



IWPG

GLOBAL WOMEN'S PEACE RECOMMENDATIONS 2026

International Women's Peace Group

INTRODUCTION

While women's participation in peacebuilding has received increasing international attention, opportunities to systematically bring together and examine women's perspectives across diverse geographic, social, professional, and institutional contexts remain limited. Experiences of peace and insecurity are shaped not only by formal institutions and conflict processes, but also by the everyday realities of communities, families, workplaces, schools, and local environments. Bringing these different perspectives into dialogue can provide a broader understanding of how peace is experienced, where barriers persist, and what forms of action are considered necessary across different contexts.

Against this background, the International Women's Peace Group (IWPG) convened the *2026 Global Women's Peace Forum* under the theme "Regional Voices for Sustainable Peace: Women's Perspectives, Solutions and Policy Recommendations." Held online on 20–21 July 2026, the Forum was organized into four sessions, bringing together participants from the Asia-Pacific; Africa and Europe; the Americas; and South Asia and the Middle East, with the session structure arranged to accommodate geographic locations and time zones. Across the four sessions, women from diverse backgrounds identified challenges affecting peace in their communities, shared experiences and practical approaches, and considered priorities for action at the local and international levels. The *Global Women's Peace Recommendations 2026* consolidate and analyze the perspectives and proposals contributed through this process, giving structured expression to areas of convergence as well as context-specific concerns and providing a basis for further dialogue and action on women's participation and sustainable peace.

The Forum drew engagement from a broad range of countries, sectors, and levels of society. Its registration profile included government institutions, civil society organizations, academia, international and national NGOs, the private sector, research institutions, media, and local communities. Participants also represented a wide range of fields, including peace and security, women and gender equality, community and social development, education, human rights and justice, health and well-being, youth, culture and the arts, disability and inclusion, and environmental issues. This breadth provided a diverse foundation for examining peace through institutional, professional, and community perspectives and across multiple dimensions of women's everyday lives.

The Forum brought together approximately 1,070 participants from 46 countries across the four regional sessions. Registration data reflected diverse institutional and professional backgrounds, including 11% from government institutions, 56% from civil society organizations and NGOs, 14% from academia and research institutions, 8% from the private sector, and 11% from other sectors. 49% of registrants held leadership, managerial, or other decision-making positions, alongside practitioners, professionals, students, and individuals without institutional affiliation. Participants represented a wide range of thematic fields, providing a broad foundation for examining peace priorities across institutional, professional, and community contexts. A detailed participant profile is provided in the Appendix.

The primary basis for these Recommendations was the outcomes of the small-group discussions conducted across the four Forum sessions, supplemented by relevant perspectives, practices, and examples presented by panel speakers. Contributions were reviewed and synthesized to identify recurring concerns,

practical approaches, areas of convergence, and proposed areas for action. Throughout the consolidation and editorial process, priority was given to maintaining a neutral and evidence-conscious approach, distinguishing individual perspectives and practices shared during the Forum from the consolidated recommendations developed through the analysis.

The four sessions brought together perspectives from countries and communities shaped by distinct political, social, cultural, economic, and conflict contexts. Analysis of the contributions across these settings identified both context-specific concerns and clear areas of convergence across geographic boundaries. While the perspectives expressed reflect the experiences and priorities of Forum participants rather than representative positions of entire regions, the recurrence of common concerns, priorities, and proposed responses across different contexts provided a substantive basis for identifying shared directions for action. The analysis therefore places primary emphasis on the substance and recurrence of the contributions, while using the geographic sessions to situate and understand how particular issues were experienced and articulated in different contexts.

On this basis, the Recommendations consolidate the priorities and proposed actions that emerged most consistently across the Forum and organize them primarily by responsible stakeholder. This structure connects the issues raised through the Forum with the actors positioned to address them, including governments, international organizations and development partners, civil society organizations, educational institutions, and community and local leaders.

In addition to the stakeholder-based recommendations, the analysis identified conflict-affected settings as requiring a more integrated consideration of interconnected peace and recovery challenges. These perspectives are therefore presented separately as a contextual insight, complementing the main stakeholder-based structure.

