



The Network for
Religious and
Traditional
Peacemakers



PEACEMAKERS NETWORK 2021 YEAR AT A GLANCE

peacemakersnetwork.org

GREETINGS OF PEACE

Dear Friends,

While 2021 was another challenging year with the impacts of COVID-19 felt around the world, we saw terrific collaboration at all segments of society in working to support and sustain peaceful and inclusive societies.

The Network continues to implement its 2020-2025 Strategy alongside its Members and Supporters by engaging religious and traditional actors in mediation, dialogue, and peacebuilding processes in innovative ways. In collaboration with our Members and Supporters, we continue to support their crucial role in ensuring that peace efforts reach the wider population and are rooted in local ownership.

The Network continues to grow – we are proud to announce the formalization of 86 members and supporters, representing an array of factors, including inter-and-intra governmental agencies, regional bodies, academic institutions, international and national organizations, civil society, faith-based organizations, and religious and traditional peacemakers.

This year, we were delighted to initiate four working groups of the Network that were established to foster collaboration towards the Network's mission of enhancing the effectiveness of efforts towards peaceful and inclusive societies. The four working groups include Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Europe & MENA, and the Inclusivity Community of Practice. The goal of the working groups continues to act upon increasing the active collaboration between religious and traditional actors and other key stakeholders in conflict transformation.

The Network acknowledges the overwhelming gap in funding allocated specifically for women, youth, and other feminist-led or focused organizations focused on peace making and broader peacebuilding processes. Therefore, in response to this gap and in line with the Generation Equality Forum commitments under the Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Compact, the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers has committed to transforming its funding and resources for women, youth, and feminist-led and focused organizations by tenfold through integrating new and scaled funds into our ongoing consortia project budgets. As complex crises continue to evolve globally, it is more urgent than ever that the transformative potential of the WPS-HA Compact is realized.

The work of the Network would not be possible without a whole of society approach. As we move into 2022, the Network remains committed to support COVID-19 response and recovery initiatives as well as continuing to meaningfully engage women and youth within all segments of society.

Now, more than ever, we must come together as one community to collectively strive for inclusion and mutual understanding. In 2021, the work and collaboration of our Members, Supporters, and grassroots actors showed tremendous resilience, responsibility and dedication to support one another and our communities. We look forward to continuing to champion the role and capacity of local peacemakers, and working alongside our members, to promote sustainable peace and the actualization of the 2030 agenda.

On behalf of the entire Network family, we wish you a very prosperous and blessed New Year.

With sincerity,



Dr. Mohamed Elsanousi, Executive Director



ABOUT THE NETWORK

The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers builds bridges between grassroots peacemakers and global players in order to strengthen the work done for sustainable peace. The Network strengthens peacemaking through collaboratively supporting the positive role of religious and traditional actors in peace and peacebuilding processes.

Our Vision

A world where religious and traditional actors play a positive role in preventing violence and contributing to sustainable peace.

Our Mission

To enhance the effectiveness of efforts toward peaceful and inclusive societies by increasing the active collaboration between religious and traditional actors and other key stakeholders in conflict transformation.

Our Objectives

The mission of the Network encompasses the following strategic objectives, which are also geared to contribute to UN efforts towards sustainable peace and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 5, 16, and 17, and UNSCR 1325 (women, peace, and security).

Sustaining Peace

Since becoming operational in 2014, the Network has supported individual, traditional, and faith-oriented insider mediators, intra- and inter-faith dialogues, and the advancement of reconciliation efforts. Activities are conducted as a collaborative effort between Network Members, Supporters, and the Secretariat. By engaging with religious and traditional actors, women, and youth in mediation, dialogue, and peacebuilding processes, the Network support its crucial role in ensuring that peace efforts reach the wider population that are rooted in local ownership.

2020-2025 STRATEGY



What We Do

With a vision of a world where conflicts are managed without violence, the Network aims to improve the effectiveness of peacemaking and peacebuilding efforts by collaboratively supporting and strengthening the positive role of religious and traditional actors by increasing inclusivity of such peace processes.

NETWORK STRUCTURE

The Network was inceptioned in 2013 as a direct response to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon's call to increase the role of religious leaders and faith-based institutions in conflict mediation. The Network was launched in the stewardship of a Core Group comprised of non-governmental and multilateral institutions, including the UN Alliance of Civilizations.

Members

Members of the Network have experience engaging with tradition or faith-based peace and development activities and have the ability to assist the Network's mission and vision, actively commit to the values of inclusivity, respect for diversity, human rights, and human dignity. Members have voting rights and meet once a year at the Members Assembly.

Supporters

Supporters of the Network are comprised of organizations and individuals that have the capacity and the desire to advance the Network's mission, but that are unable to commit to membership. While supporters do not have the right to vote, they are encouraged to contribute, based on their interests and capabilities, to specific activities, and working groups.

