Creators of Peace are currently preparing for our 25th Anniversary Celebration

All Creators of Peace women are encouraged to attend ....and invite other women to attend too!!
**Message from International CoP President, Daphrose Ntarataze**

**The Challenge of Living the Peace**

Living the peace is a challenge at a personal level before all else. To make peace with yourself, in yourself and living fully and in harmony with your conscience, this is not easy at all. It is never gained forever, every day we have to recommit to the struggle, changing our way of looking at the world and of speaking about the world.

We have to turn violence and despair into a story of compassion and hope, relevant for our day and age and living fully in the present moment.

These last days, several CoP workers who command my admiration have passed to the other side of the door of life: Bukiwe from Soweto (South Africa), Ildefonse from Gitega (Burundi), Roger from Geneva (Switzerland) and Trish McDonald-Harrison from Sydney (Australia). Though these separations are so sad, I sense paradoxically their presence, always strong, alive and peaceful.

These four people share eternal qualities and values which render them alive even after their death. They were ‘ordinary’ people who, in their ‘ordinariness’, compel our admiration and create a beautiful story for humanity – people who have given themselves selflessly for others, bridge builders between all sorts of people. They are women and men who fought the great fight for truth, justice and peace – a living and life-giving peace. These are women and men we honour in death who will always be present among us.

Trish, Bukiwe, Roger and Ildefonse: workers for peace who now form part of the colleagues and sages who have written a history worthy of being told to future generations. They are sisters and brothers who continue to inspire us, and with whom we will learn to communicate, simply and differently. People like these never die because their acts are sealed in immortality. With Birago Diop’s poem ‘The Spirits’, we say:

Listen more often to things than to Beings... The breath of the ancestors...
Each day they renew ancient bonds, Ancient bonds that hold fast
Binding our lot to their law, To the will of the spirits stronger than we
To the spell of the dead who are not really dead
Whose covenant binds us to life, Whose authority binds us to their will...

How do their examples challenge us in a world shaken by contrary winds of hatred, violence, egotism and the rejection of the other? They call us to more engagement, more daring and more creativity. Because to live the peace is to be present in the world, to feel the beating pulse of the world, and to mark its presence with initiatives that count.

In this sense, Bukiwe and her colleagues in Johannesburg have succeeded in achieving something extraordinary: the approach of CoP Circles has been adopted by the metropolis of Diamant as a tool to reduce social conflicts and their consequences on the population. This is an initiative which contributes to healing the deep wounds and traumas of modern South Africa.

In the heart of Europe is Roger of Switzerland where CoP sisters are holding CoP Circles with migrant women, in line with the theme of the official opening of this summer’s IoFC Caux conferences: ‘Crossing Borders, Crossing Cultures: How to Build Trust around Migration’.

The challenges and preoccupations we experienced during the time CoP Circles were held in Ildefonse’s city in the middle of Burundi, were transformed into multiple projects – intercommunity walks and talks, the breeding of small livestock and poultry, clubs for traditional dances and songs promoting community life in a place where formerly people regarded each other with the same attitude as dogs and cats!

To live the peace is also to find peace within oneself, to be and act in harmony with one’s conscience. And if true peace is, before all else, a personal affair, it does not live unless it becomes durable and benefits the whole world. For, as the wise Burundian woman U Mumuntu ni Uwindi says, “To be human is to do with your relationships with other people.”

The relational and transformational leadership which is born through CoP Circles becomes an asset for more creative initiatives, preludes of a new story destined to count and to be passed on to future generations.

Peace is an absolute, towards which each one of us needs to stretch out every day. It is never acquired once and for all. The week which we will experience together, from 4–10 August 2016, will tackle different facets of the theme ‘Living Peace’. This will be the best way we can imagine to commemorate 25 years of the existence of CoP. Eminent delegates and participants are coming from the four corners of the world to share their experiences and to help place us once more in the dynamic of new perspectives.

*May peace live in each one of us and in our communities as a prelude to peace in the world.*

*May Creators of Peace live and grow stronger in the service of peace and the world!*

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**Nominations are open for the 2016-2019 CoP International Coordinator team**

As we approach the end of the 2013-2016 Term of Office of the CoP International Coordinator team, we are calling for nominations of CoP women to the roles of President, Treasurer, Secretary, and International Co-ordinators.