Through this analytical approach, the *Global Women's Peace Recommendations 2026* bring together areas of convergence alongside context-specific perspectives within a common framework. The Recommendations are intended to provide a shared point of reference for further dialogue, cooperation, and action among governments, international organizations, civil society, educational institutions, community actors, and other stakeholders, while contributing to broader international efforts to advance women's meaningful participation and sustainable peace.

STAKEHOLDER CATEGORIES

For the purposes of this report, stakeholder categories are used as practical groupings based on the principal roles and responsibilities relevant to the recommendations. These categories are not intended to be mutually exclusive, and some actors may operate across more than one category depending on their functions and areas of engagement.

- **Governments:** National and local government authorities, ministries, public bodies, and other state institutions responsible for policy, legislation, public administration, and service delivery.
- **International Organizations and Development Partners:** United Nations entities, intergovernmental and regional organizations, bilateral and multilateral development agencies, donor institutions, and other development partners providing policy, technical, financial, or coordination support.
- **Civil Society Organizations:** Organized non-state actors, including non-governmental organizations, women's organizations, community-based organizations, advocacy groups, and other civil society organizations engaged in peacebuilding, rights, development, or related areas.
- **Educational Institutions:** Schools, universities, colleges, training institutions, and other institutions whose primary functions include education, learning, and skills development.
- **Community and Local Leaders:** Individuals and formal or informal leadership structures exercising influence at the community level, including traditional and religious leaders, community representatives, grassroots leaders, and other local actors who contribute to dialogue, participation, social cohesion, and community action.

Chapter 1. Recommendations by Responsible Stakeholder

1. Governments

1.1. Women's Meaningful Participation in Decision-Making

1.1.1. **National governments** should ensure women's meaningful participation in peace and security decision-making, moving beyond symbolic representation toward substantive influence over policy and resource allocation.

1.1.2. **Local governments** should establish and strengthen accessible and institutionalized mechanisms that enable women, including those from marginalized communities, to participate directly in local planning and decision-making, such as formal planning forums through which women can present community priorities directly to local authorities.

Practice from the Forum | Musrena, Indonesia

Institutionalizing women's participation in local planning

Participants from the Asia-Pacific highlighted Indonesia's Musrena (Women and Children Action Planning Forum) as an example of institutionalized participation in local governance. Through this formal annual planning forum, women, children, and persons with disabilities can present community priorities directly to local government. Institutionalized through government regulation, the mechanism provides a regular channel for women and other community members to contribute to local planning and decision-making.

Perspectives from the Forum) While the need for women's meaningful participation emerged across the Forum, Asia-Pacific discussions repeatedly highlighted the gap between women's formal or symbolic representation and their actual influence over policy, decision-making, and resource allocation. Discussions also highlighted locally institutionalized participation mechanisms, including Indonesia's Musrena model, which provides a formal channel for women and marginalized groups to directly influence local government planning.

1.2. Prevention of and Response to Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

1.2.1. **National governments** should strengthen legal and policy frameworks for the prevention of and response to GBV, with particular attention to effective implementation and enforcement.

1.2.2. **National and local governments** should strengthen accessible and coordinated support systems for survivors of GBV, including health care, legal aid, mental health and trauma support, safe reporting mechanisms, and social services.

Perspectives from the Forum) Across the Forum, gender-based violence emerged as a shared concern, while discussions across the four regional sessions highlighted different but complementary dimensions of prevention and response. In the Asia-Pacific session, participants

emphasized early prevention through education and awareness, alongside accessible community-based support for survivors. In the Africa and Europe session, discussions highlighted the need for holistic recovery and coordinated health, legal, psychosocial, and social support, particularly for women affected by violence and conflict. In the Americas session, participants connected violence against women with broader patterns of gender inequality and discrimination, emphasizing rights, healing, and structural change. In the South Asia and Middle East session, discussions highlighted how conflict, poverty, displacement, and weak institutional protection can intensify gender-based violence and restrict women's access to justice and support.

1.3. Peace, Gender Equality and Violence Prevention through Education

1.3.1. **National governments** should integrate peace, gender equality, mutual respect, and nonviolent conflict resolution into education policies and curricula from an early age, including approaches such as respectful relationships education.

