



## What's Happening in Other Countries?

### Selected Regional and National Civil Society Networks on Women, Peace and Security in Developing Countries

This brief presents rapid research by Natasha Singh Raghuvanshi, a member of the WPS Coalition's Annual Civil Society Dialogue Working Group. Preparation included desk-based research and limited contact with existing civil society networks to elicit relevant information.

#### Formats

Civil society engagement on women, peace and security in developing countries occurs through networks but also involves and depends on partnering with international and governmental organisations. Networks tend to be formally registered. The Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) has a coordinating team in New York with a Board of Directors from all over the world. The other networks have a coordinating committee, management, chairperson and Board of Directors located in-country or the region itself.

#### Governance

Networks are usually hosted by an organisation that serves as a secretariat or coordinator. The networks are governed by board members, executive committees and dedicated staff. Most networks have very formalised structures with a clearly defined organisational hierarchy. They seek membership (with and without fee). Membership meetings are held at regular interval, they are recorded and published in newsletters.

### Resourced Staff

While most networks have dedicated staff, it is unclear if these roles are funded indirectly (through project funding received by members) or if specific resources have been dedicated to support these roles.

### Resourcing Activities

Networks receive varying levels of funding from governments, international donors/organisations, and membership fees. The more formalised the organisational structure is, more funding it seems to receive. Various training activities are conducted for the organisational staff in partnership with other organisations to leverage existing resources.

### Activities

The various networks undertake a range of activities including:

- Monitoring and reporting on NAP commitments;
- Advocacy and lobbying for national laws with members of parliament
- Technical expertise/advice to government implementing agencies;
- Policy brief/policy papers/submission
- Leadership and skills training with literacy programs.
- Mediation support training

The table overleaf summarises the information gathered under each of these headings for the following networks, noting that this is not meant as an exhaustive list:

	<b>Format</b>	<b>Governance</b>	<b>Resourced staff</b>	<b>Resourced activities</b>	<b>Priority activities</b>
<b>AFGHAN WOMEN'S NETWORK<sup>i</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foundation of Afghan women's movement and serves as an umbrella organisation</li> <li>• Members include 125 women's organisations (registered with Ministry of Economics and Ministry of Justice) and over 3500 individual members (including Members of parliament)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elaborate organisational structure headed by general assembly which comprises of board of directors forming the core group, executive directors, deputy director and program manager.</li> <li>• Members pay annual fees</li> <li>• Members who are affiliated to political parties are preferred for membership to executive and Advisory board.</li> <li>• Face-to-face meetings with decision-makers (such as members of parliament and senior government officials), drafting of joint strategies. Networking based on Informal contacts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unclear</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receives funds from donor agencies (e.g. DFAT, Global Affairs Canada, DIFD) and international organisations ( e.g. Christian Aid) and UN agencies (e.g. UN Women)</li> <li>• Partners with organisation such as Cordaid, Save the Children, Women for Women International, The Asia Foundation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritises advocacy and lobbying work</li> <li>• Advocacy is categorised as: case advocacy, system advocacy and policy advocacy.</li> <li>• Contributed directly and indirectly in passing of the EAW Law, Regulation of Safe house, Elections Law.</li> <li>• Issues they focus on aligns with their strategic plan 2015-17, these are: women's political participation and leadership, women's social and legal protection and women peace and security.</li> </ul>

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<b>ASIA-PACIFIC WOMEN'S ALLIANCE FOR PEACE AND SECURITY (APWAPS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loosely configured alliance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unclear</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unclear</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project based funding to members from international donors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate collaboration and conversations among members working on WPS</li> <li>Advocacy, capacity sharing, knowledge building and networking.</li> <li>Link up existing actions, connect organisations, deepen conversations and expand access to information on the women, peace and security agenda.</li> </ul>
<b>FemWise- Africa <sup>iiii</sup> (NETWORK OF AFRICAN WOMEN IN CONFLICT PREVENTION AND MEDIATION)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established in 2017 by African Union (AU)</li> <li>Network is located within the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)</li> <li>Membership open to both institutions and individual women (but need to be accredited before membership is confirmed)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FemWise-Africa Steering Committee (members with voting rights + members) with non-voting rights)</li> <li>FemWise-Africa Assembly, (all members of the Network; responsible for approving annual work plans meets at least once a year)</li> <li>FemWise-Africa Secretariat - based at the AU Commission HQ; coordinates, harmonises and monitors the activities of the Network</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AU</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AU</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deployed in supporting peace efforts in crises states.</li> <li>Preventive diplomacy and mediation.</li> <li>Bridging the gap between Track 1, Track 2 and Track 3 mediation.</li> <li>Women's inclusion in peacemaking, believes in women's leadership at community and grassroots levels.</li> <li>Policy formulation and advocacy.</li> </ul>

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<b>WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY NETWORK AFRICA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership in the organisation is on two level. <b>Associate partners</b> with organisations based in the African Continent. <b>Affiliates partners</b> with org. outside Africa and African women's groups in the Diaspora.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5-member Board of Directors that is responsible for formulating and recommending general policies and guidelines for the Network.</li> <li>The partners in Africa come from Ghana, Nigeria, Liberia, and Cote D' Ivoire, Sierra Leone.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unclear</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work is supported by a two category of donors: Institutional and Private (Individual) Donors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women's strategic participation and leadership in peace and security governance in Africa.</li> <li>Enhancing leadership skills of adolescent girls.</li> <li>Gender mainstreaming and gender responsiveness in Ghana Security sector.</li> </ul>
<b>THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF WOMEN PEACEBUILDERS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coalition of women's groups and other civil society organisations from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America, Eastern and Western Europe and the Middle East and Arab World</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinated by an International Coordinating Team, based in New York</li> <li>GNWP Board, management and staff have proven track records in the areas of women's rights, human rights, gender equality and peace and security.</li> <li>Board of Director consists of the chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Board member, Chief Executive officer (from all parts of the world).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Donations from partners and supporters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Various partners and supporters (e.g. donor agencies, UN, international organisations)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity development (women and civil society)</li> <li>Supporting effective implementation of UNSCR 1325, 1820 and the supporting WPS resolutions, particularly at the national and local levels</li> <li>Contributing to National Action Plan Development</li> <li>Monitoring and evaluation</li> </ul>

