

Women Peacemakers Program
2013 Activity Report
Executive Summary

Supported by:



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Introduction

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Reporting Period:	15 months October 15, 2012 - December 31, 2013

This executive summary presents activities undertaken, insights gained and results achieved by the Women Peacemakers Program (WPP) during its first year of operation as an independent organization based in The Hague.

Implementation of the WPP program activities took place according to schedule, in line with WPP's Vision and Mission statement:

“WPP’s vision is of a world where women and men work together as allies to build communities where people co-exist peacefully through active nonviolence.”

“Its mission is to support the empowerment of gender-sensitive women and men for the transformation of conflict through active nonviolence.”

In short, the WPP Strategic Plan 2011-2015 focuses on the following key components:

- **Strengthening the WPP partnership approach** as to ensure increased (regional) ownership of the Gender-Sensitive Active Nonviolence (GSANV) agenda;
- **Strengthening linking and learning amongst WPP partners** as well as supporting national, regional, and international advocacy by and with its partners through the use of **new media and face-to-face opportunities**;
- Pioneering a **holistic gender, peace and security agenda** by advocating for a feminist perspective on peace and security which includes a broad gender concept (inclusion of masculinities) as well as exposes the link between gender and militarism;
- Acting as a bridge between movements in order to **maximize movement building** for GSANV.

This was operationalized through the organizing of regional education and training programs; providing support in the field of international orientation and exposure; supporting regional and global movement building for gender-sensitive active nonviolence; the production of knowledge and dissemination of relevant resources on Women, Peace and Security; and training and awareness-raising on the importance of integrating a holistic gender-perspective in peacebuilding. What follows is an overview of the work done during the reporting period.

Activities October 2012 - December 2013

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

WPP started to become more actively engaged in the MENA region during the period 2011-2012, through the implementation of a capacity building program on gender-sensitive active nonviolence (GSANV), followed by a two-day Consultation Meeting late 2012 on regional networking. These meetings generated important insights into networking trends and challenges in the region, and lay an important foundation in regards to the further shaping of WPP's regional MENA approach during 2013. In follow-up of the 2012 meetings, WPP decided to support networking in the region but not to invest in the setting up and maintenance of such network structures. WPP rather sees its role as a catalyst and broker to provide space and possibilities for innovation and enriching exchanges.

Early 2013, WPP initiated a project of mapping the main actors working in the field of Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and Gender-Sensitive Active Nonviolence in the MENA region, resulting in a mapping document listing 32 organizations, networks and individual activists. Mid 2013, a needs survey was disseminated to these stakeholders in an effort to analyze needs in terms of GSANV, and to generate input regarding WPP's possible role as a global GSANV actor in the region.

The feedback received informs the planning of a MENA Consultation meeting early 2014. During this Consultation meeting, participants and WPP will further discuss the outcomes of the mapping exercise, in an effort to jointly shape WPP's MENA programming during the period 2014-2015.

In addition, in follow-up of the WPP 2011-2012 Training of Trainers, work started in terms of drafting a regional GSANV training manual. A writing group consisting of trainers and trainees from the region, together with the WPP staff and volunteers, will draft the training manual.

Asia

Early 2012, the Asia Regional Training of Trainers (ToT) cycle commenced, entitled *"Together for Transformation: Gender-sensitive Active Nonviolence for Sustainable Peace"*. This first training week was followed by trainees organizing follow-up initiatives in their home countries to practice their skills as trainers, and to further disseminate the ToT knowledge amongst their constituency. These projects resulted in the mobilizing and training of approximately 300 people on gender-sensitive active nonviolence in 9 Asian countries. The second training week of the Asia ToT took place during April 2013 in Jakarta, providing trainees and WPP with an opportunity to evaluate the work done in the field and deepen learning.



Through writing blogs, trainees were able to share their personal experience during the second training week in Jakarta. One trainee from Sri Lanka shared the following in her blog¹:

"When the day ended, no one was tired, no one complained about anything, because it was a day that gave us a lot of insights and inspiration. For me, it is an inspiration to know that, even though we all come from different backgrounds, there are women who are strong, brave, creative, hardworking and committed. Most of the women I met in this training gave me the belief that, if there is a will, there is always a way to achieve change."

The evaluation of the ToT Cycle showed that trainees were highly satisfied with the quality of the ToT Cycle, stating that their knowledge and skills significantly increased. The trainees scored the ToT Cycle a 8.5 out of 10 points. One male participant shared:

"It was a lifetime experience exploring myself, especially the masculinities side of my existence and being."