Creators of Peace will be embarking on an exciting year of growth and change, and need CoP women who have the time, commitment and passion to support the depth of our work and contribute to this time of growth!

**We invite CoP women to nominate themselves, or others**

Nomination forms and Role descriptions are available at [www.iofc.org/creators-peace-calling-nominations](http://www.iofc.org/creators-peace-calling-nominations)

**NOMINATIONS TO BE LODGED NOT LATER THAN 8 JULY 2016 BY EMAIL TO:**

The Secretary, Tanya Fox: threepillars@ozemail.com.au

Voting will take place in Caux, Switzerland at the Annual General Meeting to be held during the Living Peace Conference on Sunday 7th August 2016, where assembled women will vote based on their knowledge of the candidates.
Reflecting on “Living Peace”

During the run-up to the Living Peace conference, many of us have been reflecting on what "living peace" means in our daily lives and in our communities, countries and beyond. Six CoP women have chosen to share their thoughts in a series of blog posts that share generously about their lives, turning points and new perspectives. It is just the start of a conversation that will flourish this summer at Caux and continue afterwards as each CoP team takes forward a new story for peace.

Watch out for the blog posts in July at: www.iofc.org/creators-of-peace
To celebrate our milestone year, CoP is anticipating over 200 women from across the 42 countries of our movement to come together at the ‘Living Peace’ Conference being held at the Initiatives of Change Caux Conference Centre, to focus on ‘Living Peace’ and how we can do this authentically, practically and sustainably; and, to strengthen the web of our global network; deepen our connections, build relationships; share our mutual love and support of the movement; share experiences of our personal transformational approach to peace creating; and together, we will determine a new collective narrative that we can focus on as CoP practitioners and identify the next phase of our global engagement.

The 2013-2016 Term of Office of the CoP International Coordinator team is coming to an end. We are calling for Nominations for International Coordinators to be elected at the AGM during the Conference.

The CoP Planning Team, Facilitators, Workshop Leaders, and the majority of the delegates and guests are volunteers and will fund themselves to attend. The Conference Team also wants to reach out to CoP women in countries dealing with violence and bitter historical conflict—where CoP has a strong and active presence running CoP Circles to help build lasting peace and reconciliation amongst its people such as South Sudan, Burundi, etc. These CoP facilitators are volunteers with no regular jobs or minimal income generation activity. These are women working with grassroots movements mobilizing women through CoP Circles to live and create peace in their communities, which is not only profoundly important for just-peace in their countries, but can be a source of great inspiration to other women living in war situations such as Syria and Ukraine. The current structure of the CoP movement is such that we have no regular source of funding. CoP’s around the world have been fundraising to self-fund or to assist their CoP sisters around the world, and....

We are still short of funds!

CAN YOU HELP?

We are inviting Sponsorships to help fund CoP women who are still wanting to come to the Conference, especially from India and South Sudan, but are unable to raise their expenses.

If you would like to Sponsor please email to:

The Living Peace Administrator: livingpeace@caux.ch

These are three of the women engaged in reconciliation work going on in Baringo County, Kenya.
Their work will be one of the case studies to be presented at the Conference.

Mediatrix Masava
CoP Facilitator
CoP Baringo Project Coordinator

Ann Njeri Kimanthi
CoP National Coordinator
For Kenya

Mary Kuket
CoP Facilitator
Baringo CoP Ambassador
Representative of Pokot Community
Fundraising efforts to send women from countries in conflict to the Living Peace Conference where they will learn how to be peacemakers back in their own communities

Bahji’s for Peace
Shoppers walking past the East Oxford Community Centre at lunchtime on Saturday 21 May were surprised to be offered an onion bhaji or a piece of cake and invited to join Creators of Peace’s food surplus pay-as-you-can fundraising lunch.

One woman declined, then took a bite of one of El’s legendary bhajis, and ended up coming in, having lunch and asking to stay in touch. A taxi driver refused cake, but gave us £20 all the same.

The CoP team started preparing two days before, collecting perishable food which would not last the weekend from the Oxford Food Bank. On the day, we arrived at gam to chop vegetables, make soup and salads, set up the tables, and decorate the hall with bunting, flowers, banners and Romanian handicrafts. The CoP network in Oxford had made cakes, and several came to volunteer, under the expert direction of Miranda, an old hand at such events in this venue.

