

WOMEN AT THE HEART OF PEACE



Youth Activity Guide (13+)

Creatively Working for Peace!

Women play a key role in conflict prevention and resolution, as well as in building and sustaining an inclusive, lasting and fair peace. However, in recent decades, the small number of women involved in formal peace processes illustrates that their knowledge is neither acknowledged nor respected. In all parts of the world, women's expertise is undervalued and underestimated in building peace. Currently, only 2% of international funding dedicated to peace and security is assigned to working for equality between men and women or the empowerment of women.

As the number of conflicts around the world increases, so does their effect on communities. Alternative solutions must be advanced to promote peace.

By learning about the key roles that women play in building peace in their families, communities and societies, we can support inclusive, lasting and fair peace.

By taking action to support women at the heart of peace processes, we as Canadians can ensure that our communities and our government recognize the importance of empowering women to bring about a more just world.

Fast Facts

5%

A 5% increase in the percentage of women in its parliament makes a state 5 times less likely to use violence when faced with an international crisis.

35%

Peace agreements have a 35% greater chance of lasting at least 15 years when women help draft them.

35%

When 35% of parliamentarians are women, the risk of relapse into conflict is near zero¹.

7/10

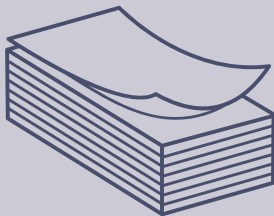
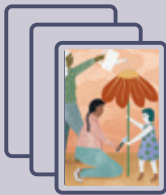
In 2015, 7 out of 10 peace agreements signed included gender-specific provisions².



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The following activities use the SEE, JUDGE, ACT model, which allows participants to come to understand an issue, determine a moral perspective, and act to bring about a more just world.



Objective

Introduce the concept of peace, and concepts related to the importance of women working for peace.

Material

- At least two packs of Development and Peace Microfiche cards, one card per participant. Ensure that each card in play has its pair circulating as well (take back any extra cards);
- Sticky notes (1 per participant);
- Flipchart paper/whiteboard with "Peace" written in the centre;
- Markers, pens or pencils.

Word Peace

1. Have participants gather around the flipchart paper or whiteboard. Explain that you will be exploring the importance of women at the heart of peace processes.
2. Share the following quote:
"Development is the new name for peace" (Pope Paul VI, *Populorum Progressio*, 5).
3. Explain that to understand this quote, and why it is so important to recognize the roles of women in building peace, we must first explore what peace is. Encourage participants to share their thoughts on peace with those around them, in small groups. These reflections can be a word, or an example from the Bible, current media or their own lives. After a few moments, gather the participants and ask them to share their discussions on peace. Write down key words, ideas and phrases around the word "PEACE" at the centre of your paper or board, and create a spider web map on the concept of peace.
4. Once each group has shared their reflections, pass one sticky note to each participant and encourage them to write down any other thoughts that arise throughout the rest of the activity. Inform the participants that you will return to this reflection on peace later.
5. Now give each participant one of the Microfiche cards featuring a word related to women and peace processes. Participants should read their card and take a moment to understand their word. Ask participants to find other people who have the same card. Once they are in pairs or groups, ask the students to share their thoughts about their word and encourage them to ask questions. Encourage participants to look up any words or concepts with which they are not familiar. While they are doing this, add any missing card words to the spider web map.
6. After a few moments, have each group quickly introduce their word, and how they think it speaks to the importance of women in the peace processes. Write down any further ideas on the spider web map.
7. Share the statistics about women in peacebuilding processes from the *Women at the Heart of Peace* campaign (see the front of this activity booklet). More facts are available at devp.org/campaign.
8. Ask the participants to share with their partners or small groups how the concepts on their cards and stickies are reflected in what they have just learned.
9. In the larger group, discuss why participants think supporting women in their work for peace helps to create more sustainable and effective peace processes, using the concepts they have in hand. Please refer to the campaign background on women and peace available at devp.org/campaign/resources for more information.



Objective

Discuss with participants why supporting women at the heart of peace helps to create a more just world, and the principles of faith that guide us in working for peace.