¹ Read all the blogs here: wppinaction.wordpress.com

Upon conclusion of the ToT, the group developed an outline for a regional GSANV training manual, which will be further developed during 2013 -2014 in an effort to support GSANV capacity building in the region.



Adjacent to the Asia Regional Training of Trainers, WPP organized an Asia Consultation Meeting, serving as an opportunity to formally link the WPP Asia Network members and the Asia ToT trainees, in order to sustain to the trainees' continued involvement in WPP's regional GSANV work. The meeting also resulted in a comprehensive WPP Asia Network strategy for the upcoming two years, in order to support gender-sensitive peace activism throughout the region.

Ambassador de Zwaan joined the closing ceremony of the ToT Cycle and the Asia Consultation Meeting, who, in his speech, underlined the importance of empowering women in society, specifically in conflict situations. According to the Ambassador, working with masculinities is a relatively new area to advance the women's agenda, and he applauded WPP for its pioneering role in this field. He was proud that the Dutch Government could contribute to the work of WPP, specifically in the Asia region.

Late 2013, WPP had a strategic meeting with the South Asia Network to Address Masculinities (SANAM) to discuss the developments in South Asia regarding masculinities, and to explore different options for cooperation.

International Orientation

To increase the participation of (women) GSANV activists in conflict transformation processes, WPP considers it important to support the international exposure of (women) activists in key and high-level meetings on Women, Peace and Security, as well as supporting their participation in learning exchanges and capacity building programming.

For instance, WPP facilitated the participation of two women activists from the WPP Asia Network, coming from the Philippines and Indonesia, in the Partners for Prevention's Regional Training of Trainers Workshop "Transforming Masculinities for Gender Justice". The ToT took place from 4-8 November 2012 and was attended by approximately 30 civil society representatives from East and South East Asia.

The last week of October is traditionally the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 week in New York, during which the Security Council Open Debate about the Women, Peace, and Security agenda takes place. At the same time, civil society gathers in New York to discuss achievements and obstacles in terms of UNSCR 1325 implementation. During October 2012 and 2013, the WPP team and a WPP partner from India attended the civil society events in New York.

Late October 2013, WPP organized, in cooperation with Conciliation Resources and GPPAC, a public panel discussion "Taking UNSCR 1325 to the Next Level - Mainstreaming, Masculinities and Movements", hosted by the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the UN in New York. Over 80 representatives of Permanent Missions, the United Nations and civil society attended the event. The moderator, Sarah Taylor, Executive Coordinator of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, stated that:



"This is one of the rare panels at the UN Headquarters that includes patriarchy as part of the discussion around gender, peace, and security."

Following the event, a report with recommendations for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 was published and widely circulated². The public event was also featured during the Dutch National Action Plan 1325 celebration on 13 December 2013.

During March 2013, the Executive Director and a WPP Board Member attended the 57th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The WPP delegation participated in various side events and CSW briefings, such as the conversation circles on Women, Peace and Security in order to jointly reflect on, and formulate civil society input to the CSW's draft conclusions. It provided the opportunity to meet with several UN institutions, such as UN Women and the UN Human Security Unit.

Global Movement Building



During 26-29 May 2013, WPP organized the Global Consultation meeting “Men and Women as Partners for Gender-sensitive Active Nonviolence”. Since 2009, the WPP integrates a masculinities perspective in its gender-sensitive peacebuilding approach. WPP pioneered this concept with the organizing of the pilot Training of Trainers “Together for Transformation: Exploring Masculinities, Violence and Peacebuilding” during 2009-2010. Two years upon its conclusion, the 2013 Consultation meeting brought together a selection of the trainees of the 2009-2010 pilot ToT Cycle as well as relevant

WPP partners from Africa, Asia, North America and the MENA region.

The Global Consultation was organized to assess the longer-term effects of the pilot ToT, and generate an analysis of best practices and challenges met by the ToT trainees in relation to country-level implementation. Based on these lessons learned, the Consultation group formulated a strategy forward to continue and expand this important area of work during upcoming years.

