local natural resource conflicts and peacebuilding structures and actors. Through the mapping, the project was able to (1) understand the local context, conflict dynamics, and causes, and possible local solutions through local perceptions; (2) assess the needs, strengths, and constraints of project beneficiaries; and (3) assess the gendered and generational dynamics and dimensions of these conflicts.



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## SOUTH & SOUTHEAST ASIA

### Youth Create Social Action Plans in South Asia

The EU-funded project “[Amplifying Leadership of Local Youth in Preventing Violent Extremism in South Asia](#)” (ALLY) is a youth-sensitive initiative focused at amplifying the youth voices and actors in addressing diverse factors of violence and preventing violent extremism in South Asia, particularly in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, and Pakistan. Through their variety of [Social Action Plans \(SAPs\)](#), 60 ALLY fellows took concrete steps to confront violent extremism narratives in their communities. Throughout 2022, they have just engaged with national and regional policymakers to promote the vital role of youth in confronting the biggest challenges to social cohesion across South Asia by leveraging their existing vast network and connections with government, religious, community and intergovernmental actors. The fellows advocated for meaningful inclusion, networking platforms, and resources to play more active roles as peacebuilders, and their SAPs are perfect examples of the efficacy of their work.



*Youth Peacebuilders Across South Asia Share Policy Recommendations on Social Cohesion*

*Women, Youth and Religious Leaders Advance Collaboration for Advocacy Efforts in South Asia*

Bangkok, Thailand

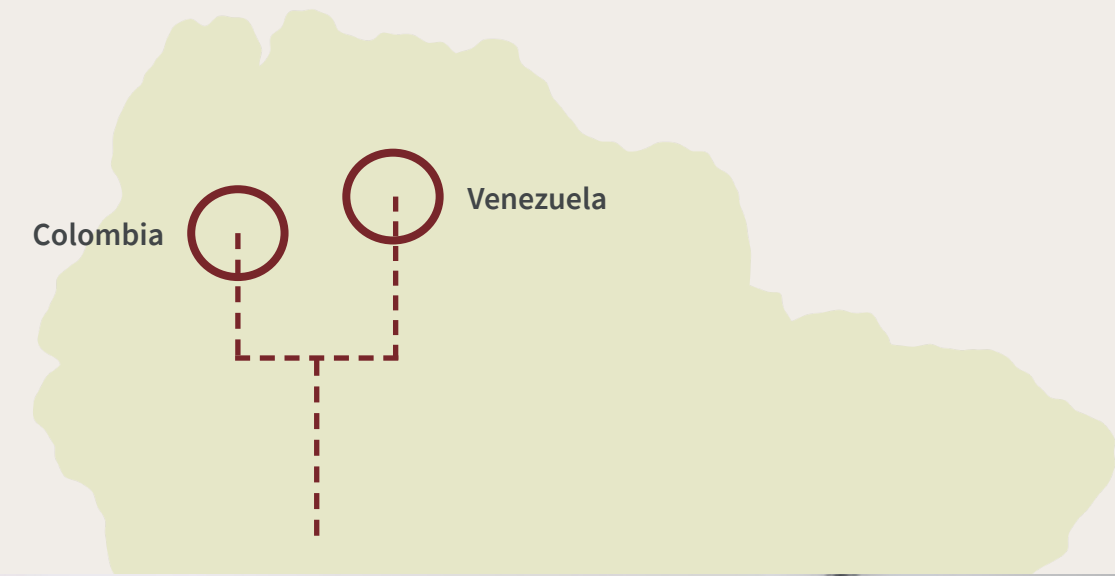
### Women, Youth and Religious Leaders Advance Collaboration for Advocacy Efforts in South Asia

The Peacemakers Network, in collaboration with the KAICIID Dialogue Centre, and the International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD) convened 50 women, youth, and religious community leaders from South and Southeast Asia in Bangkok to identify key policy suggestions and to strengthen these organizations in their abilities to inform policymakers and public opinion on matters like the climate emergency, the Covid-19 pandemic, and the role new technologies in peace and social cohesion. The outcomes of this initiative will be shared with relevant policymakers in a variety of formats, inform overall policy advocacy, and will be formulated into policy papers.

## LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

### Network partners with USIP to Support Religious Actors and Mental Health Professionals in Latin America

The Peacemakers Network has offered guidance and support to its member, U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP) to [identify best practices in psychosocial support to better facilitate collaboration and cooperation between religious actors and mental health professionals](#) who provide services to conflict affected communities in Colombia – including trauma-affected displaced persons. In July 2022, over 25 faith actors, from conflict-affected areas of Colombia gathered in Bogota to participate in psychoeducation training and learned about reactions to stress, violence, and trauma. Following the training, participants returned to their hometowns to replicate the training for members of their local communities.



*Network partners with USIP to support religious actors and mental health professionals in Latin America*



## Promoting Un (Common) Spaces for Inter-Religious and Inter-Communities Dialogue and Enhanced Religious Literacy in Mozambique

Supported by the US Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, the “Interreligious Dialogue for Peace and Social Cohesion” (ID-PEACE) Project is building foundations for reduced inter- and intra- communal tensions and related religious freedom abuses in Mozambique by strengthening social cohesion and religious tolerance.

After the completion of three mapping studies that helped to identify early signs of conflicts, the project built the capacity of 120 traditional and religious leaders to support peacebuilding and four social cohesion in their communities. The most significant change is the creation of three new engagement structures for social cohesion in the 3 target districts (3 dialogue platforms and 1 functional early warning mechanism), whose members are increasingly committed to apply the acquired knowledge. In addition, the initiative reached an additional 14,000 Mozambicans through an online campaign.

## Increasing Faith Engagement in the Sahel

As part of the US Department of State led Abrahamic Faith Initiative (AF), a group of religious and faith-based institutions working on peacebuilding and development, the Peacemakers Network supported in the organization of three virtual consultations on the situation in West Africa and Sahel. The aim of these consultations was three-fold: 1) understanding the root causes of the conflicts in the region; 2) what role do religious actors, which women and youth play in promoting sustainable peace and development; 3) how can outside actors support their work. The consultations brought together high-level and grassroots actors from Burkina Faso, Ghana, Gambia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal.

## Towards an Inclusive and Peaceful Society in Mozambique

‘Towards an Inclusive and Peaceful Society in Mozambique’ (TIPS) is a European Union funded project that aims to contribute to conflict prevention, crisis preparedness and response and peacebuilding through inclusive natural resource governance and preventing and addressing natural resource based conflicts through multi-stakeholder dialogue and engagement in Mozambique.

In 2022, the TIPS project finalized the research on the root causes of natural resource conflicts as well as a mapping of existing local peace building structures, including religious and traditional peace building mechanisms. Based on the research, beneficiaries from civil society organizations, and community leaders were selected to participate in contextualized trainings. Trainings were developed on natural resource management, including inclusive and sustainable land management, conflict analysis, conflict resolution, mediation and dialogue as well as the on lobbying and advocacy tools and monitoring.” The trainings targeted 163 project beneficiaries in total for five Provinces (Inhambane, Tete, Niassa, Sofala and Cabo Delgado) in Mozambique.