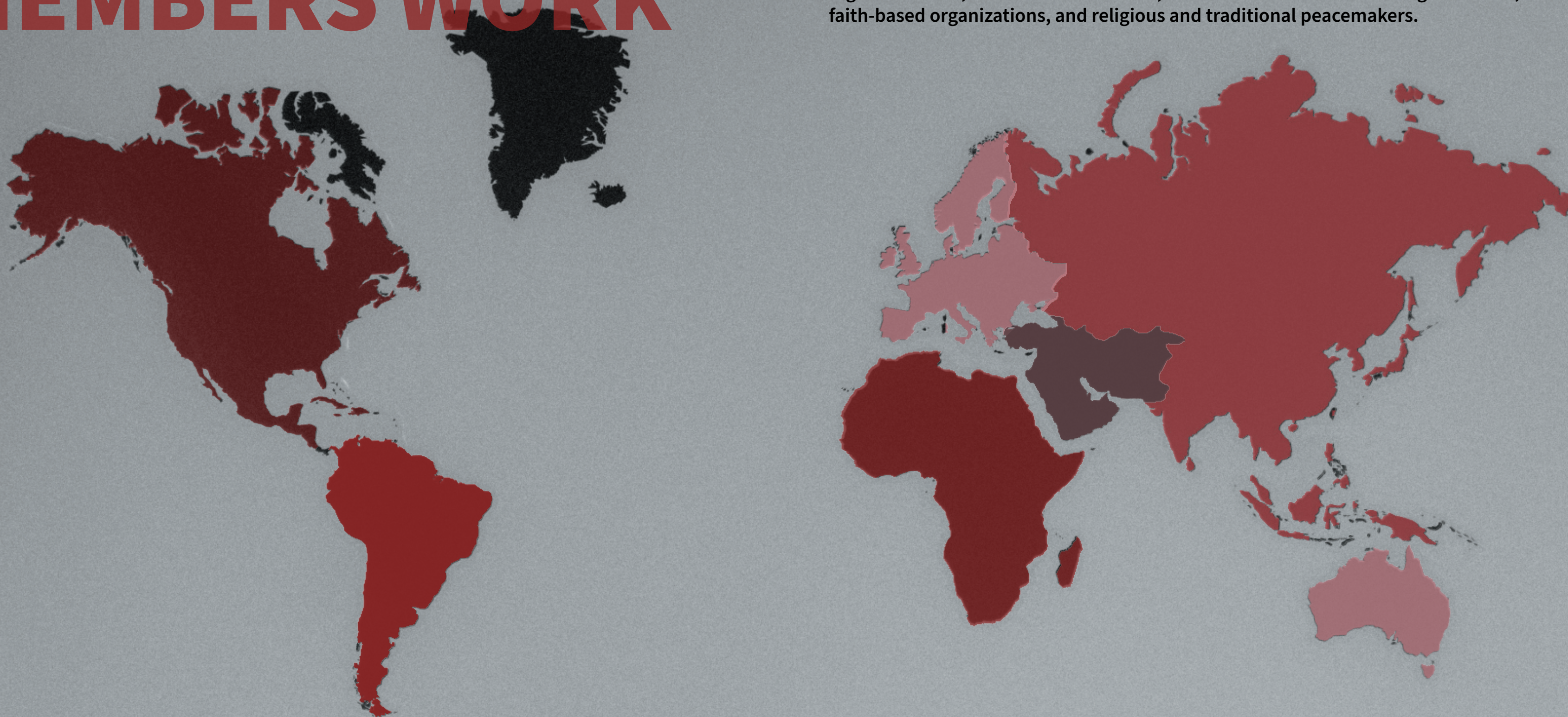
The Secretariat

The Secretariat prepares meetings, ensures communication, coordinates joint activities, and facilitates the development of the support structures providing assistance to religious and traditional peacemakers. A majority of the work conducted by the Secretariat is done upon request and in close collaboration with partners.

WHERE OUR MEMBERS WORK

IN 2021, the Network formally recognized the membership of 74 organizations. Network Members are based in 34 different countries and work in 112 countries.

The strength of the Network is rooted in cooperation and collaboration. The Network Members and Supporters represent an array of actors, including inter-and-intra-governmental agencies, regional bodies, academic institutions, international and national organizations, civil society, faith-based organizations, and religious and traditional peacemakers.



MEMBERS ENGAGED BY REGION

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 28% Europe | 5% South America |
| 14% Asia | 3% North America / Canada |
| 42% Sub-Saharan Africa | 8% Middle East |



SUPPORTING GRASSROOTS EFFORTS FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE



Towards an Inclusive and Peaceful Society in Mozambique

‘Towards an Inclusive and Peaceful Society in Mozambique’ (TIPS) is a European Union funded project that aims to contribute to conflict prevention, crisis preparedness and response and peacebuilding through inclusive natural resource governance and preventing and addressing natural resource based conflicts through multi-stakeholder dialogue and engagement in Mozambique.