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<b>PAN PACIFIC AND SOUTHEAST ASIA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Network of women's organisations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteer organisation, financed by contributions from individuals, organisations, and member organisations</li> <li>• Governed international council consisting of executive committee headed by the president. The structure also consists of Standing committees and advisors. The staff comes from all over the Pacific and South East Asia region.</li> <li>• Membership by application to the International Council</li> <li>• International membership meetings every three years</li> <li>• Members keep in touch and informed through postings on the web, an International Bulletin, published twice yearly, and through the Newsletters issued by individual member organisations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unclear</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities resources through donations from member states.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying needs and problems of women and children;</li> <li>• Promoting the status of women and children;</li> <li>• Furthering education, skills training and literacy programs for all age groups;</li> <li>• Raising funds and mobilizing local help;</li> <li>• Climate change</li> <li>• Advocate for peace throughout the year -maintaining Peace Gardens, combating human trafficking, supporting shelters for women and children escaping violence, promoting non-violence education and conflict resolution, and advocating for more inclusive participation in decision-making.</li> </ul>

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<b>NORTHEAST WOMEN INITIATIVE FOR PEACE<sup>iv</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Network of women organisations working for peace in the northeast region of India which has faced the onslaught of multiple armed conflicts since the late 1940s</li> <li>• Forms part of Control Arms foundation of India and Manipur Women' Gun Survivors Network.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board members comprise of president, vice president, secretary general and founder members.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unclear</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities resourced through donations Holds network meetings, stakeholders consultative meeting, community dialogue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brings together women from all over Northeast states to strategize an Action Plan on building peace, providing justice and political rights in the region ruptured by years of conflict.</li> <li>• Peace volunteer training</li> <li>• Women, Peace and security, VAW, leads humanitarian disarmament efforts.</li> </ul>
<b>SHANTIMALIKA - WOMEN NETWORK FOR PEACE (Nepal)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 150 women peacebuilders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registered network</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unclear – appears that project based funding is used indirectly to support network coordination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding for projects from international donors (e.g. US AID)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National and community peacebuilding</li> </ul>

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<b>SOUTH ASIA PEACE ALLIANCE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member organisations are based in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh and Afghanistan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secretariat hosted by two member organisations based in India</li> <li>Core Group – comprising individuals from member countries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Host organisations staff provide support to manage the network – no dedicated funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member organisations receiving funding for activities – not directing funding for the network</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peace education and non-violence training – only an indirect focus on WPS</li> </ul>
<b>WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF BURMA<sup>v</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women's League of Burma (WLB) works for the advancement of the status of women towards a peaceful and just society in Burma.</li> <li>13 member organisations that are currently part of WLB.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WLB comprises three governing bodies: The Congress, the Presidium Board, and the Secretariat.</li> <li>Congress is the highest decision-making body composed of 50-60 women from WLB and its member organisations and includes the Presidium Board, General Secretaries, Program Coordinators and Program Assistants, and representatives from member organisations.</li> <li>The Presidium Board-second-highest body. Composed of 13 individuals from each of the member organisations. Meets every eight months to develop</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unclear</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activity resourcing unclear. No donation or funding section.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peace and Reconciliation Program works in Bangladesh, India, Thailand, and Burma.</li> <li>Ending institutionalised impunity for state sponsored sexual violence in Burma.</li> <li>Political empowerment</li> <li>Violence against women</li> <li>Policy advocacy</li> </ul>



		<p>strategies, formulate policies and make decisions that will impact WLB which are then implemented by the Secretariat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Secretariat composed of three individuals elected by the congress for a two-year term. Consists of the General Secretary, the Joint General Secretary I and the Joint General Secretary II</li></ul>			
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<b>WOMEN IN PEACEBUILDING (Africa)</b> <sup>vi</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Peacebuilding organisation - over 500 member organisations across West Africa.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Board: made of eminent global citizens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dedicated regional staff, resourcing unclear, paid through donor funding.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Donor, Regional and UN agencies, international organisations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building capacity of women, enhancing roles in peacebuilding and post conflict reconstruction in West Africa.</li> <li>Professional courses in conflict prevention and peacebuilding</li> <li>Peace education.</li> </ul>
<b>WE ACT 1325 (Philippines)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National network of 35 women's rights, peace, and human rights organisations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Coordinator</li> <li>Hosted by Center for Peace Education Miriam College</li> </ul>	Unclear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members receive bilateral and multilateral funding</li> <li>Project based funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Main partner of government on various initiatives on WPS</li> <li>Policy review, advocacy, capacity building, and training of various stakeholders; engagement</li> <li>Works with negotiators of on-going peace processes; advocacy</li> <li>Campaigns against small arms,</li> <li>Monitors implementation of NAP</li> </ul>

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<sup>i</sup> <http://awn-af.net/index.php/cms/content/5>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/accord-contributes-discussions-femwise-africa-induction-training-preventive-diplomacy>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/can-femwise-africa-make-mediation-work-sustaining-peace>

<sup>iv</sup> <http://www.cafi-online.org/events.php>

<sup>v</sup> <http://womenofburma.org/>

<sup>vi</sup> [http://www.wanep.org/wanep/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=1&Itemid=4](http://www.wanep.org/wanep/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=1&Itemid=4)