## MIDEEYE Project

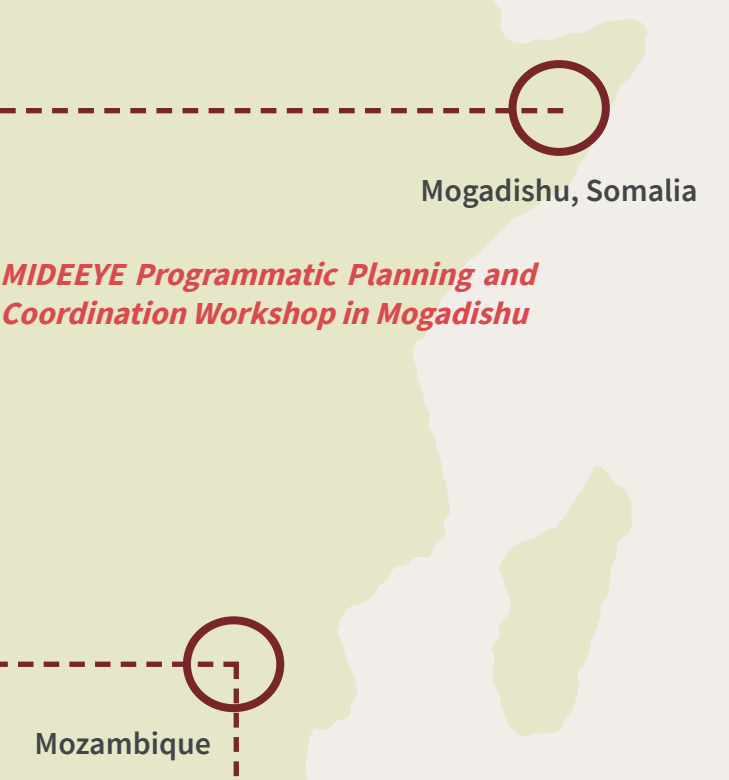
This MIDEEYE project, meaning ‘unifier’ in Somali, is a partnership project between Finn Church Aid Somalia and the Peacemakers Network. The project objectives are two fold: support the national reconciliation process and the effective roll-out of the National Reconciliation Framework. This is done by strengthening the capacities of the Ministry of Interior and Reconciliation of Somalia Moifar and the two selected federal member states, South-West State and Hirshabelle. The second objective of MIDEEYE is to strengthen the inclusive local governance and administration in Somalia. South-West State and Hirshabelle have been selected to be the focus states, where Mideeye aims to support the efforts towards inclusive and legitimate district council formations and effective basic service delivery. In its initial stages, the project supported the capacity building of local stakeholders and a learning exchange mission; secondees are providing constant support to enable the national reconciliation process. In addition, two secondments to the Ministries of Interiors have been finalized. The work on the district council formation will continue in the coming year, with integrating findings from a detailed analysis of the dynamics on ‘Conflict, Political, Economic, Social and Gender Assessment,’ completed in Wanlawein district.



*MIDEEYE Programmatic Planning and Coordination Workshop in Mogadishu*



*Promoting un (common) spaces for inter-religious and inter-communities dialogue and enhanced religious literacy in Mozambique*



*Towards an Inclusive and Peaceful Society in Mozambique*



## Preventing and Addressing Violent Extremism Through Community Resilience in the Balkans and MENA

The EU Horizon 2020 project, [Preventing and Addressing Violent Extremism \(PAVE\)](#) through community resilience in the Balkans and MENA, aims to tackle the global issue of radicalization by examining its root causes and driving factors. Based on a participatory and inter-regional approach, PAVE is advancing evidence-based knowledge on violent extremism in the broader Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and the Western Balkans, as well as strengthen the capacity of policy makers and community leaders for an effective prevention strategy between the European Union and its neighboring countries. The PAVE project partners and its key stakeholders gathered in Paris for its annual assembly and validation workshop. As part of the final day of the PAVE regional workshop, over 45 PAVE partners and key stakeholders, including policymakers, faith actors, and civil society from the MENA and Western Balkans region gathered in a hybrid format in Paris to validate key findings as part of a capacity-building needs assessment. Based on feedback and recommendations provided from the validation workshop and the capacity-building needs assessment findings, a set of in-person and online training modules and tools were developed in 2022, as well as policy guidelines for the project. These materials will be validated and published for open-source use by April 2023 to serve these three stakeholder groups beyond the lifespan of the PAVE project.

## Religion and Mediation Training

Following a [roundtable event](#) at the start of 2022 focused on how the United Nations could foster and support faith actors in both inter-religious and intra-religious dialogues within peacebuilding efforts, the Network partnered with the Dag Hammarskjold Foundation and Uppsala University’s Department of Peace and Conflict Research on their International Training on Dialogue and Mediation program. This year’s program was divided in a hybrid format, with an initial training online, followed by an in-person portion in Uppsala, Sweden. The Network uplifted Network Member, Muhammad Nuruddeen Lemu of the Da’wah Institute of Nigeria and Islamic Education Trust and Ezabir Ali of the Women Mediators of the Commonwealth, to show perspectives and expertise on both traditional and faith insider-oriented mediators and on gender, religion and mediation.