Religious actors have emphasized the peaceful and multi-religious history of Mozambique and the need to contribute interreligious collaboration to support sustainable peace within the region. The TIPS project team met with key leaders of the COREM council, including the head of the Islamic council of Mozambique, as well as leaders from the Hindu, Christian, and Bahai communities, to discuss the role of religious actors in supporting peaceful societies in Mozambique. In addition, the project completed its research on, “the root causes of NR conflicts as well as mapping of existing local peace building structures, including religious and traditional peace building mechanisms.”

TIPS is supported by a consortium of partners comprised of the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers (N RTP)/Finn Church Aid (FCA), Instituto para a Democracia Multipartidária (IMD), Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Económicos (IESE) and in collaboration with project associates, The Council of Religious in Mozambique (COREM) and Faith Associates.



Supporting efforts in engaging with local religious and traditional leaders in Burkina Faso and Mali

[New research explores local conditions by highlighting the role of religious and traditional authorities in four communities in central Mali and western Burkina Faso.](#) The rise of armed group activities and a pre-conflict legacy of delegitimizing traditional and religious leaders by the state means the roles of these community leaders has diminished. Despite these challenges, research suggests traditional and religious authorities still yield influence. The shifting norms have created space for new actors to potentially influence peace processes in the region, including violent extremist organizations.

MIDEEYE - United Somali Society

Through the support of MFA Finland, the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers and Finn Church Aid are continuing to strengthen links between local governance and national reconciliation through MIDEEYE project. With “MIDEEYE” in Somalia, translating to “unifier,” the project will serve as a catalyst to unite people from all segments of Somali society to build a new social contract and a shared vision for a common future, for a more stable and peaceful Somalia. MIDEEYE recognizes that genuine national reconciliation and inclusive governance are two reinforcing and interrelated processes, crucial for peace and statebuilding.



Source: Nur Hassan Abdulle / Foresight Films



Supporting families supported by radicalization & extremism

Reach Out's work supports local and national stakeholders, authorities, civil society actors and faith communities to better address needs of families and individuals affected by radicalization and extremism. Research undertaken in this project explores support needs and experiences of families and communities affected by violent extremism, and support services provided by authorities, public sector and communities to address support needs. The goal is to benchmark and develop support to families who are affected by violent extremism and seek to disengage from these movements or violence. Often, preventative

measures take the form of individual intervention and focus on the disengagement process. However, there are very few evaluations on the approaches and measures taken, and the impact these measures have on affected families. Reach Out 3 will report on best practices and recommendations for future work, policymakers, and the community of practice. As an outcome, the project will develop tools and materials that support timely community based referral for families affected to support services. The work is part of Finnish National Action Plan for Preventing Violent Radicalization and Extremism 2019-2023.



Preventing and Addressing Violent Extremism through community resilience in the Balkans and MENA

The EU Horizon 2020 project, Preventing and Addressing Violent Extremism (PAVE) through community resilience in the Balkans and MENA, aims to tackle the global issue of radicalization by examining its root causes and driving factors. Based on a participatory and inter-regional approach, PAVE is advancing evidence-based knowledge on violent extremism in the broader Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and the Western Balkans, as well as strengthen the capacity of policy makers and community leaders for an effective prevention strategy between the European Union and its neighboring countries.

Two regional workshops hosted in Belgrade and Istanbul brought together project research teams that have conducted fieldwork in the project countries of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Serbia, Lebanon, Iraq, and Tunisia. The meetings brought together findings from the field of interviews, focus groups and surveys, assessing factors of vulnerability and resilience within these local communities. Research findings will be used to advance the Network's role within the project in understanding the capacity-building needs of policy-makers, faith actors, institutions and civil society. The Network will be developing a capacity-building needs report based upon its own developed research as well, which will be validated February 2022 by project partners and external experts. The PAVE consortium comprises 13 partners from 12 different countries.

A Network for Faith-Based Mediators

Religious peacemakers often play a critical role in conflict transformation processes in many countries. In cooperation with Berghof, the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, and supported by the German Federal Foreign Office, the Network of Faith-Based Mediators was established by accompanying and building the capacity of nine faith-based mediators. The participants of the Network were chosen in close collaboration with the

German Federal Foreign Office, NRTP, and the Bergof Foundation. Within the Network, the faith-based mediators exchange experiences and methods (peer-to-peer learning), thereby strengthening their work in local and regional mediation processes. The project also aims to develop and support concrete mediation, support activities, and provide faith-based mediation support beyond these contexts.



Strengthening the security of at-risk religious sites and communities

The EU-funded consortium project, “Strengthening the security and resilience of at-risk religious sites and communities,” began in 2021, with launch events aimed at raising awareness about the SOAR project amongst local religious communities, law enforcement, and EU officials. The SOAR project has conducted research into the security concerns in and around religious communities and their places of worship. This research data will feed into security training that will be carried out in 7 EU countries as part of the project. The research data will also help dialogue events to be held between the religious communities and policymakers, both at the national and EU levels.