Prior to the Consultation meeting, a survey was sent to the nineteen trainees of the 2009-2010 ToT, in order to generate information about the longer-term impact of the pilot ToT. Additional information was also retrieved via trainees' personal stories submitted for the 2013 May 24 publication. The information gathered showed that 100% of the respondents are still working on the topics of gender-sensitive active nonviolence, masculinities and/or lobby and advocacy around UNSCR 1325. On average, each respondent has trained approximately 200 people since the 2010 training. The survey also provided an insight into best practices as well as obstacles met by trainees in the field. All results of the survey have been assembled in a report.

One former trainee shared:

“Another comment I could make is about the role of in-depth training, learning, and reflection in ‘moving things on’; WPP was seeking to build male allies in the work and I think they really succeeded.”

With the Global Consultation Meeting taking place late May, WPP used this opportunity to organize the public event “Peace: Men & Women as Allies” in The Hague. The evening was organized in close collaboration with Humanity House and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and took place on the occasion of the 2013 International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament. The Consultation participants shared their experiences and insights in terms of integrating a masculinities perspective in their peace activism and working together as partners for GSANV. Joost Andriessen, Director of the Stabilisation and Humanitarian Aid Department, closed the evening by officially launching the WPP May 24 Publication.



Over 90 people attended the event. One participant shared:

“I experienced the public event yesterday with much enjoyment and interest. My compliments to WPP. Special organization, special people, and a special way of working, especially regarding their partnerships”

² To read the report, click go to <http://www.womenpeacemakersprogram.org/Report%20NY%201325.pdf>

Documentation, Analysis and Dissemination

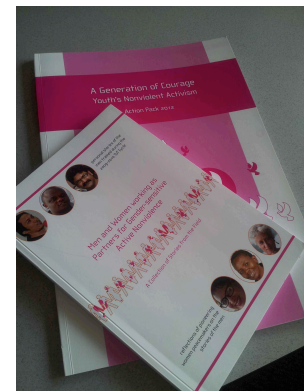
With its widespread network on grassroots, regional and international level, WPP has access to many inspiring examples of women and men working for gender-sensitive active nonviolence. Unfortunately, women's nonviolent initiatives to rebuild societies devastated by war and/or to prevent violent conflict in their communities frequently go lost because they are not documented. WPP considers the documentation and dissemination of women's experiences and stories as one of its core tasks, as well as raising awareness on the importance of implementation of the WPS agenda.

By being well connected to the international Women, Peace and Security field, WPP receives relevant resources and updates on a daily basis. WPP disseminates this information to its grassroots network through its various communication channels, including social media (Facebook, Twitter), which WPP started to use more intensively during the reporting period. Late 2013 WPP started a process to revise its website, in order to better meet the information needs of the network and the general public.

Against this background, WPP continued to publish its online monthly newsletter "Cross the Lines". In August 2013, a special edition of Cross the Lines was published, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the "I Have a Dream" speech of Martin Luther King.

Two thematic publications were issued, namely: "*A Generation of Courage, Youth's Nonviolent Activism*" in celebration of the 12th anniversary of UNSCR 1325, and "*Men and Women Working as Partners for Gender-sensitive Active Nonviolence: Stories from the Field*" on the occasion of May 24, the International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament.

Late 2012, WPP organized an online dialogue in collaboration with *New Tactics for Human Rights* around UNSCR 1325+12. Overall, the online dialogue was viewed over 2,300 times. Visitors from over 139 countries/territories came to the NT site during the dialogue week to read the dialogues. During 2013, WPP staff and partners contributed to two other *New Tactics* online dialogues regarding militarism and countering youth extremism.



In December 2012 and 2013, WPP cooperated with Wo=Men as to support the organizing of the annual Dutch public celebration of the Dutch National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of UNSCR 1325.

WPP also supported and participated in several WPS-related lobby and advocacy efforts as a member of national (Wo=Men, Platform Vrouwen voor Duurzame Vrede) and international platforms (Global Network for Women Peacemakers (GNWP)), by providing input to and widely disseminating calls for action and campaigns via its network. Examples are:

- GPPAC's statement "The Role of Women's Civil Society Organizations in contributing to the Prevention and Resolution of Armed Conflict and Peacebuilding, consisting of recommendations in advance of the 2012 Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security.
- WILPF's campaign "Make It Binding" to include a strong reference to gender-based violence in the Arms Trade Treaty.
- Annual Civil Society Monitoring Reports on Dutch implementation of UNSCR 1325, internationally coordinated by GNWP, with Dutch national coordination by Wo=Men.
- "Human Rights for All Post-2015"³ of the Center for Economic and Social Rights.