## SOAR – Strengthening the Security of At-Risk Religious Sites and Communities

The EU-funded consortium [SOAR project](#), “[Strengthening the security and resilience of at-risk religious sites and communities](#),” which began in April 2021, was tasked with improving the security of places of worship by carrying research into current security concerns, capacity building for faith leaders and congregants, and increasing collaboration between faith communities, law enforcement, and policymakers both at national and EU levels. SOAR operates in seven (7) EU countries. Since the start of SOAR, the project has put out over a dozen publications concerning the security of places of worship, conducted dozens of safety and security capacity building training sessions with hundreds of participants taking part. The Peacemakers Network has focused our training efforts on the capacity building for women and youth keeping in line with our commitment to inclusivity. The SOAR project was also mentioned as a good practice in the United Nations Office for Counter Terrorism (UNOCT) thematic guide on Protecting Vulnerable Targets Against Terrorist Attacks. The SOAR project’s consortium partners consist of Enhancing Faith Institutions (EFI), Architects Council of Europe (ACE), Finn Church Aid (FCA), the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC).



Religion and Mediation Training



SOAR – Strengthening the Security of At-Risk Religious Sites and Communities – Photo: SOAR Project

Uppsala, Sweden



Hamburg, Germany



Paris, France



Preventing and Addressing Violent Extremism through community resilience in the Balkans and MENA



# ADVANCING COLLECTIVE ACTION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS



## Peacemakers Network and United Nations Convened Traditional Leaders and Actors to Create a New Plan of Action to Prevent Atrocity Crimes

The Peacemakers Network, in partnership with the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention of the Responsibility to Protect, led a two-day technical global consultation in Abuja, Nigeria with traditional leaders and actors from across five regions. [This was the first meeting in the history of the UN where different ethnic, indigenous, clan communities, and representatives of traditional societies and people, gathered to discuss their roles and responsibilities to prevent atrocity crimes, including mediating in situations at risk of these crimes.](#) The consultations consisted of five sessions, covering definition of atrocity crimes, genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity; role and contribution of traditional leaders and actors in preventing atrocity crimes and mediating in situations at risk of these crimes; engagement of women and youth in the prevention of atrocity crimes; and best practices and lessons learned. There was a broad consensus that traditional authorities, such as ethnic chiefs, heads of clans, or community leaders hold a significant role in local governance, security, taxation, and conflict mediation, especially in the absence of state authority.

## Peacemakers Network Contributes to the Interim report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief

The Peacemakers Network and its members were highlighted within the [UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief's thematic report on, 'Indigenous peoples and the right to freedom of religion or belief,' delivered to the 77th session of the UN General Assembly.](#) The report included the Peacemakers Network and UN Office on Genocide Prevention of the Responsibility to Protect consultation for the 'Plan of Action for Traditional Leaders in Atrocity Prevention,' the European Union funded 'Amplifying Leadership of Local Youth' project, and the World Faith Development Dialogue's work, all to exemplify existing and emerging obstacles to the enjoyment of the right of freedom of religion or belief of indigenous peoples and provide recommendations to overcome such obstacles, including measures at national, regional and international levels.



## UNAOC Fez Forum: Advancing the Role of Women and Youth

The Peacemakers Network partnered with the UN Alliance of Civilization (UNAOC) on its [Youth Fellowship Programme](#), which aims to challenge the perceptions and deconstruct stereotypes by encouraging young civil society leaders from Europe, North America, the Middle East and North Africa to engage in intercultural dialogue and embrace cultural diversity. As part of the Fellowship, the Peacemakers Network participated in a number of online workshops and then further partnered with Network member [Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding](#) on a workshop in the run up to the UNAOC Fez Youth Forum. The workshop focused on the theme of, 'Countering Racism and Discrimination.' Following the workshop, the Peacemakers Network participated in two breakout sessions during the UNAOC Fez Forum, then, in the 9th UNAOC Global Forum in Fez, Morocco, where Network Executive Director, Dr. Mohamed Elsanousi emphasized, ["We must strengthen meaningful engagement with civil society, including faith communities and religious actors, especially to increase the participation of women and youth-led civil society organizations."](#)

## Religious Leaders Commemorate the 5th Anniversary of the Fez Plan of Action

The Peacemakers Network, in partnership with the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect and the Kingdom of Morocco, organized a High-Level Symposium to commemorate the 5th Anniversary of the [UN Fez Plan of Action on the role of Religious Leaders and Actors to Prevent Incitement to Violence that may Lead to Atrocity Crimes](#) on 20-21 July 2022. The two-day gathering brought together senior officials from the UN, the King of Morocco, and secular and religious leaders and actors of different faiths, as well as actors from civil society to identify best practices and lessons learned from the [Fez Plan of Action](#) and recommend new and innovative frameworks and mechanisms to further enhance the implementation of document worldwide.







