



Network's Role in Advancing Inclusion Summary Note

What does “being inclusive” mean?

Inclusivity, or a whole-of-society approach, in conflict transformation refers to the idea that sustainable and just peace can only be achieved by bringing together the aspirations, interests, and needs of all concerned individuals, groups, and segments of society, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, or religion. Inclusive peacebuilding is a long-term transformative process that seeks to rebuild societies on the basis of justice and the realization of human rights. In promoting the realization of basic human rights for all, the dynamics of exclusion and deprivation of rights that lead to and maintain conflicts can be further prevented and addressed. The Network's understanding of inclusivity is encapsulated in the United Nations' 2030 Agenda pledge of, Leave No One Behind, which follows the assumption and approach that by including a broader range of actors, as well as taking into account local traditions, realities, and cultures, will lead to more effective and sustainable peacebuilding.

Why do we promote and advance inclusion?

Inclusivity is a central concern in all stages of conflict resolution and across peace mediation tracks. The Network advances inclusive peace processes in order to contribute to sustainable peace, as well as, to transformative change in society. Transformative change in society addresses and transforms repressive and unequal power relations for more equitable norms and relations to emerge. This is strategically important in ensuring a sustainable peace.

The Network's approach

Inclusivity is a cross-cutting theme of the Network's strategy. Consistent with the Network's mission and values, our goal is to strengthen the leadership of women and youth within religious and traditional peacemaking and broader peacebuilding processes. The Network pays special attention to the intersectionality of exclusion dynamics, such as gender or age-based discrimination or discrimination based on socio-economic status, sexuality, disability, ethnicity, or religion. The Network's priority in this area is to also ensure faith and tradition-oriented efforts at conflict transformation contribute to and advance the Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security Agendas. By focusing on engaging women and youth within religious and traditional peacemaking and broader peacebuilding processes at the individual, institutional and socio-cultural levels, the Network's approach is also aligned with its inclusivity-based theory of change.

The Network utilizes four objectives in advancing its work on inclusivity: 1) Build and cultivate learning, relationships and partnerships within Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security spaces, policies, and debates; 2) Engage women and youth peacebuilders with religious and traditional leaders at the local, regional and global levels; 3) Gather evidence through research and analysis, strategic learning exchanges and discussions and; 4) Promote action-oriented recommendations and policies at the local, regional and international levels.



The Network's Advancement of Inclusivity

The Inclusivity-Based Community of Practice

The Network's primary mechanism of advancing its inclusive efforts within peacemaking and broader peacebuilding processes is through its Inclusivity-Based Community of Practice (CoP). The Inclusivity-Based Community of Practice offers a space and opportunity for both Network members and non-members who are experts in the Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security spaces, to build and cultivate learning, relationships and partnerships. The current silos that exist at the global level between faith-based actors and organizations and secular actors and organizations working to advance gender equality and youth leadership and participation is hindering policy and advocacy efforts. Learning about and acknowledging shared challenges, showcasing examples of best practices, and strategically constructing a collaborative way forward, is essential to address these complex and multifaceted problems that we face today.

National Reconciliation Framework Project in Somalia - Somali Women Conflict Mapping and Peace Circle Training

The Network together with Finn Church Aid (FCA) Somalia has been supporting the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MoIFAR) in the development and implementation of the National Reconciliation Framework in Somalia since 2017. The "Mobilization and Facilitation of Formation for Peace Mothers as Promoters of Peace at District Levels," has specifically focused on engaging women as peacemakers. This was supported through a mapping study, conducted in collaboration with MoIFAR. This mapping increased understanding of the needs of women peacemakers in Federal Member States and at district level for resources, skills and capacity-building. Additionally, it supported the development of a needs-based training model for Somali women in peacemaking, peacebuilding, reconciliation, and conflict resolution. The Network has also developed a Peace Circle Training Manual for Peace Mothers and Peacemakers to help grassroots and local women peacemakers in planning and conducting the practice of peace circles, which are custom to the Somali society. The peace circles promote peace and reconciliation within the women's communities, while also providing the Somali women the opportunity to demonstrate the benefit of their leadership and participation.

The Reach Out 3 Project - Finland

The Reach Out 3 project in Finland supports the development and networking of cooperation between authorities and religious communities and organizations to prevent and address the recruitment of youth to join radical extremist activities and groups. The overall aim of the project is to build cooperation and trust between religious communities, authorities and other civil society groups and to improve the flow of information regarding service guidance to further prevent violent extremism and radicalization of youth. By developing policies and cooperation, young people affected by the phenomenon and their immediate community and family can be reached and supported. The project activities include a comparative study focusing on the experiences of families and young people affected by violent extremism in Finland and five other European Union countries. The study will serve as a guideline for the later project activities providing essential information on the ways in which an individual's radicalization affects those close to them and how local support models and community-based activities reach these families and young people.

South Asia - AHA! Awareness with Human Action Project

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, an integrated, holistic, and multi-stakeholder project was designed to increase outreach and influence for initiatives that promote awareness of COVID-19 and constructive narratives that tackle and reduce discrimination, hate speech, and stigmatization against specific communities who have been targeted as a result of misinformation. This project seeks to achieve this goal through utilizing both religious leaders and women and youth leaders as influencers within their communities. The project aims to specifically enhance the capacities of women and youth to become leaders within their homes and communities through increasing awareness on COVID-19 prevention and response. As a component to strengthen women and youth's capacity, 50 grants were awarded to actors within the region. Of these grants, at least 30% were awarded to projects working on women empowerment and more than 30% to youth-led projects.