The SOAR project’s consortium partners consist of Enhancing Faith Institutions (EFI), Architects Council of Europe (ACE), Finn Church Aid (FCA), the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC).



Network partners with USIP to support religious actors and mental health professionals

Since spring 2021, the Network has been providing guidance and support to its member, U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP) to identify best practices in psychosocial support to better facilitate collaboration and cooperation between religious actors and mental health professionals who provide services to conflict-affected communities – including trauma-affected displaced persons. The initiative will focus on Latin America, namely Columbia and Venezuela, as a pilot region, aiming to offer practical recommendations to relevant stakeholders.





The small grants / activity support were given in 2021 to around 100 peacemakers or organizations who implement initiatives as part of the EU-funded AHA, ALLY, and SEA-AIR project operating in 10 countries across South and Southeast Asia (Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, and Nepal). The communications efforts by the Network have grown significantly reaching within 2021 around 75 million people across South and Southeast Asia.

SEA-AIR

The EU-funded project, Southeast Asia: Advancing Inter-Religious Dialogue and Freedom of Religion or Belief, with focus on Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka, and wider South and Southeast Asia, concluded with its Final Conference on FoRB Policy and Practice. This project engaged over 7,000 direct beneficiaries via 11 countries and [regional FoRB publications](#), 37 small grants, and intra / interfaith workshops and conferences throughout South and Southeast Asia. The SEA-AIR social media page engaged over 5 million individuals, and was used as the foundation for the new Asia specific Network [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) page.

Consortium Partners: SEA-AIR was funded by the European Union and implemented in consortium with the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, Finn Church Aid (FCA), Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW), Sathirakoses Nagapradipa Foundation (SNF), World Conference of Religions for Peace (RfP), and World Faiths Development Dialogue (WFDD).



Registration in Thailand

FCA has completed the official registration process in Thailand in September 2021 to enable the growing operations of the Network in the country and across South and Southeast Asia. The Network's office continues to be in Bangkok in the same space with Network member, International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB). Many thanks also for the support by the Finnish Embassy in Thailand concerning the initial steps on registration.



Amplifying Leadership of Local Youth in Preventing Violent Extremism in South Asia

The EU-funded project “Amplifying Leadership of Local Youth in Preventing Violent Extremism in South Asia” is a youth-sensitive initiative focused at amplifying the youth voices and actors in addressing diverse factors of violence and preventing violent extremism in South Asia, particularly in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, and Pakistan. The [ALLY project](#) published the first comprehensive analysis of youth-led peacebuilding in the South Asia region, and regional and country policy briefs on youth and preventing violent extremism (PVE). [Download to read the full research.](#)

The ALLY fellowship hosted online training for over 80 South Asia peacebuilders. The training aimed to strengthen participant's conceptual understanding of PVE, push and pull factors at the regional and national levels, conflict and peacebuilding and approaches to peacebuilding and conflict transformation, specifically in the context of youth-led peace work. Following the regional training, the 60 participants were selected to join as ALLY fellows. Fellows were capacitated to design Social Action Plans (SAPs) to address push and pull factors of violent extremism at local, national, and regional levels. Activities included workshops, advocacy campaigns, research, and other activities designed by fellows with guidance from ALLY trainers and staff.

ALLY is funded by the European Union and implemented in a consortium of partners, including the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers / Finn Church Aid, United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY), Youth Development Foundation, Sri Lanka Unites, Rural Development Society, and Center for Communication and Development of Bangladesh. The action is also supported by Islamic Relief Worldwide.



To mitigate hate speech in Sri Lanka, AHA! grantee project, “Reading Stamps,” used a creative design as an informal peace education initiative aimed to promote intercultural dialogue and respect for diversity and tolerance within communities.



Awareness with Human Action

The EU-funded project Awareness with Human action project responds to COVID-19 and hate speech through preventative initiatives with a focus on Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and broader South Asia. [The AHA! project](#) has distributed [50 small grants to community based initiatives in South Asia to support peacebuilding and social cohesion during the COVID-19 pandemic](#), focusing on women, youth, and religious leaders with at least 30% of the funds going to women and youth initiatives each. The interventions included countering hate speech and misogyny; raising awareness about the disease in marginalized communities; organizing inter-faith dialogue; providing women and sexual minorities with capacities to counter the economic effects of pandemic; or advocating for the rights of indigenous people.

To counter the effects of online hate speech, AHA! project was designed and implemented a comprehensive communications and visibility strategy across South Asia. Within 2021, more than 70 million people were directly reached through this campaign. The project facilitated the exchange of knowledge and best practices through a series of country-level and regional learning exchanges, as well as capacity building efforts through workshops and mentoring events. Several hundred organizations and peacebuilders were engaged through these events and supported to continue their work through the pandemic.

AHA! Awareness with Human Action is funded by the European Union and implemented in a consortium of partners, including The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers / Finn Church Aid, World Faiths Development Dialogue (WFDD), the Center for Peace and Justice – Brac University (CPJ), Center for Communication and Development of Bangladesh (CCD), Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW), Youth Development Foundation (YDF), and Sarvodaya. The action is also supported by INEB, AMAN, UNOY, and KAICIID.