Some hundred people came through the space during the two-and-a-half-hour lunch, lured by the bhajis, the buzz of conversation and Ashley’s and Koteka’s piano playing. ‘It felt like a proper community event,’ says Miranda. ‘For me, creating or rebuilding community is part of what creating peace is about.’

‘From the kitchen this event felt a little different from others,’ says Miranda. ‘It was less hectic, but we were definitely at the absolute minimum in the kitchen, and wouldn’t have managed so easily without a wonderful woman who turned up after reading about the event on Facebook.’ (She turned out to have been involved in food surplus events in Germany and had only decided that morning to come along.)

‘There was something special about preparing food from surplus and then serving others with no expectation in return’ says El. ‘One of my favorite moments was when someone came in who ate that couldn’t donate. Those that could gave and those that couldn’t filled a hungry belly.’

All in all, the event was an exercise in trust. To our delight and amazement, it raised £350 towards helping Romanian and British women to attend the Living Peace Conference in Caux, Switzerland, this summer.

To contribute to our fundraising efforts—go to our CROWDFUNDING page

Funds raised in Australia
Thanks to a wonderful national effort in Australia to help fellow CoP sisters around the world to go to the Conference, a grand sum of $12,000 has been raised.

In May 2016, Ginn Fourie, of the award winning documentary Beyond Forgiving, gave of her time to travel across Australia to appear in person for a Q & A at a showing of the film. Each city hosted a CoP Fundraising event where Ginn’s personal appearance in each city helped greatly to attract interest and support.

When there’s an extended hush of silence at the end of a film, you know it’s touched the audience’ hearts. This is exactly what resulted after each viewing of the film. The account of her courageous and difficult path she tread to forgive Letlapa Mphalele, the perpetrator of her daughter’s murder in South Africa post-Apartheid, created an emotive response from audiences. The transparency and disclosure of her feelings and her transformational journey to forgiveness leaves viewers with the challenge to consider whether, if faced with the same tragedy, could we forgive. One guest commented "Now I understand the value of walking in the other person’s shoes."

As part of her itinerary in Sydney, the Catholic Mission invited Ginn to meet with their educators who have embraced the key message of the film Beyond Forgiving to the extent of producing a re-enactment of all the characters in the film. The intention is for each character to personally ‘walk in their shoes’ as an exercise of how they would deal with the same scenarios. Ginn was notably surprised and moved by the extent to which the Mission has used the film as an experiential teaching tool on forgiveness. The Catholic Mission team were honoured to meet Ginn in person, ‘the heroine’ of their ‘Beyond Forgiving Experiential Re-enactment’ Workshop.

In addition, the CoP team in South Australia held a ‘Winter Garden’ Fair on the farm of Bruce and Anna Stanley in Inman Valley. Cakes and scones, raffles, soup and sausages, croquet and cricket, and film shows drew lots of community support which all helped to raise over $2000 for women from Indonesia, Afghanistan and Fiji to get to the Conference.

A further $400 was raised by a CoP woman at a special dinner party she held for some friends who made generous donations to our fundraising efforts.
**VERY SAD NEWS**

**Farewell**

**Trish McDonald-Harrison**

It is with great sadness that the IoFC and CoP community mourns the loss of our dear colleague, friend and visionary Trish McDonald-Harrison, Saturday 9 June 2016 after a long journey with cancer.

Born 1948 in country Queensland to a farming family, Trish has often proudly shared, “I lived near where British colonisers first landed in Australia, at Kurnell Kamay. Years after my husband and I bought our house there, and then I discovered that one of my relatives was a convict on the first fleet that arrived in Australia in 1788, 7 generations ago.” Trish worked tirelessly for Aboriginal Reconciliation in Australia.

Trish’s personal values could be seen in her email and Skype signature: “discovering the ‘gold’ in our differences ... widens understanding ... enriches our lives and our world” - this played out both in her persona and into her working life in the corporate and not-for-profit sectors. She served in roles such as Company Secretary and Executive Manager at The Sydney City Mission, Mission Australia, The Sir David Martin Foundation and the City Mission World Association travelling to 25 countries impacting peoples lives with her compassionate humble and serving attitude. It was while working at Mission Australia in Sydney that she met and married her husband Ken. She’s always been known to have a clear vision and passion to create peace around the world, with a particular interest in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), peace-building strategies, and conflict resolution across cultures and faiths.

