



San Diego Call for Action:  
An International Declaration of the Women PeaceMakers Summit

We, Women PeaceMakers, from conflict zones around the world, were convened for a Summit by the Women PeaceMakers Program of the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice at the University of San Diego from October 22 – 26, 2007. PeaceMakers work in conflict and post-conflict areas to promote human security through peace and the observance of human rights. Our members include governmental and nongovernmental leaders, journalists, lawyers, teachers, and human rights defenders. We Women PeaceMakers, from diverse backgrounds, affirm that peace is possible, reject the use of military force as a means of resolving differences, and share a commitment to the peaceful resolution of conflicts based on justice, tolerance, equality, inclusion, and the dignity of all people.

Therefore, as an outcome of this Summit that focused on challenges in peacemaking, peacebuilding, human security, and the role of the media in conflict, we call for an end to all armed conflicts and the use of military force as a means of resolving differences.

*On human rights and human security:*

We Women PeaceMakers, painfully aware that women's rights are violated during times of conflict, demand respect for human rights and emphasize the need to observe the rights of women, minorities, indigenous peoples, internally displaced persons, refugees, children, and other marginalized communities in peace and war.

We therefore pledge to take action to hold our leaders, armed factions, external and occupying forces accountable for human security violations in accordance with international instruments; for the deteriorating human rights situations in times of conflict; for enforcing implementation of human rights in regions in which human rights mechanisms are not functioning; for the breakdown of rule of law; and for assuring access to United Nations human right observers for all of the above. States and non-state actors must be held responsible for protecting civilians and respecting their rights in accordance with international law and the Geneva Conventions.

*On peace processes:*

Women, as recognized by UNSC 1325, are the guarantors of sustainable peace. They are essential to the effective implementation of any peace accord. Therefore, women and their perspectives must be included in all phases of a peace process – from prevention of conflict through negotiations,

peacebuilding, and reconciliation. We call on our leaders and all belligerents to ensure that women's voices are heard in all processes and at all levels.

We call for the just resolution of all conflicts and demand the initiation of peace talks where applicable; the resumption of peace talks that have stalled; and the speedy and full implementation of peace settlements.

*On the role of the media:*

Recognizing that journalists and media practitioners play an important role in promoting peace, and are frequently exposed to danger and risk, we express our appreciation to those journalists and media practitioners who are willing to put their lives in jeopardy to report truthfully and accurately. We appeal to all journalists and media practitioners to report responsibly and accurately and to refrain from using inflammatory language and partisan bias that may exacerbate conflict.

*On conflict and post-conflict zones:*

Afghanistan: We urge support for women's participation and issues to be raised at the community level so as to ensure local issues are addressed at the national level.

Cameroon: We call on the Government of Cameroon to monitor the progress of agreements made in the conflict zones and to ensure that they are implemented with the participation of women.

Kosovo: We insist that the United Nations Security Council, European Union, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the United States continue to lend their strong support to independence for Kosovo to prevent renewed conflict.

Kyrgyzstan: We appeal to the government to promote women's participation in the upcoming national parliamentary elections and urge the appointment of women at different governmental decision-making levels.

Nepal: We urge the government and the parties to the conflict to appoint women representatives to participate in all aspects of the political processes; to implement the peace agreement without delay; and to announce the date for the Constituent Assembly elections at the earliest possible date.

Palestine and Israel: We call for expeditious, substantive negotiations to end the occupation and to establish a Palestinian state side by side with Israel on the 1967 border and to conclude an agreement on final issues (border, settlements, Jerusalem, refugees). We call on the international community to establish mechanisms for monitoring, verification and arbitration of the implementation of the agreements. We call for the implementation of the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion on the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, stopping the expansion of settlements, and ensuring freedom of movement for people and goods.

Papua: We urge the United Nations and the U.S. to facilitate peace talks between Papua and Indonesia with the full inclusion of women and to stop the Indonesian military oppression in Papua and we call on the international community to implement international human rights mechanisms to protect human rights in Papua.

Philippines: We call for the formal resumption of talks between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to address the final status of the Bangsamoro people.

Serbia: We appeal to the Serbian Government to agree on a negotiated solution to the status of Kosovo taking into consideration the wider social political context and involving a wider spectrum of actors including women, NGOs, and peace activists. We call on the government to understand the needs and interests of those who live in Kosovo and Serbia. Prolonging a resolution keeps Serbia in a state of stagnation when it needs to move towards European integration and development. We urge the government to protect victims of human rights abuses, including human rights defenders whose rights are abused by organized criminal groups and war profiteers.

Sierra Leone: We congratulate Sierra Leone on the successful elections and urge the new leadership to engage more women in decision-making positions.

Somalia: We call for a country wide ceasefire and urge Ethiopia to immediately withdraw its troops from Somalia. We appeal to the Transitional Federal Government and the opposition, including the Islamic Courts Union, to engage in a dialogue to resolve their differences. Women's participation in decision-making must be included. We call on the U.S. to cease attacks on innocent civilians under the cover of stopping terrorism. ZUF

South Ossetia, Georgia - Ossetia conflict zone: We urge the international community to support the development of mechanisms to protect international human rights in areas unrecognized by the international community and to provide opportunities for South Ossetians and other unrecognized peoples to have a voice at meetings of international organizations.

Sri Lanka: We call upon the government and the LTTE to resume peace talks in an inclusive process that includes women and minorities at all levels; such a process must respect human rights, end state terrorism, and cease human rights violations of other parties. The latter would require the immediate deployment of a United Nations human rights field monitoring mission in Sri Lanka, particularly in the north and east.

Sudan: Appreciating the hard work put into the process of concluding the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005, we call on the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and the National Congress Party, signatories of the CPA, to peacefully and speedily resolve the current stalemate and, in good faith, implement the CPA in the time frame given. We urge the Government of Sudan and all liberation movements to end the conflict in Darfur. We call for an environment in which the media can effectively contribute, without hindrance, to peacebuilding, democratic transformation, enforcement of rule of law, and reconstruction in Sudan.

Uganda: We appeal to the Government of Uganda and the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) to resume peace talks in Juba without delay; to stop using child soldiers and for the LRA to immediately release all women and children in captivity. We call for the inclusion of women in all aspects of the peace talks and for the international community to review the application of justice mechanisms.

We stand in solidarity with each other for this call to action and in each of our conflict areas, we will be following up and remaining committed to ensuring constructive actions to advance a just peace, human rights, and human security.

*Signed this October 26, 2007 in San Diego, California, USA*

Sr. Pauline Acayo (Uganda)  
Mary Ann Arnado (Philippines)  
Samia Bamieh (Palestine)  
Zahra Ugas Farah (Somalia)  
Shukrije Gashi (Kosovo)  
Raya Kadyrova (Kyrgyzstan)  
Palwasha Kakar (Afghanistan)  
Svetlana Kijevcanin (Serbia)  
Rebecca Okwaci (Sudan)  
Shreen Saroor (Sri Lanka)  
Latifah Anum Siregar (Papua, Indonesia)  
Susana Tenjoh-Okwen (Cameroon)  
Christiana Thorpe (Sierra Leone)  
Irina Yanovskaya (South Ossetia, Georgia – Ossetia conflict zone)

For the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice:

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