ENSURING INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES





Network joins Women, Peace and Security, and Humanitarian Compact

The Network acknowledges the overwhelming gap in funding allocated specifically for women, youth, and other feminist-led or focused organizations focused on peacemaking and broader peacebuilding processes. Therefore, in response to this gap and in line with the Generation Equality Forum commitments under the Women, Peace and Security, and Humanitarian Compact, the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers has committed to transforming its funding approach within the next five years to focus specifically on increasing direct and flexible funding and resources for women, youth, and feminist-led and focused organizations by tenfold, through integrating new and scaled funds into our ongoing consortia project budgets. Its commitment was further highlighted within a UN Women high-level event on the sidelines of the UN Security Council Debate on women, peace, and security.



16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

In November, the Network held its annual 16-days of activism campaign to raise awareness on the issue of eliminating gender-based violence within societies. This year, with the International Day on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (November 25) falling on a Thursday, the Network decided to spotlight its member’s campaign, the World Council of Churches’ campaign, Thursdays in Black. The Thursdays in Black campaign originated from the World Council of Churches’ Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women (1988-1998), in which the stories of rape as a weapon of war, gender injustice, abuse, violence, and many tragedies that grow outward from such violence became all the more visible. The Network also highlighted its members and supporters’ work addressing gender-based violence during the 16 days of activism. Executive Director, Dr. Mohamed Elsanousi and Senior Specialist on Inclusive Peace, Jessica Roland, also became ambassadors for the campaign.



Supporting youth engagement at the G20 Interfaith Forum

In September, the Network partnered with A Common Word Among Youth (ACWAY), KAICCID, Religions for Peace, URI, and the Stirling Foundation to help convene and train youth in preparation for their active participation and leadership within the G20 Interfaith Forum. The Network was able to offer an e-advocacy training workshop during the Youth Forum where participants were able to put their skills to the test through social media and a networking event for its members to be able to meet and network with the G20 youth representatives. The Network was also able to nominate one of its Network youth members from the Muslim Youth Forum to be an official youth fellow of the forum.



Commission on the Status of Women 65

In March, the Network participated in the United Nations’ Commission on the Status of Women, alongside many of its Members, with the priority focus of the meeting being on, “women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life.” The Network launched an oral statement to the Commission via social media and participated in three civil society parallel events. In partnership with Religions for Peace, the Tanebaum Center for Interreligious Understanding, Cordaid and Mina’s List, the event focused on how religious and traditional actors are advancing women’s participation and leadership in public life. In the second event, the Network partnered with the Act Alliance, FEMNET, SVRI, Soka Gakkai International, IPPF, Islamic Relief Worldwide, and Red de Salud de las Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe, to showcase existing collaborations between religious and faith-based organizations and rights-based organizations towards advancing gender equality.

So women were designed to watch and not speak,
Say yes against their will, and by the will of society, say no.
Women were taught to cook and not taught the books
They were taught things only at their detriments for years,

But with the passing of time,
Women bore women that bore women
Who bore brave women;
That knew how to raise their hands and their voices and stomp their feet
To say yes and to say no;
Yes to equal rights and no to stereotypes and injustices

Women who were born brave
Were also born smart and sharp,
Powerful and sound,
So they stood ground and learned how to learn;
Learned how to be taught and was taught to teach
So they learned trades, professions, arts and crafts, wrote stories, poems, books and became stories of their own;

~ Tete Alexandra Bonar *Reawakening*, Spoken word poet





WORKING GROUPS

Inclusivity-based Community of Practice

After a year long of consultations with over 200 women and youth-led or focused organizations, the Network launched its official Inclusivity-based Community of Practice. During these consultations, there was a common problem that was raised in that many of the women and youth-led representatives did not know the best way to approach the faith or traditional leaders or their institutions in their communities due to issues around specific customs, rules or practices. To address this common barrier, this first meeting brought together faith leaders from different regions and faith backgrounds to be able to meet directly with the women and youth representatives to talk about their experiences around best practices and lessons learned. The women and youth-led representatives were able to ask open and reflective questions to the faith leaders to help build their understanding and confidence to engage the faith communities in their own local context. The meeting also introduced the [Steering Committee](#) for the practice, whose role is to shape the strategic direction of the work to the practice.

Sub-Saharan Africa

The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers convened a first meeting of the newly established Sub-Saharan Africa Working Group in June 2021 – bringing together 74 actors working in peacebuilding, mediation, and conflict transformation across Sub-Saharan Africa. The purpose of the Working Group is to promote and facilitate information-sharing, advocacy and coordination amongst a wide range of civil society and non-governmental actors on the sub-continent, working in the realm of peacebuilding and dialogue. This meeting marked a significant opportunity for a knowledgeable group of people to come together and share their experiences and discuss the priorities facing religious and traditional peacemakers across contemporary Sub-Saharan Africa. The meeting also laid the foundation from which to steer the strategic direction of the working group for 2022.