# ADVANCING INCLUSIVITY

## Network Members & Mainstreaming Inclusivity

The Peacemakers Network held a launch event in September for its four newly developed briefs detailing experiences and best practices of Network members and supporters to advance and mainstream inclusivity within their work based on the Network's four modalities of advancing its work: [networking](#), [research](#), [advocacy](#), and [capacity-building](#).

### Networking

Networking is the action or process of interacting with others with the aim to exchange information and develop professional or social contacts and relationships

Advocacy is the process of building support for a specific issue or cause and influencing others to take action in order to achieve the desired change.

### Advocacy



### Research

Research and analysis generate, analyze, and compile various economic, social, and environmental data and statistics to inform on a given issue or topic.

Capacity-building is the process of developing and strengthening the skills, abilities, processes, and resources of individuals or institutions.

### Capacity-Building

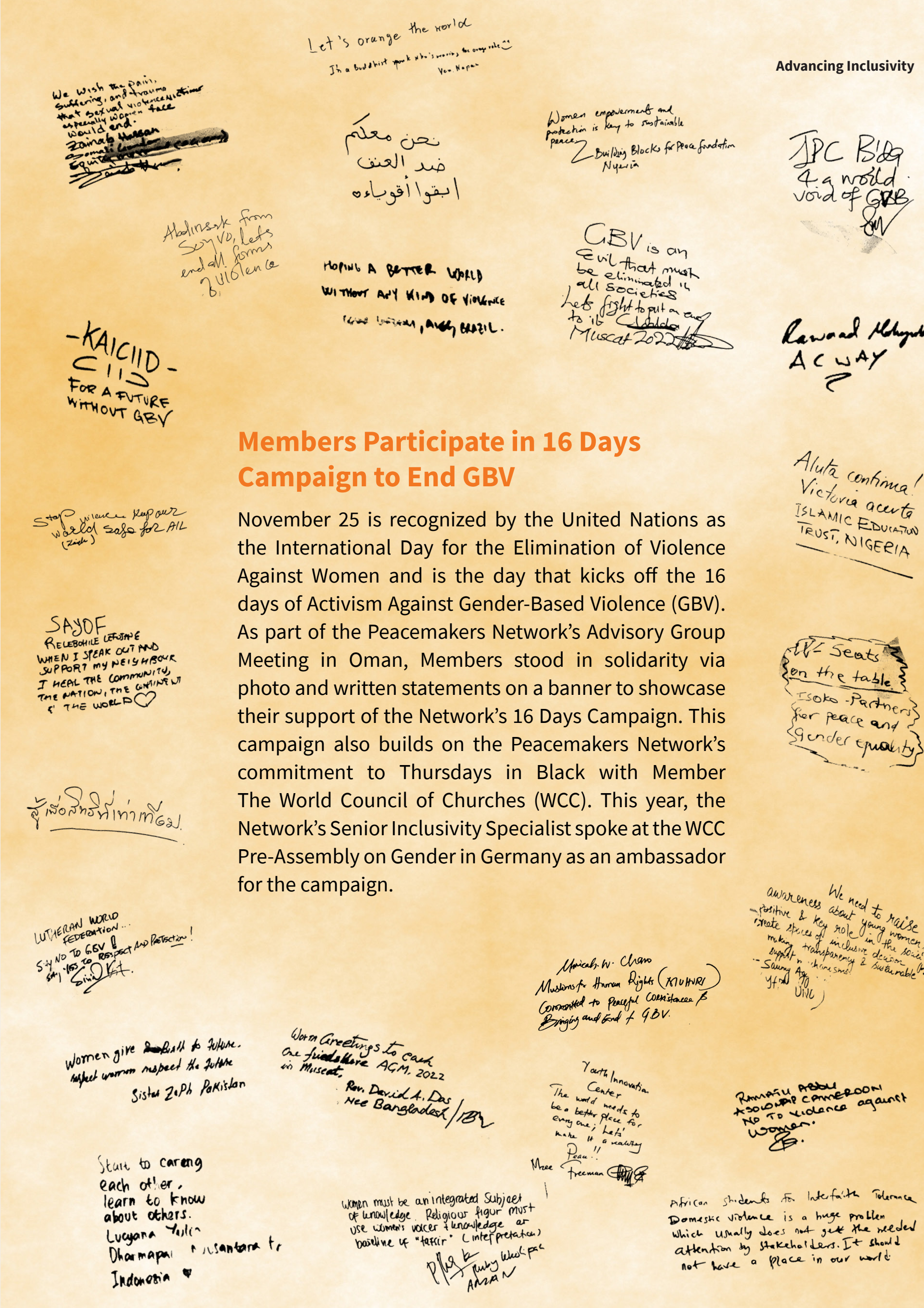
## New Online E-Advocacy Toolkit Training