³ Read the statement here: <http://cesr.org/downloads/joint.statement.dec10.pdf?preview=1>

Engendering Peace

Peace is inextricably linked with equality between women and men. The empowerment of women for peacebuilding is crucial and remains at the heart of WPP's work. Yet to ensure women's effective participation in peacebuilding, support from men is crucial. Hence, a broadening of the gender perspective - including the gendered roles and experiences of men during war - is crucial to mobilize more male support and expose the deeply gendered nature of armed conflict. WPP therefore works for a holistic GSANV perspective, informed by a feminist analysis on peace and security.

During the reporting period, the WPP raised awareness on and advocated for a feminist analysis of peace and security via its various trainings and consultations as well as through strategic collaboration with international and Dutch-based partners. Some examples include:

- ✓ WPP's cooperation with the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) in the framework of the annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign. This global campaign is dedicated to increasing awareness about gender-based violence and calling on governments to respond, protect, and prevent such violence. Since 2010, the 16 Days Campaign's theme focuses on Militarism and Violence against Women. WPP is a member of the 16 Days Campaign's Advisory Committee, and supported CWGL's work by widely disseminating the Campaign announcements and calls for action; linking the launch of its 2012 publication "A Generation of Courage, Youth's Nonviolent Activism" to the 2012 16 Days Campaign; translating the 2013 Campaign Theme Announcement and Action Pack into Dutch; and actively participating in the social media campaign of 2013 through tweets, Facebook updates and contributing to the CWGL blog⁴. The coordinator of the 16 Days campaign shared:



"Thank you very much for the support you, Isabelle, and all of WPP have shown for the Campaign."

- ✓ During 2012, WPP participated in the "African Nonviolence Trainers Exchange", organized by War Resisters International (WRI) and Ceasefire Campaign in Johannesburg, South Africa. As a result, WPP became a member of the WRI Nonviolence Committee late 2012. In September 2013, WPP was one of the moderators of an online discussion on using social media for nonviolent action during the WRI Assembly meeting. WRI and WPP are also cooperating in the framework of WRI's 2014 international conference: "SMALL Actions BIG Movements: the Continuum of Nonviolence", which will be co-hosted by Ceasefire Campaign in Cape Town, South Africa between 4 - 8 July 2014. WPP will organize its 2014 Global Consultation on Gender and Militarism adjacent to this event, as this will allow for maximum outreach as well as a broad exchange of experiences and strategies.
- ✓ Regular cooperation also took place with the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) in the framework of supporting GPPAC's gender mainstreaming work. For example, WPP provided a session on integrating a masculinities perspective in gender-sensitive peacebuilding during the GPPAC gender focal point meeting, taking place on the occasion of UNSCR 1325+12 in New York. WPP also cooperated with GPPAC for its MENA Mapping exercise, which resulted in the development of a project proposal to support 1325 implementation in the MENA region, which was submitted mid-2013 in the framework of the MENA 1325 WG funds made available by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. GPPAC was also one of the organizational partners for the public event "Taking UNSCR 1325 to the Next Level", that took place in New York during October 2013.
- ✓ In April 2013, WPP was invited to participate in the conference "Masculinity & ending violence against women in the Middle East and Abroad", which was organized by WPP partner organization ABAAD-Resource Center for Gender Equality together with The Swedish Institute Alexandria. The conference served as a platform for the sharing of ideas; discussing masculinities in the different contexts; as well as developing future plans for engaging men in the Middle East

⁴ Read the Blog of WPP for the 16 Days Campaign 2013 here: <http://cwgl.tumblr.com/post/69158549799/men-and-women-working-as-partners-for-gender-sensitive>

region. WPP's participation in the conference laid the foundation for close collaboration on the topic of masculinities and gender-sensitive peacebuilding with key partners in the region during upcoming years.

- ✓ During May 2013, the WPP organized an expert Consultation Meeting with several WPP network members and partners on the topic of *“Religion, Gender, Peace”*. The meeting was organized in follow-up to WPP's work on *“Integrating a Gender Perspective in Faith-based Peacebuilding”*, which was implemented during the period 2010-2013. The meeting provided an opportunity to update each other on the work done by each respective organization; analyzing current developments and dynamics in the field (e.g. increasing fundamentalist religious lobby around the women's rights agenda); and exploring opportunities for future collaborations. Insights generated during the meeting were fed back into the strategic planning process 2015-2018.