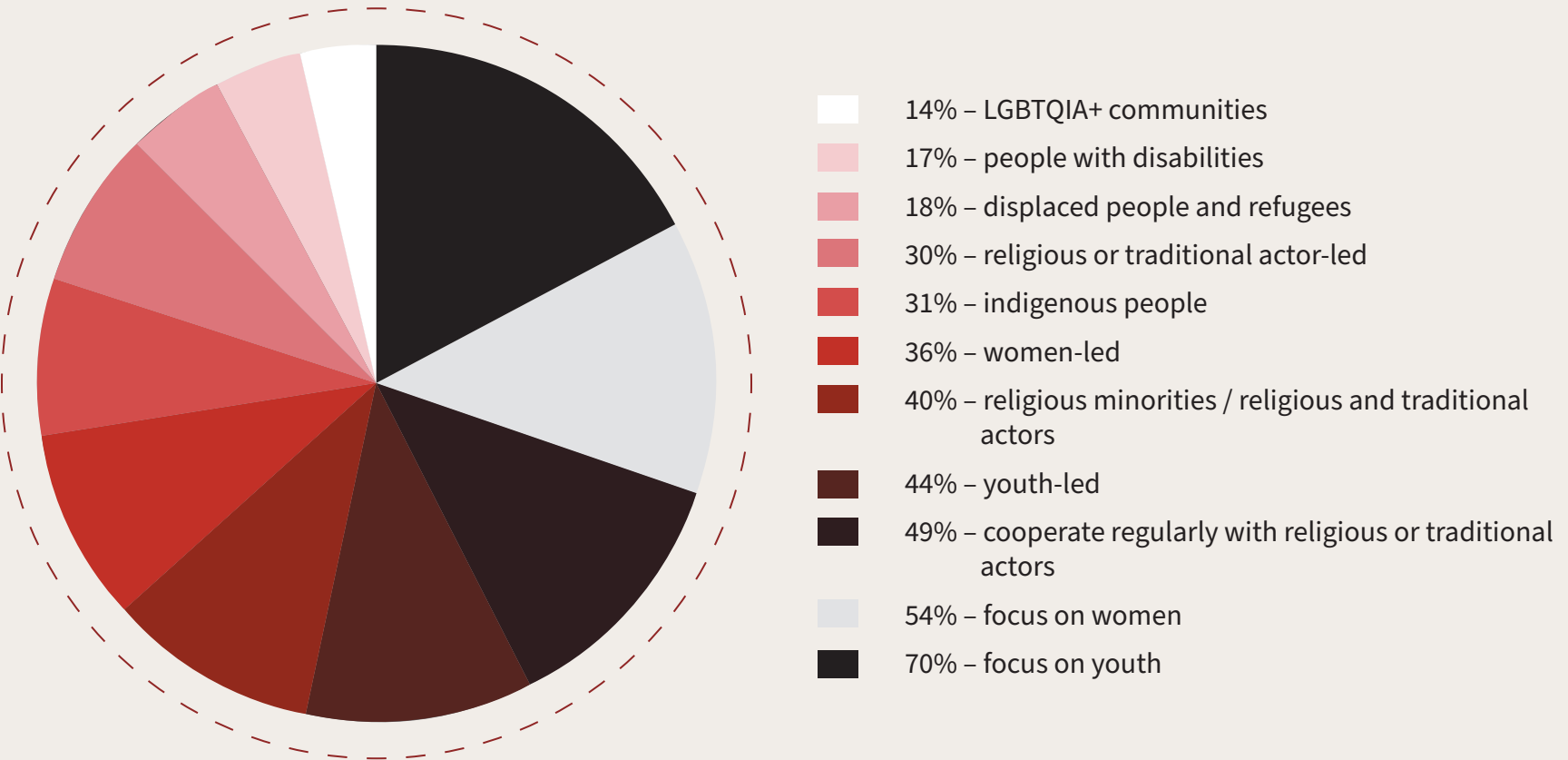
Asia

Asia Working Group gathered four times in 2021. The first bi-annual meeting was held in June. The main objective of the meeting was to discover and discuss key regional and / or thematic issues as priorities for 2021 on three different areas: Buddhist-Muslim relations, prevention of violent extremism (and new trends especially in COVID-19 context), and displacement and people on the move. The meeting identified important best practices / success stories, participants’ needs and an analysis of the peace and conflict dynamics at the regional level. It also initiated discussions on what should be prioritized in light of the recent events and concerns, and highlighted the importance of advocacy work, capacity building and amplifying voices of religious peacemakers. In looking to 2022, Asia Working Group members will meet to map the needs and activities for the coming year and review past year’s project activities.