1.3.2. **National and local governments** should strengthen preventive education and awareness initiatives for children and young people, including programs that teach mutual respect and equip young people to become peace leaders rather than perpetrators of violence.

1.3.3. **National and local governments** should support community-based peace and violence-prevention education in collaboration with schools, civil society organizations, community leaders, and women with lived experience.

Practice from the Forum | Respectful relationships education, Australia

Preventing violence through education

Participants in the Asia-Pacific session highlighted respectful relationships education in Australia as an example of using education to help prevent gender-based violence from an early age. The approach positions schools as important settings for promoting respectful relationships and gender equality, demonstrating how prevention can begin through education before violence occurs.

Perspectives from the Forum) Peace and preventive education emerged as a recurring theme in the Asia-Pacific session, where participants emphasized early intervention, respectful relationships, community-based education, and the role of schools in preventing violence and strengthening peaceful values and behaviors from an early age.

1.4. Support for Women's Recovery and Socioeconomic Participation

1.4.1. **National and local governments** should strengthen mental health and trauma-recovery support for women affected by conflict, displacement, and violence,

including safe spaces and mental health support for displaced and conflict-affected women.

1.4.2. **National and local governments** should reduce practical barriers to women's participation by improving access to essential support, including health care and childcare, particularly maternal health services.

1.4.3. **National governments** should expand women's access to employment pathways, livelihood opportunities, financial support, and opportunities for women-led businesses, particularly for women affected by conflict, displacement, and poverty.

Perspectives from the Forum) Participants in the Africa and Europe session placed particular emphasis on recovery and support for women affected by conflict and displacement. Mental health support, safe spaces, language assistance, employment pathways, and childcare emerged as interconnected forms of support for women's recovery and participation in their communities.

2. International Organizations

2.1. Support for Women's Participation and Leadership in Peacebuilding

2.1.1. **International organizations** should support safe and meaningful opportunities for women to engage in peace processes and decision-making, including participation in local peace forums, disaster resilience planning, and climate action.

2.1.2. **International organizations** should support leadership and civic education programs that strengthen women's skills and confidence, including training in public speaking, advocacy, community organizing, as well as their understanding of local governance, enabling their participation in community decision-making and leadership.

2.2. Flexible Funding and Institutional Support for Grassroots Women Peacebuilders

2.2.1. **International organizations** should provide flexible funding and institutional support for grassroots women peacebuilders and women's organizations, including support for protection services, livelihood programs, and grassroots peace education initiatives.

2.3. Support for Peace Education and Safe Community Spaces

2.3.1. **International organizations** should support grassroots and community-based peace education initiatives, including programs that engage young people as future peace leaders.

2.3.2. **International organizations** should support partnerships between educational institutions and local communities to create safe spaces for peace education, including initiatives such as peace libraries and peace hubs.

2.4. Inclusion of Diverse Women in Peace Dialogues

- 2.4.1. **International organizations** should support the direct participation of diverse women in peace dialogues, including rural, Indigenous, migrant, and working women, ensuring that participation extends beyond urban and university-based women.

Perspectives from the Forum) Discussions highlighted different ways international organizations can complement national and local action. In the Asia-Pacific session, participants placed particular emphasis on practical support for grassroots peacebuilding, including flexible funding for women's organizations, grassroots peace education, safe participation mechanisms, and community-based spaces such as peace libraries and peace hubs. In the Americas session, discussions emphasized ensuring that diverse women—including rural, Indigenous, Afro-descendant, migrant, working women, and women with disabilities—are included in peace dialogues and broader peacebuilding efforts. In the South Asia and the Middle East session, participants highlighted capacity-building and community-level support, including leadership and civic education for women and community-based mechanisms providing legal guidance, safe reporting, and mediation.

3. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

3.1. Grassroots Peacebuilding and Women's Rights Advocacy

- 3.1.1. **CSOs** should make peace and women's rights tangible in everyday community life through grassroots action, including awareness-raising, volunteer activities, and community-based projects.
- 3.1.2. **CSOs** should strengthen women's awareness of their rights and their capacity to advocate for them peacefully, supporting their participation in leadership, security, and decision-making.

