The International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)
ICAN

• Founded 2006

Vision
• A world founded on peace, equality and respect for pluralism

Mission
• ICAN promotes inclusive and sustainable peace in countries affected by violent conflict, extremism, militarism, and closing political space. Recognizing the gendered impact of conflict and the critical role of women peacebuilders, we fulfill our mission through a dual strategy of:
  • Shaping and influencing the peace and security policies of governments, multilateral organizations, and the wider international community by providing thought leadership, strategic advice, and gender-responsive analysis and operational guidance; and
  • Sustaining and strengthening a global movement of innovative locally rooted women peacebuilders to have voice and influence wherever matters of peace, violent conflict, rights, and human security are determined.
• We bring the word and spirit of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the global women, peace and security agenda to life.

In line with words and spirit of UNSCR 1325/WPS agenda
ICAN’s Approach to WPS

Thought Leadership – Gendered Country & Issue Analyses
- “What the Women Say” gendered political and security country reports
- Gendered Thematic analysis – e.g. economics; education, and security
- Strategic guidance for inclusive peace efforts

Access, Advocacy to Influence
- Policy making spaces for partners
- Awards, Fellowships and Opportunities
- The Global Solutions Exchange (GSX)

Resource Support including Funding & Capacity
- Innovative Peace Fund & Strategic Advice, Technical Assistance & Capacity Strengthening
- Tools – Better Peace Initiative

Connectivity & Communications thru’ Networking
- The Women’s Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL)
- 40+ countries
- Annual Forum
- Thematic & Regional event
- #PeaceHeroes Series
- Translation of materials
ICAN’s Approach to Partner Support

- Personal
- Professional
- Institutional
Women’s Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL)

- Developed since 2012 based on consensus for collective voice
- Launched in 2015 as alliance of independent women-led organizations and practitioners working on peace and security
- Locally and nationally rooted, globally connected
- Active in CVE/PVE/TVE/PREP
- Committed to core values of:
  - Nonviolence
  - Inclusivity
  - UDHR
  - Addressing discrimination
  - Amplifying community voices
  - Mutual support and non-duplication
  - Building on history of women’s activism
- Members with 90+ organizations in 40+ countries
- Connecting NGOs, academia, media, policy and other sectors
How is Gender Relevant?

1. The ideology/strategy of extremist movements
2. The Recruitment – male & female
3. The forces that counter extremism
Innovative Peace Fund:

ICAN’s Multi-donor Fund for Partners’ Peacebuilding and PVE Work

1. Funding
   - Over $2M grants in 3 years
   - Ranging from $3K-$100K
   - Average $27K

2. Strategic Advice/Mentoring
   Programme design/implementation support

3. Institutional Support/Capacity
   - Proposal Writing
   - Financial Management
   - Monitoring/Evaluation Support
   - Risk Assessment
   - Due Diligence
Afghan Partners

- Peacebuilding training manuals connect local peacebuilders with government officials
- Supported Afghan High Peace Council with inclusive, representative dialogues
- Increased awareness and understanding of violence against women
- Created men’s network to decrease violence and promote peace/mediation
- Safe shelters for survivors of violence
- Introduced conflict resolution methods and dialogue at community level
- Trained women and youth
Afghan Partners

• Women peace shuras; discussion with religious and community leaders on women’s inclusion

• Campaign to call for a ceasefire with the Taliban

• Coalition building among Afghan women to build common approach to peace talks

• Advocacy with Afghan government, US, UNAMA and NATO

• Raised awareness and provided PPE as COVID response
What is the BPI?

- Tools/ Guidance ("why" + "how")
- Trainings
- Advisory services

**CONCEPTUAL AND ANALYTICAL:**
Understand the context, and analyze the conflict and purpose of peace talks with women peacebuilders.

**TECHNICAL SUPPORT:**
Provide women peacebuilders access to gender-sensitive expertise on security, governance, natural resources, and other issues in the process.

**LOGISTICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT:**
Enable women’s participation through assistance with travel, security and visas, and with timely funding.

**PREPARATION/PRE-TALKS, DURING PEACE TALKS, AND IMPLEMENTATION:**

**POLITICAL SUPPORT:**
Push for the inclusion of women peacebuilders in mediation, key meetings, summits, and consultations.

For women’s rights, peace and security
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Why do we need the BPI?
The wars and conflicts we witness today are more complex than those of the past. To prevent or resolve them effectively, it is necessary to have the state and non-state armed actors involved in negotiating peace. But they alone cannot bring sustainable peace. It is imperative to include peace actors, civilians, and often times women, in the peace process. With knowledge of on-the-ground realities, they are active in every sphere, from providing relief to the refugees, to mediating local ceasefires, negotiating peace, countering violent extremism, disarming fighters and helping with reconciliation. Yet this know-how and commitment is still absent from peace processes.
ICAN’s Advocacy

- February 2019 ICAN initiated Afghan WPS Coalition in response to exclusive US/Taliban talks
- Wrote letter to SFRC requesting hearing with special envoy to call for gender responsiveness in substance and full inclusion of Afghan women
- Bilateral advocacy with Norway, Germany, Canada
- Research paper on Peace and Women in Islam; Farsi edition of Better Peace Tool
- Joined UN working group on WPS in Kabul
- December 2020 trained 29 Afghan women and politicians involved in peace process
- Online strategy sessions with partners
- Open Letter to Friends of Afghanistan and Champions of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda
- Reached out to women in negotiation team
- Public speaking and advocacy events
Since August 15, 2021

- Assisting with visa processes and evacuation lists
- Advocating for inclusion of Afghan women and gender-responsive humanitarian aid
- Action Points to Guarantee the Rights, Safety and Health of Women and Girls in Afghanistan
- Getting funding into the country
- Afghanistan Emergency Relief Fund

What you can do:

- Advocate with administration/Congress
- Sign and share Action Points
- Donate
- Join She Builds Peace campaign
What's new in the world of Women, Peace & Security?

#WPSWednesday

Let us know what news you've been following by using the hashtag!
Tag us @whatthewomensay on 📸Twitter 👤Facebook
She Builds Peace

Campaign Video: https://icanpeacework.org/shebuildspeace/

Four Pillars (SOAR)

• Ensure the safety of women peacebuilders by protecting their lives and their work
• Fulfill obligations to include women peacebuilders in peace processes and security policymaking
• Promote appreciation of who women peacebuilders are, why they matter, and what their work entails to generate political will to support them and their work
• Resource independent women-led peace and security work to ensure it is sustained

Call to Action to Stand with Women Peacebuilders