

# NURTURING PEACE: THE GIFTS OF WOMEN

## LUTHERAN PEACE FELLOWSHIP (LPF) ACTION GUIDE

**Nurturing peace is more than a dream.** It is a life-enhancing tapestry in progress, being woven by women and men to build a just and peaceful world. This guide highlights the role of women and efforts to protect and empower them. Yet as we are an interrelated world, you will see connections involving girls, boys, and men as well.

**Our hope is to encourage the gifts you bring toward creating a world of peace.** If you are new to this work, may you find your niche for action. It can be very rewarding to take a first step and then follow a thread to the next one. If you have experience as a peacemaker, may our listing be useful to you for inviting others to contribute. **We are stronger when we work together and support one another.** Let us pray, gather, and act -- weaving our strengths together to nurture peace!

### WHAT IS PEACEMAKING?

1. **Explore** "What is Christian Peacemaking?" for biblical and spiritual grounding ([2 pages](#); an [8 pg version](#) includes handouts for 5 small groups and a closing litany, both ready to copy, as well as a step-by-step leader's guide). For practical tips on nonviolent communication, see "[Conflict Education](#)." A brief collection of [statistics on violence](#) outlines its many dimensions and hence the need for peacemaking at various levels.
2. **Envision** with a popular book such as *If Women Ruled the World: How to Create the World We Want to Live In*, edited by Sheila Ellison.
3. **See** "[Peace Making, Peace Keeping and Peace Building](#)." Animated short video (4:51 min) conversation between a baby reindeer and a giraffe defines these three areas of peace work.
4. **Consider** peace as physical security (i.e. low domestic and public violence); the possibility to live a good life (literacy, schooling, economic and political participation); and plurality of lifestyles and roles (no discrimination of minorities). Peace is a lot more than just the absence of war! (For more on the breadth of peacemaking, see: Sarah Clasen's "Gendered Peace Index," cited by Cilja Harders in "[Gender Relations, Violence and Conflict Transformation](#)," [Berghof Handbook for Conflict Transformation](#).)

### WHAT IS THE UNIQUE ROLE OF WOMEN IN PEACEMAKING?

Women peace activists often see a connection between violence in the world and violence against women. Violence affects women whether through battering at home, economic inequality, unjust treatment in society, or war in cultural or military realms.

A "gendered approach" to peacemaking with core participation of women can uniquely address many of the root causes of injustice and violent conflict in their many dimensions. So while we might initially equate violence with direct physical attacks, there are many areas of life in which prevention of violence and/or transformation of conflict are needed in order for peace to prevail. Conflict is inevitable, and can even be useful, but violent conflict should be prevented or avoided.

### QUOTABLE QUOTES

"It is our birthright to live our lives, utilizing our fullest potential, brightest dreams, and most amazing creativity for the healing of our world and the creation of a just and peaceful future."

**Pam McAllister**,  
author, activist

"Being a peacemaker involves at least two things: a commitment to peaceable responses to otherwise volatile situations and a commitment to working for peace proactively."

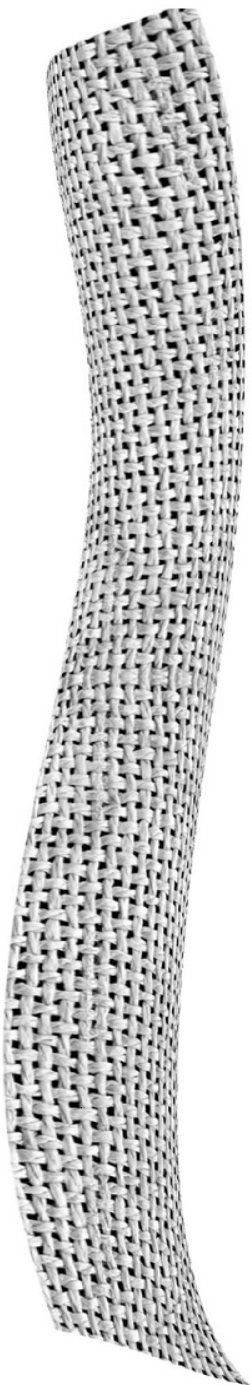
**Paul N. Anderson**,  
Quaker Bible professor

"God has a special purpose in mind for each of us – and the only way we can fulfill it is by *doing*."

**Helen LaKelly Hunt**, author

"Conflict transformation aims to address the social root causes of collective violence by creating human security, catering to basic human needs and supporting justice and reconciliation."

**Cordula Reimann**, conflict transformation educator



## ARE YOU A PEACEMAKER?



If you were asked to "raise your hand if you are a peacemaker," would you do so? If you have ever been a parent ... or teacher ... or have dealt with conflict nonviolently in a school, workplace, or public space, then you have acted in the role of a peacemaker. If you've made efforts for a longer term result, you have acted as a peace-builder. Whether serve in these roles or officially representing a group that fosters peace, we are all needed! History has shown that women have uniquely acted to mend and reweave the shredded fabric of societies. (LPF's [Women's Path of Hope](#) offers a timeline of women's contributions to peace with justice from biblical times to the present.)