Practice from the Forum | Caravana DD Mulher, Brazil

Bringing women's rights and support into communities

Caravana DD Mulher, an initiative of Brazilian civil society organization Instituto MovRio in partnership with SESI Cidadania, brings information, support, and services directly into vulnerable communities. Through community outreach, the initiative raises awareness of women's rights and available protection mechanisms, strengthens local support networks, and encourages women to seek help before violence escalates.

3.2. Safe Spaces, Support and Healing for Women

- 3.2.1. **CSOs** should create and sustain safe spaces for women affected by domestic violence, including shelters, venues, and support platforms where survivors can share their experiences and receive support.

Practice from the Forum | The Window of Women

Creating space for survivors' voices

A participant from the Asia-Pacific session shared the Window of Women, a magazine created as a platform for women affected by domestic violence to share their experiences and receive support. The initiative illustrates how accessible, community-based platforms can provide women with space to speak about violence, connect with others, and support processes of healing.

3.3.Arts-Based Healing and Recovery in Conflict-Affected Settings

- 3.3.1.CSOs should support creative and arts-based programs that help children and families affected by conflict heal, express themselves, and imagine a more peaceful future.

Practice from the Forum | Kherson Art School, Ukraine

Arts-based recovery in conflict and displacement

Following displacement caused by the war in Ukraine, Kherson Art School continued its activities online, connecting with Ukrainian children dispersed across different locations. Through drawing and creative activities, the initiative provided children with opportunities for expression and helped them imagine a more peaceful future. Participants highlighted the approach as a model that could be adapted for other conflict-affected and displaced communities.

3.4.Grassroots Peace Education and Youth Engagement

- 3.4.1.CSOs should develop and support grassroots peace education initiatives, including programs that engage young people and equip them to become future peace leaders.

Perspectives from the Forum) Across the Forum, discussions highlighted the role of civil society in translating peacebuilding principles into practical action in communities. In the Asia-Pacific session, participants highlighted practical community-based responses to violence and grassroots peace education, including shelters and support platforms for survivors, as well as peace education programs that engage young people as future peace leaders.

In the Africa and Europe session, participants emphasized grassroots outreach, women's rights awareness, and arts-based healing and recovery, including volunteer projects and creative initiatives for children and families affected by conflict. In the Americas session, discussions placed particular emphasis on safe and creative spaces for women's voices and emotional healing, including circles, art spaces, storytelling forums, and healing workshops.

4.Educational Institutions

4.1.Peace Education and Youth Development

- 4.1.1.**Educational institutions** should provide practical peace education for children and young people, including programs on peaceful conflict resolution and nonviolent communication, activities such as peace art competitions, and opportunities to train women as peace educators.

Practice from the Forum | IWPG–UJAT Model, Mexico

Integrating peace education into university life

The IWPG–UJAT Model at Universidad Juárez Autónoma de Tabasco demonstrates how peace education can be integrated into university life through institutional partnership. Working through the IWPG–UJAT Peace Committee, the university has implemented women’s peace education and peace instructor training, while developing student change agents equipped with mediation skills and a philosophy of peace. Peacebuilding has also been extended beyond formal training through campus-based cultural, educational, and social activities that encourage dialogue, peaceful coexistence, and student engagement.

4.2.Safe and Participatory Spaces for Peace and Women’s Voices

- 4.2.1.**Educational institutions** should create and support safe and participatory spaces for peace dialogue and women’s voices, including peace libraries and peace hubs, as well as circles, art spaces, and storytelling forums where women can share their experiences and be heard.

4.3.Partnerships between Educational Institutions and Communities

- 4.3.1.**Educational institutions** should strengthen partnerships with local communities to support community-level peacebuilding and collaborative research.

5.Community and Local Leaders

5.1.Community-Based Violence Prevention and Social Norm Change

- 5.1.1.**Community and local leaders** should help prevent violence and challenge harmful social norms within families and communities by promoting conflict-resolution skills, emotional expression, and nonviolent communication.

