

Creators of Peace

[CoP] is an international women's initiative launched in 1991.

It challenges women everywhere to:

- > Share responsibility for their part in the perpetration of conflict and in its resolution
- > Engage in the creation of peace at every level of society
- > Break the chains of hate and revenge
- > Build networks of forgiveness and friendship across racial, religious and social divides.



About Initiatives of Change

[CoP] is a program of Initiatives of Change

The International Association of Initiatives of Change (IoC) is an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) and has Participatory Status at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. It is based in Geneva, Switzerland.

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Background

Creators of Peace is an international network of women committed to the pursuit of a radical peace where personal honesty and integrity form the basis of reconciliation. It specifically challenges women to discover their unique potential in creating a culture of peace in their homes and communities. Launched in 1991 at the Initiatives of Change center in Caux, Switzerland, CoP now operates globally through conferences, workshops, personal encounters, community building activities and Creators of Peace Circles.

Aims

- > To engage women in their role as creators of peace at every level of society
- > To promote a change of heart, starting with oneself, as a primary tool of peace creation
- > To preempt violence and despair by addressing the roots of conflict in and around us
- > To encourage and connect existing 'peace builders'
- > To raise awareness of the moral and spiritual pre-requisites for effective social action
- > To build just, caring and inclusive communities for all

How

'None of us lacks the vision for peace, what we often lack is the first step in action,' says Yukika Sohma, pioneer of a Japanese initiative to care for refugees.

Creators of Peace action includes:

- > Providing a transformative space for inter-personal, inter-ethnic and inter-religious dialogues based on the sharing of personal experience and information in a variety of forums, around conference tables, boardroom tables and kitchen tables
- > Promotion of Creators of Peace Circles
- > Workshops that increase the peace building skills of women in civil society. These include addressing the personal, moral, and spiritual values needed for ethical leadership and sustainable action
- > The practice of deep reflection and inner listening to the voice of truth, or God, as a source of inspiration
- > Locally based initiatives that bring people together in community building activities

Creators of Peace Circles

Creators of Peace Circles are small community gatherings of women who together work through material designed to deepen their friendship and understanding of their peace creating capabilities. One aim of these Peace Circles is to identify issues in the community with a potential for conflict and then resolve to take common action.

Peace Circles are available worldwide - from Sydney to Sudan, Sweden to Solomon Islands. If you would like to participate in a Peace Circle or find out more, please contact creatorsofpeace@iofc.org

Finances

Creators of Peace programs and activities worldwide are conducted primarily by volunteers. Funding is required for:

- > Assisting participation in and running of CoP regional and international conferences
- > Sponsorship of conference participants and Peace Circles facilitation
- > Development of CoP materials
- > Activities related to the promotion and follow-up of Creators of Peace Circles



This is the first workshop that dealt with me as a human being. There are many things I will not forget.

Forgiveness is not a weakness but comes from strength.

A Peace Circles participant from northern Sudan.