In 1995 Trish had a chance meeting with Jean Brown who introduced her to CoP. Jean says, “Her eyes immediately lit up, it was as though she had been looking for something like this all her life.” She went on to be one of the early champions who took on to facilitate CoP Circles when they first began in Sydney, became a Facilitator Trainer, and has been the backbone, inspiration and heart of CoP NSW ever since. She instigated and coordinated the 2009 CoP International Conference in Sydney, has held the position of International CoP Secretary and was an active member of the International CoP Governance Team. Her genuine interest and emotional care for all peoples led her to initiate a People Care portfolio within CoP. Her warm and engaging personality forged many close friendships with men and women in the IoFC and CoP global community.

In 2013 Trish had a vision to have a CoP drop-in centre in Auburn, an area of Sydney with a large multicultural community. Her enthusiasm and relationship building gained the support of Auburn City Council, and thanks to her ongoing perseverance, CoP has regular monthly gatherings in the Auburn Centre for Community that serves both as an open-house for new women to experience a taste of CoP and, for CoP women to re-visit the Peace Circle experience covering a different topic each month.

Trish was a woman with grace who brought out the best in others. She was a much loved and highly valued member of the CoP CAG (Coordinating Action Group) in Sydney. We’ve been privileged to work alongside Trish to build an active CoP community in Sydney, and have been continually inspired by her open heart, dynamic power, love, vision and passion. She has been a constant driving force and inspiration to the whole Sydney CoP network. Her legacy is a role model for us all to aspire to. **Farewell Dearest Friend, You will be deeply deeply missed by us all.**

**Farewell**

**Bukiwe Maseko**

Bukiwe Maseko sadly passed away at home at the age of 52 on 3rd June 2016 after a short but courageous fight with cancer. The funeral took place near her home in Soweto on 11th June.

Bukiwe became involved with IoFC in 1987. She served on the IoFC South Africa Board since 1998 and held the position of Treasurer from 2004 until her death. She worked in the hotel industry for many years before trying her hand at various business projects.

Her passion was to serve the community every way she could and she was involved in a number of initiatives. Bukiwe made a point of getting to know people on every side of the spectrum. Her leadership skills and sound values brought her respect wherever she was. She was fully involved with the CoP programme as a facilitator, mentor and facilitator trainer. Bukiwe also worked closely to help initiate Caux Initiative for Business (CIB) in South Africa last year.

For the last 6 years Bukiwe headed up the Housekeeping Department in Caux. In an interview in Caux 2015 Bukiwe said, “I always had that dream of serving the world. Coming to Caux is an achievement in my life journey, because it fulfils my passion of caring for people, of having more understanding for the world, different cultures and religions, and the political standards of other countries. I’m not here for any financial profit, but for the fulfilment that fills my spirit, my soul, and my heart. Also, you have the spirit of the house. This place is so warm and welcoming. You have time to listen to one another and to experience the spirit of real teamwork. Above all, you get that fulfilment of caring for people. Because that is what the world needs. We need to care for one another. And here you get the chance to do that.”

**Message from Elvanie Ndayemeye, Burundi**

“The Almighty gave and he took over” Sunday June 12 2016, I woke up to the sad and painful news that you’re no longer physically among us. That day, I realized that this misfortune to lose you should not make us forget the happiness to have known you. Thinking about it, I say that the best way to honor your memory, is to imitate you, to keep what you have offered to me personally and Peace Women artisans in general. Your love of life, your commitment, your kindness, your availability, is the exemplary part of your legacy forever.

My gratitude to you is eternal, dear Sister. You are a gift of Peacemaker from your family to me and your community. I dare say that in the small moments that I met you, your life was a model of life. As stated by Florent Pagny: “Death is not darkness, it’s a lamp that goes out before the day breaks.”

Brothers and sisters of Burundi Creators of Peace told me “She has left a light that will never die. Yes, she will remain forever.”

**Your lost friends are not dead, but gone before.**

Advanced a stage or two upon that road which you must travel in the steps they trod.

*Aristophanes*