Practice from the Forum | WHISE, Australia

Community-based prevention of gender-based violence

Participants in the Asia-Pacific session highlighted Women’s Health in the South East (WHISE) in Australia and its 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence as an example of community-based prevention. The initiative uses community engagement, education, storytelling, and awareness activities to encourage conversations around respect, equality, and

the prevention of violence. Participants noted that similar approaches should be adapted to local cultural contexts and involve community leaders, organizations, and women with lived experience.

5.2. Women's Participation and Leadership in Community Decision-Making

5.2.1. **Community and local leaders** should actively support women's participation and leadership in community decision-making, including in local peace forums, disaster resilience planning, and climate action, and support women in advocating for their rights in local leadership and decision-making processes.

Practice from the Forum | Women's Community Protection Committees, Jordan

Women-led community protection and participation

In conflict-affected communities in Jordan, local women formed Women's Community Protection Committees to provide safe reporting channels, legal guidance, and community mediation in cases involving gender-based violence and rights violations. The committees also organize civic education workshops aimed at increasing women's participation in community decision-making.

Perspectives from the Forum) Across the Forum, discussions highlighted the roles of community and local leaders in shaping relationships, social norms, and participation at the local level. In the Asia-Pacific session, discussions highlighted the role of community leadership in supporting women's participation in local decision-making, including in local peace forums, disaster resilience planning, and climate action. In the Africa and Europe session, participants emphasized community engagement in raising awareness of women's rights and peace and supporting women to advocate for their rights and participate in leadership and decision-making. In the Americas session, participants emphasized community-level approaches to violence prevention and social norm change, including conflict-resolution skills, emotional expression, and nonviolent communication within families and communities.

Chapter 2. Contextual Insight

Perspectives from Conflict-Affected Settings

While the preceding recommendations are derived primarily from the outcomes of the Forum's small-group discussions, this section provides an additional contextual analysis by examining those discussions alongside speaker presentations addressing conflict-affected settings. This combined analysis revealed a distinct pattern in how the impacts of conflict on women and communities were understood. Participants and speakers highlighted how threats to women's safety were closely intertwined with displacement, trauma and psychosocial needs, economic insecurity, weakened social cohesion and trust, and barriers to participation. Their contributions underscored that recovery cannot be approached through protection and assistance alone, but requires interconnected efforts to rebuild communities, restore trust, address the legacies of conflict, and enable women to participate meaningfully in reconciliation, decision-making, and peacebuilding.

1.Integrated and Community-Based Recovery

- 1.1.Peacebuilding and recovery efforts in conflict-affected settings should adopt integrated, community-based approaches that address protection, psychosocial recovery, essential services, and economic recovery as interconnected needs, including trauma support, health care, livelihood restoration, and education and employment opportunities for women and families affected by conflict and displacement.

2.Women's Meaningful Participation in Peace, Reconciliation, and Recovery

- 2.1.Women affected by conflict should participate as decision-makers throughout peace negotiations, reconciliation, transitional justice, and recovery processes, including through formal representation in peace and mediation bodies, local dialogue mechanisms, and institutions responsible for truth, reconciliation, and post-conflict recovery.

3.Community Trust-Building and Social Cohesion

- 3.1.Peacebuilding in conflict-affected settings should invest in rebuilding trust and social relationships at the community level, including through women-led dialogue and mediation, local women's dialogue circles, initiatives to counter hate speech and polarization, youth and volunteer programs, exchanges between conflict-affected communities, and locally led activities that foster cooperation and peaceful coexistence.

4.Truth, Transitional Justice, and Reconciliation

- 4.1.Post-conflict peacebuilding should extend beyond the cessation of violence to address violations, rebuild trust, and support long-term social recovery, including safe spaces for survivors' testimony, gender-responsive truth and reconciliation mechanisms, legal and

psychosocial support, reparations and rehabilitation, and recovery initiatives such as vocational training, women's cooperatives, microfinance, and joint economic projects across affected communities.