This guide offers you a sampling of peace work enabled by the gifts of women. May we all be encouraged in realizing how many individuals and groups are at work already! What issues or groups attract you the most? Your answer to this question might suggest how the Holy Spirit is calling you to become involved.

## BE A WEAVER OF PEACE

There are ways that fit each of our personalities and gifts

**Fabric Creators** are needed to serve as idea scouts, thought leaders, and information enablers. Your strengths in reflection, one-on-one conversation and education create the foundation needed for action.

1. Keep a journal of peace prayers, learnings, conflict resolution strategies, and action steps to follow up.
2. Explore issues and groups. Share [LPF Women's Resources](#) with your pastor and other leaders (e.g. education/social ministry committee/women's/men's groups).
3. Find and share [training in nonviolent communication](#) or a positive parenting program e.g. [Hand-in-Hand Parenting](#). Help a pastor or group leader to discern and carry out a community project to foster building peace with one another.
4. Email friends, post on facebook your favorite peace links, stories, [peace quotes](#) and resources. Share your enthusiasm via your church newsletter, temple talk, or blog.
5. Support a local, regional, or global peace project that opposes violence against women and/or helps survivors rebuild their lives.
6. Assist in advocating for laws that defend the vulnerable, strengthen justice, and sustain peaceful communities.

**Community Weavers** are those who serve as organizers, group facilitators, nonviolence advocates. Your strengths in group leadership and networking put people in touch, weave a group together and keep it on track.

1. Use LPF materials such as how to [Lead a peace forum or workshop](#). Invite church members to a Bible study or discussion on Christian peacemaking.
2. Organize a video screening to create awareness. See LPF's [Women's Video Gallery](#) for ideas.
3. Lead a group in finding a peace issue to be involved in. Contribute to or help create a congregational peace and justice group.
4. Organize an action event or fundraiser for a local, regional, or global peace project in your church or community.
5. Advocate for laws, leadership training, structural change, etc. that will increase safety and empowerment for women, girls, and communities in need.
6. Organize a "Peacemakers Day." Select a theme; use LPF materials such as the [Women's Path of Hope](#); set aside time for learning/sharing; celebrate women as peacemakers in your church or community ... see what next steps follow.

## FAITH AND PROTECTION OF WOMEN

[Anglicans and the 16 Days](#) – 20-page resource on the 16 global days of activism against gender violence.

"[Faith Community Must Shout for an End to Sexual Violence](#)" by Denis Mukwege – A call to action by a Congolese doctor who specializes in treatment of sexual and gender-based violence victims.

[FaithTrust Institute](#) – To end sexual and domestic violence. Webinars, resources in various languages, Muslim and Jewish components, national declaration by religious/spiritual leaders.

[We Will Speak Out](#) – Christian-based NGOs, churches and organizations. Leaders guide, links for churches, busy pastors, helping rural victims, and more.

LPF also offers an entire action guide devoted to the subject of "[Stopping Violence Against Women and Girls](#)."

## WOMEN OF FAITH IN ACTION

International outreach by Lutheran women for justice, empowerment, advocacy and theology may be found at the [Lutheran World Federation's](#) website. In the United States, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has a [Justice for Women program](#), including a [Task Force](#) leading a process to create a Social Statement. A [social message on gender-based violence](#) is also underway. And [Women of the ELCA](#) has lifted up solidarity via a [Resolution](#) to help [bring peace and hope to Liberia](#).

### Examples from other denominations include

*Faith and Feminism: A Holy Alliance* by Helen LaKelly Hunt – About "five spirited and spiritual women of history."

[Faith in Feminism](#) – Interfaith conversations on religion and gender equality.

"[Finding Hope: Reweaving – Then and Now](#)" by Pam McAllister – "On the Issues," Summer 2011.

Healers of our Time: Women, Faith, and Justice, Mapping Report – Modern day Christian, Muslim and Jewish women whose spiritual values have directly impacted their work for justice. [Executive summary](#), 16 pages. [Full report](#), 92 pages.

[WATER](#), Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual: feminist religious values for social and religious change.

## A WORLD OF PEACEMAKING/BUILDING

[Accord Insight: Women Building Peace](#) – First-hand experiences from nine areas of Asia, Africa, Europe, Oceania.

"Forging Connections with Moms Around the World" – International Partners in Mission ([IPM](#)) e-connections archive, May 2013.

[Madre](#) – Building human rights for women worldwide; addressing urgent needs and building lasting solutions to crisis.

[No Ceilings Full Participation Project](#), Clinton Foundation – Goal: to accelerate progress for women and girls.

[One Billion Rising](#) – A global campaign in 200+ countries to end violence against women, rise for justice and promote gender equality.