Explain that when we support women working for peace, we are affirming what Pope Paul VI has said: a peace that is fair, successful and lasting depends on community-driven development in which women are key actors. Development and Peace supports organizations whose approaches are consistent with Catholic Social Teaching and which promote women’s participation and leadership in their communities.

We support women who work for inclusive PEACE.

Real peace comes from being in right relationship with God and with each other. When women work for peace, they establish relationships that overcome social tensions and initiate paths towards peaceful coexistence and reconciliation. In Syria, Development and Peace supports House of Peace (HOPE), an organization that provides social peacebuilding workshops to ease tensions and establish pathways towards peaceful co-existence and reconciliation. HOPE primarily serves women, and supports them in initiating community projects that promotes social peace.

The PARTICIPATION of women leads to cultures of peace.

How we live and interact affects individual human dignity and the progress of our society. All persons are entitled to participate in community and in decisions that affect their lives. They should not be excluded for any reason. In Colombia, Development and Peace partner Coordinador Nacional Agrario (CNA) encourages the participation of women in all aspects of society. Through its inter-ethnic political training school for peasant farmers, Afro-Colombian and Indigenous women, the CNA supports rural women in reaffirming their rights. The organization recognizes the key role that women play in developing cultures of peace following more than 50 years of violent conflict in Colombia.

Women build peace that contributes to the COMMON GOOD.

Human dignity can only be realized and protected through our relationship with society – we must consider the good of the whole human family in organizing our society. In Afghanistan, women face extreme discrimination and exclusion that severely limits their access to education and financial resources. Development and Peace partner Noor Educational & Capacity Development Organization (NECDO) prioritizes the empowerment of women and the elimination of violence directed against women and girls. NECDO believes that the empowerment of women is needed to achieve social peace and development for all.

Women’s inclusion helps prevent conflict, supports reconciliation and creates peace. By supporting women and girl’s empowerment, we support peace!

To enhance your reflection on women at the heart of peace, and to learn more about these Development and Peace partners, please visit the *Women at the Heart of Peace* campaign page at devp.org/campaign.

To learn more about Catholic Social Teaching, and how Development and Peace lives these principles, visit devp.org/cst.





ACT



Objective

Take action to bring your knowledge on women and peacebuilding into your community and country.

The Art of Peace

1. Have participants refer back to their card and the spider web map of concepts and ideas related to peace. Have each participant write down five meaningful words or concepts from the web that inspire them on a piece of paper, and pass it to a neighbour.
2. From the five words, each participant has the option to:
 - a. Write an expressive text, or slam or written poem;
 - b. Create a visual art piece that explores the concepts that they have discussed;
 - c. Create their own concept card (give them the dimensions) on how they will take action to support women at the heart of peace. It will be added to the Microfiche deck.
3. Remind participants that the topic of this campaign is *Women at the Heart of Peace*, and encourage them to reflect specifically on what they have learned throughout this activity in their art.
4. Following this reflection, ask the participants how they would like to take action and share their art and the message of the campaign. They could share pictures or videos through social media with the hashtag **#womenbuildingpeace**, publish written poetry or visual art in a student or local newspaper, share slam poetry on a local radio station or open mic night, or organize an art showcase and ask attendees to learn more and take action on this campaign through the methods suggested below.

Sources

1. M. O'Reilly, *Why Women? Inclusive Security and Peaceful Societies*, October 2015, Inclusive Security, online: <https://www.inclusivesecurity.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Why-Women-Inclusive-Security-and-Peaceful-Societies.pdf> (consulted on July 11, 2017).
2. UN Security Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security, S/2016/822*, p. 5, September 29, 2016, online: http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2016_822.pdf (consulted on July 18, 2017).

Find more tools to get involved on our campaign webpage at devp.org/campaign, including:

- **Action Card**
Sign the action card to ask our government to take action to support women at the heart of peace!
- **Action Sheet**
Meet Development and Peace partners who are working on building peace in their communities, countries, and in the world.
- **Women at the Heart of Peace Campaign Page**
Learn more and take action in the Development and Peace campaign to support women at the heart of peace. Also, meet incredible women from around the world who are an important part of Development and Peace's history of supporting women.

For interactive activities on the role of women in community development and various social justice issues, including peacebuilding, visit our activities database at devp.org/activities.



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Photo of the cover : FASE
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