Proposed Approach from the Forum | Feminist Roadmap for National Reconciliation, Yemen

Connecting trust, justice, participation, and recovery

A feminist roadmap presented from Yemen proposed a comprehensive approach to national reconciliation that connects trust-building, truth and acknowledgment, transitional justice, women's equal political participation, and community recovery. Proposed mechanisms included a national network of women peace ambassadors trained in dialogue and mediation, local women's dialogue circles, safe spaces for survivors to share their experiences, women's representation in truth and reconciliation bodies, legal and psychosocial support for survivors, and economic recovery initiatives for women and conflict-affected communities.

Trust-Building → Truth & Acknowledgment → Transitional Justice → Women's Equal Political Participation → Recovery & Rebuilding the Social Fabric

CONCLUSION

The Forum discussions demonstrated that sustainable peace requires coordinated action across multiple levels and sectors. While participants reflected diverse regional realities and priorities, common themes emerged around the meaningful participation and leadership of women, the prevention of violence, peace and preventive education, recovery and social support, and the importance of community-based approaches to peacebuilding. These discussions reinforced the understanding that sustainable peace cannot be advanced through isolated interventions, but requires attention to the interconnected social, institutional, and community conditions that shape women's ability to participate in and contribute to peace. Governments, international organizations, civil society organizations, educational institutions, and community and local leaders each have distinct but complementary roles in this process. The recommendations presented in this report therefore reflect not a single area of responsibility, but a shared framework in which policy, institutional support, education, community engagement, protection, and recovery can reinforce one another. Strengthening coordination across these actors can help connect women's experiences and priorities at the community level with broader policy and institutional processes.

Across the discussions, participants also highlighted considerations relevant to how these recommendations are implemented in different contexts. Meaningful participation requires attention to women who face additional barriers to inclusion, including women affected by conflict, displacement, violence, disability, geographic isolation, and other forms of social or economic marginalization. At the same time, approaches to peacebuilding should be adapted to local social, cultural, and institutional realities. Experiences shared across regions demonstrated the value of learning across countries and communities, while also underscoring that practices should not simply be replicated, but adapted with the involvement of local actors and women with lived experience. Beyond the individual recommendations presented in this report, the Forum demonstrated the value of bringing together women's experiences and perspectives from diverse geographic, social, professional, and institutional contexts. Considering these perspectives collectively made it possible to identify concerns and priorities shared across different settings while recognizing the distinct realities that shape experiences of peace and insecurity within particular communities. In this sense, the Forum also illustrated how women's experiences at community, professional, and institutional levels can inform broader understanding and discussion of sustainable peace.

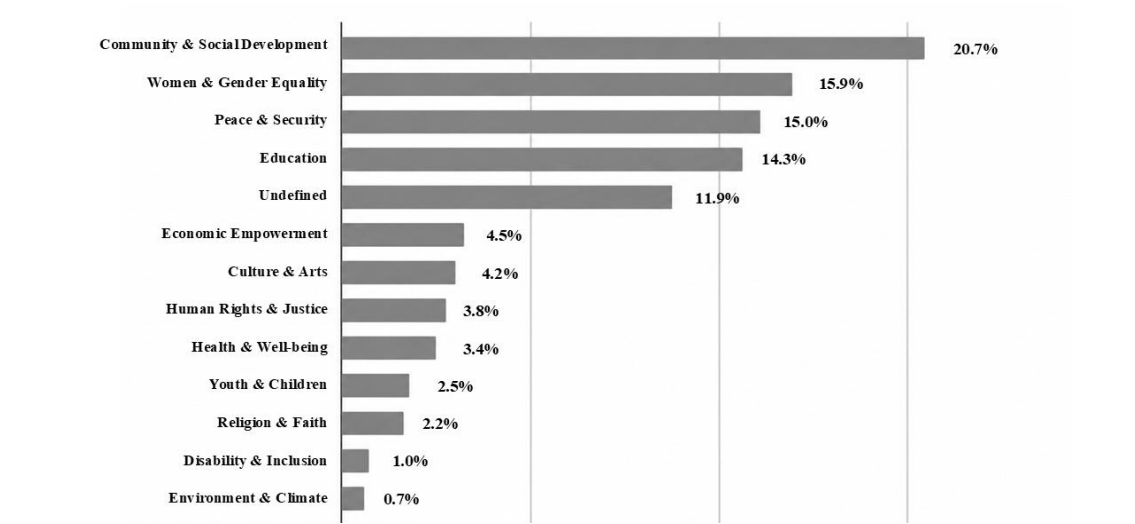
The recommendations in this report are therefore not intended to prescribe a single model for sustainable peace. Rather, they provide a shared point of reference grounded in the diverse experiences, practices, and perspectives expressed throughout the Forum. Building on these insights, they can serve as a foundation for further policy dialogue, institutional cooperation, and locally adapted action, while helping to connect women's experiences and priorities with decision-making processes at national, regional, and international levels. Through continued engagement among relevant stakeholders, it is hoped that these recommendations will contribute to the development of more inclusive, responsive, and sustainable approaches to peace and to broader efforts to advance women's meaningful participation and leadership in peacebuilding.