The Peacemakers Network has released an [e-advocacy training workbook](#) to showcase practical steps for practitioners to craft effective and impactful e-advocacy plans and supportive messages to build momentum for advocacy issues in online spaces!



## CSW - Religious and Traditional Actors Addressing Climate Emergencies

In building upon this year's Commission on the Status of Women theme, "The empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction," the Peacemakers Network and its members hosted two side events showcasing the critical role [traditional](#) and [faith actors](#) addressing the impacts of climate emergencies on women and girls. The Peacemakers Network also partnered with the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Dialogue on their CSW event focused on how [women and young women of faith are advancing economic development](#).





# COLLECTIVE ACTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE



## Peacemakers Network Hosts 14th Advisory Group Meeting in Oman

The Peacemakers Network’s 14th annual Advisory Group Meeting (AGM) in Muscat, Oman gathered 78 Network members from 63 different organizations to revisit the Network’s Strategy for 2020-2025, examine emerging trends in peacebuilding, dialogue, and mediation, and discuss our collaboration going in 2023 to continue to translate our strategy into practice. With over 25% of participants being youth, the AGM prioritized intergenerational dialogue and collaboration!

*“...The 2022 Advisory Group Meeting-AGM is a success story. From Local to global, we arrived to share experiences, culture, thoughts, future perspectives, food, in a very friendly atmosphere. It was a time for networking to keep our work moving forward as one.”*

*Seconde Nyanzobe, Advocacy Officer, ISOKO partners for Peace and Gender Equality*



## The Link Between FoRB and Gender Equality: Youth Perspective of the International Ministerial Conference 2022

Heela Yoon, member of the Peacemakers Network, shared her experience of attending the [International Ministerial Conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief](#) in London, hosted by the U.K Government, as part of Network member, A Common Word Among Youth (ACWAY)’s delegation and panel. The Conference brought together governments, parliamentarians, faith representatives, and broader civil society to [discuss the urgent need for increased global action around the issue of freedom of religion or belief](#).

*“Conferences like this one which focus on the freedom of religion or belief will provide opportunities to future leaders and especially young women, to address their roles in supporting and building the capacities of local faith leaders.”*

## Youth Participate in Connecting Cultures Program

In the lead up to the Peacemakers’ Network Advisory Group Meeting in Oman, 20 youth Network members participated in the ‘Connecting Cultures’ program. This program is designed to bring together young global leaders from around the globe for a powerful five-day experience in Oman, learning about interfaith harmony and collaboration, and exploring cultural heritage sites. This fellowship opportunity was graciously sponsored by the Oman Endowment for Religious Affairs.

*Heela Yoon, Founder, Afghan Youth Ambassadors for Peace*



*“As I departed from Oman enriched with new cultural understandings, the initiative enhanced my knowledge on what my responsibilities are in the society back home and my role in ensuring that community cohesion and interfaith dialogue are a common feature throughout my career working within communities.”*

*Nyasha Freeman, Youth Innovation Center, Mozambique*





### Oman Celebrates the UN International Day of Tolerance

To commemorate the United Nations International Day of Tolerance, the Sultanate of Oman, in collaboration with the Peacemakers Network, hosted a day-long celebration on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, under the theme “United Human Values and Sustainable Development for All.” The event featured representatives from the Sultanate of Oman and Network members to reflect on their experiences, perspectives, and solutions to responding to the crises and developing new and transformative pathways to promoting tolerance, mutual understanding and peace. In reflecting on the theme, Network members engaged in four panel discussions in which connected the conference theme and related Sustainable Development Goals. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will require a whole of society approach, including inclusive partnerships and collaboration across sectors and across cultural and geographic borders, built upon shared principles and human values.



