



# At a Glance: Women of Courage at the Heart of Peace

## KAIROS' Women of Courage: Women, Peace and Security



Five grassroots women's programs in five war-torn regions are helping to heal and restore the dignity of women traumatized by war, while empowering them to be active agents in building sustainable, just and inclusive peace. KAIROS' Women of Courage: Women, Peace and Security program has received \$4.5 million from Global Affairs Canada over five years from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2023.

KAIROS and its member churches will invest \$1.3 million to match 25 percent of the funding from Global Affairs Canada.

### Meet the five KAIROS grassroots partners:

- [Ecumenical Voice for Peace and Human Rights \(EcuVoice\)](#), Philippines
- [Héritiers de la Justice](#), Democratic Republic of Congo
- [South Sudan Council of Churches - National Women's Programme](#), South Sudan
- [Organización Femenina Popular](#), Colombia
- [Wi'am: Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center](#), West Bank

### Why support grassroots women organizations

- While women are victimized many times over in conflict and post-conflict as a strategy of war, women and women's organizations play key roles in conflict prevention and resolution, as well as in building and sustaining an inclusive and just peace. This important role is recognized in [UN Security Council Resolution 1325 \(2000\)](#).
  - Peace agreements have a 35 percent greater chance of lasting at least 15 years when women help draft them.
  - Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy recognizes the critical work of grassroots women's organizations in all development, including peace building.
- Yet:**
- Of the major peace negotiations that took place between 1992 and 2011, only 2 percent of chief mediators, 4 percent of signatories, and 9 percent of negotiators were women.
  - Only 2 percent of international funds dedicated to peace and security is allocated to equality between women and men or the empowerment of women.



Source: M. O'Reilly, "Why Women? Inclusive Security and Peaceful Societies," October 2015



## How KAIROS works with grassroots women organizations

- Increase the participation of women in peace and development processes, and engage men to support women's active participation.
- Provide psychosocial and legal support that enables women survivors of violence and human rights violations to heal and participate in peace and reconciliation processes.
- Promote respect for women's rights in conflict situations through national law reform and international human rights instruments.
- Empower women by investing in their economic autonomy, and build the capabilities and skills of women's human rights defenders.
- Contribute to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and subsequent UNSCR'S on women, peace and security.
- Participate in South/South exchanges and gatherings enabling them to share experiences and best practices and identify common strategies and campaigns.



**KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives**

Toronto Office  
310 Dupont Street, Suite 200  
Toronto ON M5R 1V9  
416-463-5312 | 877-403-8933

**CONTACT** Rachel Warden  
Partnerships Manager, KAIROS Canada  
rwarden@kairoscanada.org  
416-463-5312 (877-403-8933),  
ext. 242  
kairoscanada.org

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