APPENDIX

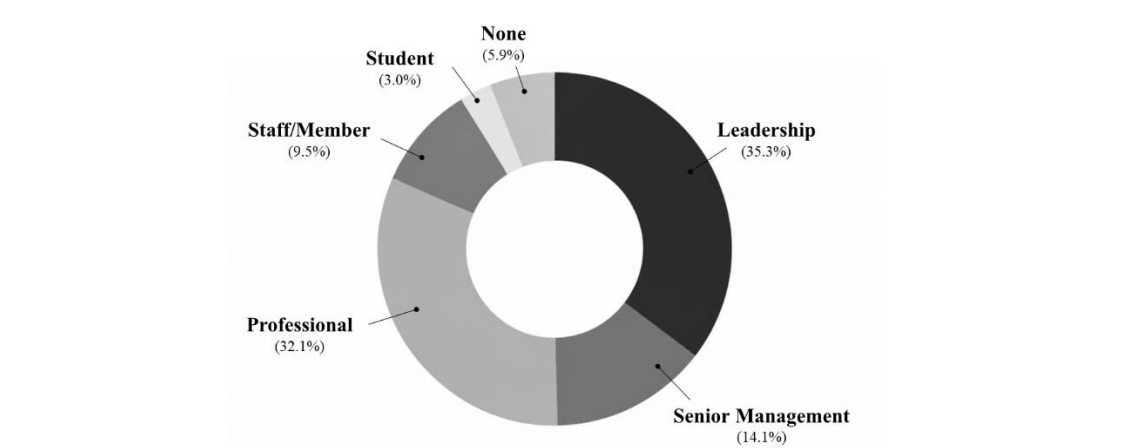
Countries of Registered Participants

Afghanistan	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Jordan	Myanmar	Timor-Leste
Australia	Ecuador	Kazakhstan	Nigeria	Ukraine
Bangladesh	France	Kenya	Pakistan	United States
Bolivia	Germany	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Philippines	Venezuela
Burkina Faso	Guatemala	Liberia	Sierra Leone	Yemen
Burundi	Honduras	Madagascar	South Africa	Zambia
Cameroon	India	Malaysia	South Korea	
Canada	Indonesia	Mexico	Sri Lanka	
Colombia	Iraq	Mongolia	Sudan	
Czech Republic	Japan	Morocco	Tanzania	

Fields of Engagement of Registered Participants



Position Categories of Registered Participants





IWPG

International Women's Peace Group (IWPG) is an international NGO in Special Consultative Status with the UN ECOSOC and registered in the UN DGC. We empower women to grow not merely as beneficiaries of peace, but as key players leading the future of peace. United with women worldwide, we carry out integrated peace initiatives that awaken women's consciousness and establish it as a peaceful culture in daily life and as sustainable institutions. IWPG designs a structure where everyday peace expands to the community, the nation, and the world, creating sustainable change for future generations.

As the convening organization, IWPG continues to foster dialogue around the findings and recommendations of the Forum and to create opportunities for engagement among relevant stakeholders. It seeks to connect the perspectives shared through the Forum with broader national, regional, and international discussions on women's participation and sustainable peace. Through these efforts, IWPG aims to contribute to continued exchange, cooperation, and practical action toward more inclusive and locally grounded approaches to peace.

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