- ✓ WPP was approached by several organizations to provide training sessions on gender-sensitive peacebuilding; UNSCR 1325; and masculinities. WPP gave workshop sessions for UNOY Peacebuilders, the NOVIB Summer School on Women, Peace and Security, UPACT, the International Criminal Court Student Network (ICCSN), and the University of Groningen. These training sessions took place during the period June - September 2013.

One of the organizers shared:

“It has been a busy but great week and I want to thank you again for your contribution to the success of the summer course. The students sincerely enjoyed your presentation. They were really happy that you explained UNSCR 1325, as this information is an added value for their projects.”

- ✓ From 28 to 29 October, a WPP delegation, including a partner from South Asia and the WPP New York Liaison, attended a conference organized by the United States Institute for Peace (USIP) on *“Men, Peace & Security: Agents of Change”*. The conference focused on the role of men and masculinities in armed conflict and peace processes. During the event, WPP underlined the importance of supporting a transformative gender & peace agenda, which includes investing in nonviolent options to address conflict.

Organizational development

With the establishment of the Women Peacemakers Program as independent organization in September 2012, a WPP Foundation Board was installed, taking on legal responsibility of the organization. The Board decides on organizational and strategic matters, and provides support and guidance for the WPP staff. The Board consists of the following members:

- Trijntje Kootsta (President)
- Bob van Boven (Treasurer)
- Kees Nieuwerth (Secretary)
- Loeky Drosen (General Board Member)

During 2013, WPP expanded from two staff members to three staff members, bringing the total to 2,6 Fte. WPP staff members are:

- Isabelle Geuskens (WPP Executive Director)
- Merle Gosewinkel (WPP Senior Program Officer)
- Sophie Schellens (WPP Program Officer)

During the period November 2012 - March 2013, free-lancer Jolijn Landheer joined the WPP team to provide support in terms of organizing the logistics of various WPP international meetings, setting up the WPP transition website, and the transfer of the WPP database system.

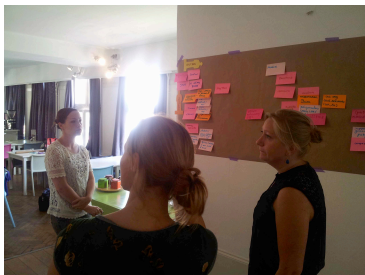
Throughout the reporting period, the WPP team was also supported by a group of short and long-term volunteers, including:

- Jose de Vries
Compilation Cross the Lines, coordination 2012 Online Dialogue with New Tactics, review MENA Manual
- Annemarie Bron

- *Reviewing WPP house style and design communication material*
- Tamara Kool
Review process WPP database system and WPP website
- Anabel Torres
Spanish Translation Cross the Lines
- Eliana Barragan
Assisting MENA Mapping process
- Muriel Maraffa
French Translation MENA survey

In 2012 and 2013 WPP initiated several processes for its institutional development as a recently established organization. Several strategic planning meetings were organized and planned; including:

- ✓ A WPP Networking Strategy meeting on June 22, 2013, in order to make a start with formalizing the WPP Network structure. The need for a clear WPP partnership model has been voiced by the activists participating in the various consultation meetings implemented during the first half of 2013, as this will support keeping the network dynamically connected and active to its full potential. WPP will be expanding and formalizing its current network in line with its core focus on GSANV. This is to allow WPP to remain innovative while also connecting with those organizations and institutions that have the capacity to further mainstream WPP's innovative concepts and approaches in the broader WPS field and beyond. With this in mind, the team developed a vision for the structure of the WPP network.



- ✓ WPP organized two Strategic Planning Meetings, one mid 2013, the other end 2013. Having become an independent organization, WPP is currently working on formulating its own strategic plan for the period 2015-2018. The Strategic Planning Meeting built on the insights gained and recommendations formulated by WPP Partners during the Consultation meetings that took place during the first six months of 2013, and resulted in the formulating of a 2015-2018 strategic framework. This framework will be further developed into a detailed plan during 2014.
- ✓ During the second half of 2013, WPP organized a WPP Funding Assessment as well as a Communication Strategy Meeting as to formulate its Fundraising and Communication Strategy for upcoming years.

The outcomes of the different strategy meetings have been captured in separate strategy documents and will be integrated in the overall 2015-2018 Strategic Planning Document, guiding the WPP work during upcoming years.