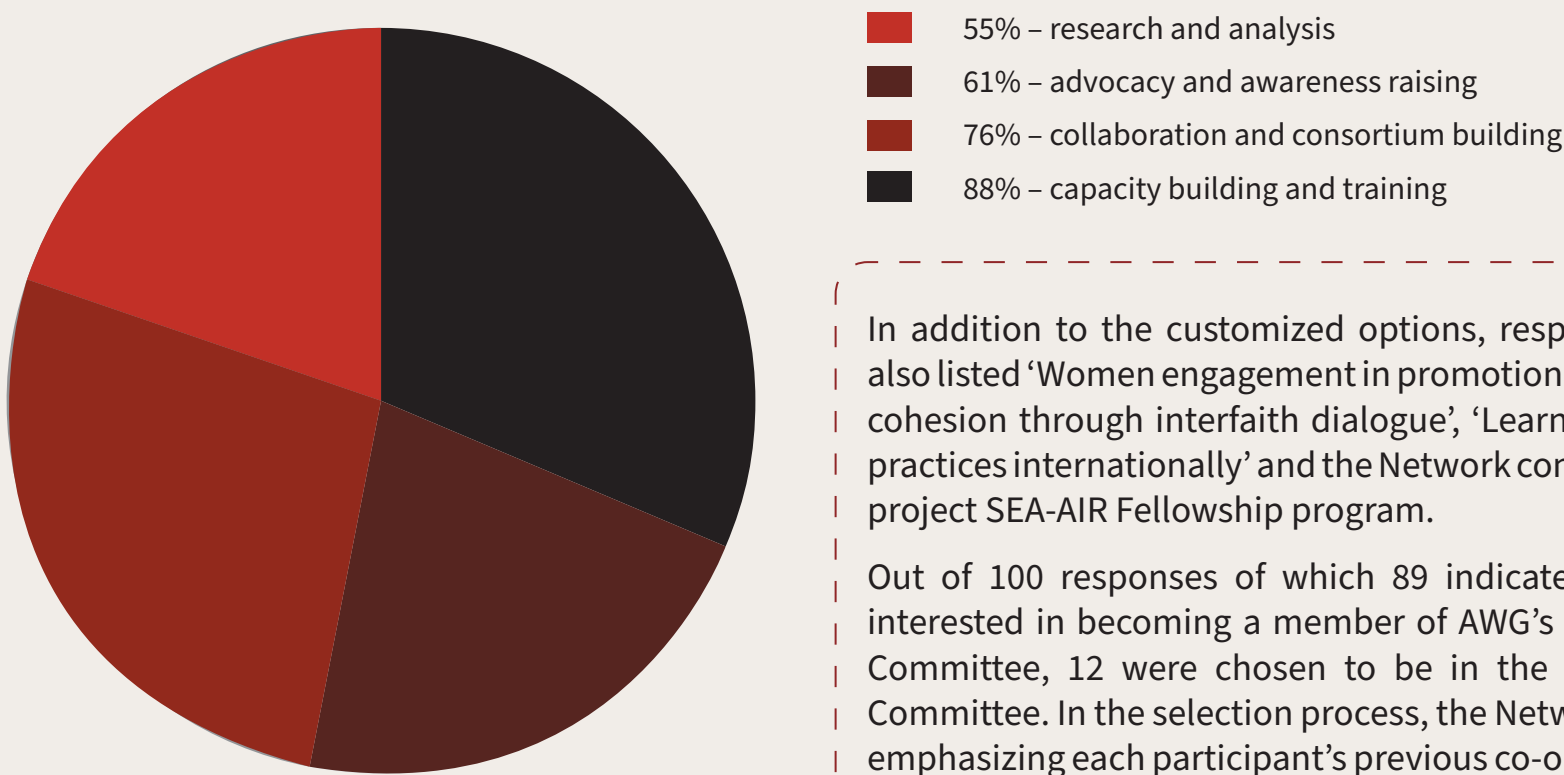
MENA

The Europe (EU and Western Balkans), Middle East, & North Africa Working Group (EuropeMENA WG) fosters collaboration among various actors interested in exploring regional collaborations and cross regional dynamics and trends affecting peacebuilding in Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. This working group serves as a platform for Network Members, Supporters, and interested actors to participate in sharing best practice, joint analysis, and insights on current topics and trends and building collaboration among actors working to advance inclusive peace and prevent violence. An interest meeting was held at the end of 2021 to understand the needs of members and align the focus of the working group.

In September, the AWG members were asked to fill out an interest survey that mapped the focus areas, organization types, and what the members would like to see more in Network’s activities. Around 100 members replied to the survey, with some of the results seen below:



Participants were also asked which activities they would be interested in participating as AWG members. Below, you can see that most of the survey participants are interested in participating capacity building and training (88 out of 100 respondents).



In addition to the customized options, respondents also listed ‘Women engagement in promotion of social cohesion through interfaith dialogue’, ‘Learning best practices internationally’ and the Network consortium project SEA-AIR Fellowship program.

Out of 100 responses of which 89 indicated being interested in becoming a member of AWG’s Steering Committee, 12 were chosen to be in the Steering Committee. In the selection process, the Network was emphasizing each participant’s previous co-operation with us as well as geographic, gender and age balance in the group.

COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE

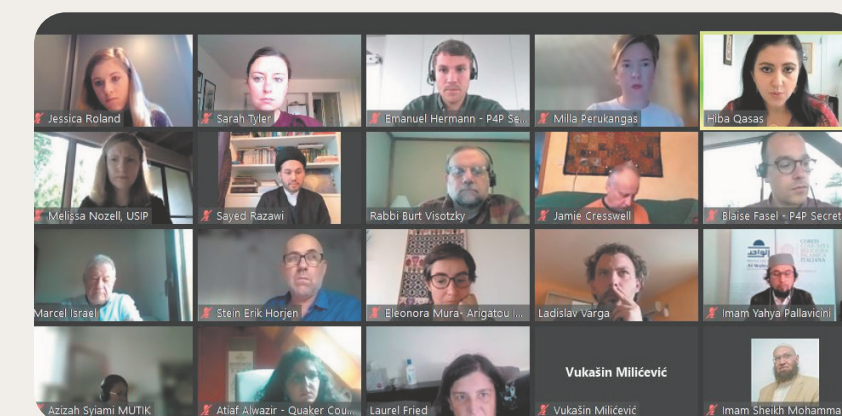


Consultation with Minister Haavisto

On September 2021, a consultation on the situation in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pekka Haavisto, was co-organized by the Finnish Embassy and the Network. Nine experts on the Sahel and / or the Horn of Africa gathered at the Finnish Embassy in Washington D.C. to provide concrete recommendations on potential areas of engagement for the Ministry to support peacebuilding and stability in the region.

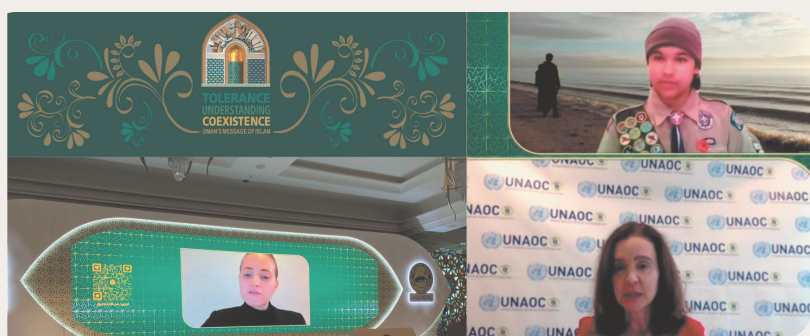
Regional Principles of Peace Consultation

This year, the Network joined the Principles of Peace global participatory initiative and stakeholder platform to help reframe the current narrow, exclusionary, and flawed way peace processes are understood and implemented. The Principles for Peace initiative is a collective effort to develop a new set of principles to better enable local, national and international actors to craft more inclusive approaches that result in long term sustainable peace. In partnership with the initiative, the Network held six regional consultations in four languages with faith and traditional actors to gather their expertise and input into shaping what these principles should entail. The Network looks forward to advancing this initiative in a second round of consultations to validate the draft principles next year.



Welcoming the Stranger

The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers hosted a regional consultation – Welcoming the Stranger – which focused on the status of displaced people. The consultation aimed to bring together traditional and faith-based actors who work with displaced peoples and provide a space to share best practices and common challenges. This global initiative is led by Lutheran World Federation (LWF), HIAS and Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW).



International Day of Tolerance

Faith and faith based institutions play a critical role in upholding and protecting the principles of tolerance and human rights. To commemorate the International Day of Tolerance, Network Core Group member, the Sultanate of Oman, in collaboration with the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, organized two celebratory events. These events convened Network Members and Supporters from the UN and its Member States, civil society, and multi-religious spaces to share best practices and mechanisms they have adopted in their local context to promote and inclusion amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Faiths4Vaccines

Faiths4Vaccines is an inclusive, multifait movement composed of local and national U.S. religious leaders, as well as medical professionals, who are working together to identify and resolve current gaps in vaccine mobilization, outreach, and uptake. In May 2021, the Faiths4Vaccines National Summit convened the largest multi-faith gathering to support equitable and far-reaching vaccine distribution in the United States. Faiths4Vaccines will advance its global focus on vaccine access and equity, collaborating with Religions for Peace and USAID to identify and resolve current gaps in vaccine mobilization, outreach, and uptake at the regional and global levels.



HLPF: Promoting Grassroots Efforts for Sustainable Peace and Development

In response to UN Member States' call of further empowering local actors, the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICCID) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) conducted a joint, inclusive online survey, followed by a series of workshops of the work and efforts of religious and traditional actors. This included women and youth in the five regions to accelerate the realization of the 2030 Agenda at the national and local level. Following the conclusion of the survey and workshops, a five-page [outcome document](#) with recommendations was produced and presented on the margins of UN High-Level Political Forum 2021 during an event, "Promoting Grassroots Efforts for Sustainable Peace and Development."