



International Council of Women

Conseil International des Femmes

Paris, September 6th, 2025

ICW Statement to mark the International Day of Peace 21 September 2025

The International Council of Women – ICW-CIF, a Non-Governmental Organization in consultative status with ECOSOC, has worked diligently to advance equal rights for women since its inception in 1888, holding steadfast in its commitment to strive towards reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. ICW-CIF firmly supports the efforts of the UN and of the International Community, to ensure that all human beings, including women and girls, will be able to reach their full potential in dignity and peace.

On this International Day of Peace, the International Council of Women stands united with the global community in echoing the United Nations call to “Act Now for a Peaceful World.”

More than ever, today, the quest for peace is unparalleled. According to UN Secretary-General’s reports and UN affiliated special agencies reports (UNFPA, UNHCR, UNWOMEN), over 600 million women and girls live in conflict-affected areas, and women accounted for 40% of war fatalities in 2023, double the share from previous years. By the end of 2024, more than 123 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide, half are women and girls. These few statistics, demonstrating the dire condition of women in different parts of the globe, must be a “wake-up” appeal to all of us.

The International Day of Peace invites us to get back to universal values such as compassion and empathy, respect and dialogue, values that should be nurtured in our minds. Yet, unfortunately, conflicts, displacements, hate and violence, in addition to climate crises, continue to escalate, but peace can be built every day through small relevant actions from local community programs to global policy change.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN (ICW-CIF)

Founded in 1888

NGO with General Consultative Status at ECOSOC (United Nations)

RNA: W759000085 - SIRET 784 412 660 00010

Registered Office: 13 rue Caumartin - 75009 Paris - France

Email: president@icw-cif.com - Website: www.icw-cif.com

This year the focus is on how the Sustainable Development Goals – the SDGs – provide a path to lasting peace. Peace is inseparable from development. Without peace there cannot be lasting development, and without development, peace remains fragile. The SDGs provide a roadmap that links these two aspirations. By advancing the SDGs, we lay the groundwork for societies built on dignity, justice and equality.

However, at the heart of this connection there are two urgent priorities: **poverty alleviation and gender equality**. Poverty is not only a denial of human rights but also a root cause of conflicts and instability. Likewise, gender equality is not only a moral imperative – it is a cornerstone of peace. When women have equal access to education, healthcare, economic resources and leadership roles, communities are more resilient, negotiations are more inclusive, and peace is more sustainable. The power of women to drive change, shifts when women are not just in the room, but shaping the agenda, making sure to center our voices not as tokens, but as **partners**.

The International Council of Women strongly believes that by working together towards the achievement of the SDGs, we could more closely eliminate conflict, reduce inequality and create a more just and secure future for all.

On this International Day of Peace, ICW-CIF calls on governments, civil society and individuals to:

- **Amplify women's voices in peacebuilding**
- **Invest in poverty alleviation** as a foundation for stability and human dignity
- **Prioritize gender equality** by ensuring that women are equally represented at negotiating tables and are at the heart of peacebuilding and decision-making
- **Advance the SDGs** as a collective framework that unites peace, development, and human rights
- **Act with urgency** to end conflicts and prevent violence

The task before us is clear. Peace will not come by chance – it must be built through education, determination, and commitment. Let us act now together, to ensure that peace and sustainable development become the legacy we pass on to future generations.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN (ICW-CIF)

Founded in 1888

NGO with General Consultative Status at ECOSOC (United Nations)

RNA: W759000085 - SIRET 784 412 660 00010

Registered Office: 13 rue Caumartin - 75009 Paris - France

Email: president@icw-cif.com - Website: www.icw-cif.com