### Dialogues to Support Peace in the Changing World – Conference on National Dialogues in Helsinki

Through the support of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs Finland, the [Fifth National Dialogues Conference \(NDC\)](#) convened over 150 peace mediation experts from 30 different countries to Helsinki on 15–16 June. Over the course of the conference, participants focused on the significance and challenges of national dialogues in the changing world. The themes of this year’s NDC conference include the effects of climate change on conflict and peace processes and fostering partnerships with minorities, indigenous, women, and youth leaders, actors, and organizations to reach holistic solutions. The National Dialogues Conference has served as an important forum for sharing best practices in peace mediation and as a concrete meeting place for those involved in peace negotiations and various dialogues.



### Addressing the COVID-19 Pandemic & Second Order Impacts

Faiths4Vaccines is an inclusive, multifaith movement composed of local and national U.S. religious leaders, as well as medical professionals, who are working together to identify and resolve current gaps in vaccine mobilization, outreach, and uptake. In February 2022, Faiths4Vaccines signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to support vaccination efforts and second order impacts around the world. In building upon the critical role of global faith actors and communities, Faiths4Vaccines, USAID, and the Department of State co-hosted a roundtable, “A Collective Journey: Faith Actors and the Road to Pandemic Recovery.” Global faith actors and other stakeholders serving on the frontlines of the pandemic response and recovery drew from local experiences to examine best practices, policy insights, and programmatic opportunities to innovatively address the pandemic and its second-order impacts, placing an emphasis on food security and disrupted education. In addition, Faiths4Vaccines is serving as an Advisory Committee Member to the Association of State and Territorial Health Association project in the United States. The project aims to reduce racial and ethnic disparities with respect to vaccination rates, knowledge, and trust to improve health equity and reduce vaccine-preventable diseases among adults.



## ABOUT THE NETWORK

The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers builds bridges between grassroots peacemakers and global players in order to strengthen the work done for sustainable peace. The Network strengthens peacemaking through collaboratively supporting the positive role of religious and traditional actors in peace and peacebuilding processes.

### Our Vision

A world where religious and traditional actors play a positive role in preventing violence and contributing to sustainable peace.

### Our Mission

To enhance the effectiveness of efforts toward peaceful and inclusive societies by increasing the active collaboration between religious and traditional actors and other key stakeholders in conflict transformation.

### Our Objectives

The mission of the Peacemakers Network encompasses the following strategic objectives, which are also geared to contribute to UN efforts towards sustainable peace and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 5, 16, and 17, and UNSCR 1325 (women, peace, and security).

### Sustaining Peace

Since becoming operational in 2014, the Peacemakers Network has supported individual, traditional, and faith-oriented insider mediators, intra- and inter-faith dialogues, and the advancement of reconciliation efforts. Activities are conducted as a collaborative effort between Network members, supporters, and the Secretariat. By engaging with religious and traditional actors, women, and youth in mediation, dialogue, and peacebuilding processes, the Peacemakers Network support its crucial role in ensuring that peace efforts reach the wider population that are rooted in local ownership.

# 2020-2025 STRATEGY



### What We Do

With a vision of a world where conflicts are managed without violence, the Network aims to improve the effectiveness of peacemaking and peacebuilding efforts by collaboratively supporting and strengthening the positive role of religious and traditional actors by increasing inclusivity of such peace processes.

## NETWORK STRUCTURE

The Peacemakers Network was inceptioned in 2013 as a direct response to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon's call to increase the role of religious leaders and faith-based institutions in conflict mediation. The Network was launched in the stewardship of a Core Group comprised of non-governmental and multilateral institutions.

### Members

Members of the Peacemakers Network have experience engaging with tradition or faith-based peace and development activities and have the ability to assist the Network's mission and vision, actively commit to the values of inclusivity, respect for diversity, human rights, and human dignity.

### Supporters

Supporters of the Peacemakers Network are comprised of organizations and individuals that have the capacity and the desire to advance the Network's mission, but that are unable to commit to membership. While supporters do not have the right to vote, they are encouraged to contribute, based on their interests and capabilities, to specific activities, and working groups.

### The Secretariat

The Secretariat prepares meetings, ensures communication, coordinates joint activities, and facilitates the development of the support structures providing assistance to religious and traditional peacemakers. A majority of the work conducted by the Secretariat is done upon request and in close collaboration with partners at offices in Helsinki, Bangkok, Washington, D.C., Mozambique, and Somalia.