UN Convention for the Elimination of Violence Against Women ([CEDAW](#)) . . . UN [Say NO—UNITE](#) to End Violence Against Women Campaign . . . UN Women Watch: [Gender Training Tools](#).

[Women for Women International](#) -- Helping women survivors of war rebuild their lives. Walkathons, sponsorships, cookbook and more.

[Women's International League for Peace and Freedom](#) -- "16 Days" mobile app, toolkits and more on monitoring, creating and maintaining global security.

[World Day of Prayer and Action for Children](#) – Religious and secular partnering to improve lives via positive parenting, birth registration, and preventing child marriage.

## HEALING+ADVOCACY IN GLOBAL REGIONS

### (In Africa)

"[Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace](#)" by Lucie Gil.

[A Thousand Sisters](#) – Advocacy for Congolese women, and [Sister Somalia](#) – Rape crisis center.

(In Asia) [Courts of Women](#) – Public hearings for women's testimonies of survival and resistance (India).

### (In Central America)

"[Women's Issues in Central America](#)" by Brodersen-Heins. Updated news on Las Dignas (Women's Association for Dignity and Life) in [Spanish](#) and in [English](#).

## **FOLLOW THE THREAD: MORE ISSUES AND GROUPS TO EXPLORE**

### **PHYSICAL/EMOTIONAL SECURITY**

#### **...at home**

"[Domestic Violence: A Hidden Cause of Chronic Illness](#)" by Alexis Jetter in *More* magazine.

[HotPeachPages](#) – International Directory of Domestic Violence Agencies. Abuse Info in over 110 languages.

[Verizon Wireless Hopeline](#) – Collecting donated phones and accessories to help domestic violence victims.

#### **...in public**

[Band Back Together](#) against date/acquaintance rape.

[The Clothesline Project](#) – Honoring victims and healing survivors with T-shirt creation and testimony.

[Moms Demand Action](#) for Gun Sense in America.

#### **...on campus**

"[Big Shame on Campus](#)" by Kayla Webley from *Marie Claire* magazine on rape cover-ups.

[End Rape on Campus](#) -- Free, direct support to campus activists filing federal Title IX and/or Clery Act complaints.

[Safer Campus](#) – Holding universities accountable for anti-assault policies and programming.

#### **...against bullying**

ELCA "[Bullying](#)" – Tips for young people and congregations.

[Pacific Violence Prevention Institute](#) – Including "Talking to Your Child About Being an Ally."

[Reconciling Works](#) – "Where All Can Safely Live" curriculum and "Where Hands Will Reach," companion resource of ELCA devotions and stories.

[Safe4Athletes](#) – Confronting abuse by sport coaches.

#### **...preventing violence**

[Demand Abolition](#) – Abolishing the illegal commercial sex industry by eradicating the demand for purchased sex.

[Futures Without Violence](#) – Coalition leader to pass the International Violence Against Women Act.

[National Network to End Violence Against Immigrant Women](#) – Technical assistance/training for attorneys, advocates and professionals.

### **LIVING A GOOD LIFE**

#### **Arts, Environment**

[Peace+Art Asefuan](#) – A 29-image slide presentation on how to do strategic arts-based peacemaking.

[Raging Grannies](#) – Madison WI branch of the global movement of women singing out for peace, economic and social justice, and the environment. Lyrics provided for more than 110 songs set to popular tunes.

"[Women Lead the Way](#) in Sustainable and Organic Agriculture" by Eleanor J. Bader.

#### **Economy**

[The Shriver Report](#) -- Includes "Take Action Tuesday" feature and new e-book report "A Woman's Nation Pushes Back from the Brink," about 1/3 of U.S. women on the brink of poverty.

#### **Funding and Philanthropy**

[Ms Foundation for Women](#)

[United Nations Trust Fund](#) to End Violence Against Women.

[Women of the ELCA Grants](#)

[Womens Funding Network](#)

#### **Girls' Empowerment**

"[10 Ways Malala Yousafzai Has Changed the World](#)" by Chelsea Dias on the Pakistani girl shot by the Taliban for championing access to education.

Amazing Women Rock – "AAA Hot List of 50+ Cool [Organisations to Empower Girls](#)."

[Girl Effect](#) – Toolkit and insights report show how to give girls in poverty a voice.

Girls for Gender Equity – "[Hey Shorty](#)" book/DVD to combat school/street sexual harassment/violence.

Girls Inc. – Inspiring all girls to be strong, smart and bold.

#### **Women's Empowerment**

[Asian American Women: Issues, Concerns, and Responsive Human and Civil Rights Advocacy](#) by Lora Jo Foo – a Ford Foundation-commissioned report.

[Feminist Majority Foundation](#) – Advancing feminism: the policy, practice or advocacy of political, economic, and social equality for women.

[Moms Rising](#) – "Where moms and people who love them go to change the world."

[Mujeres Unidas y Activas](#) – Latina immigrants in the Bay Area, Calif. with peer support, a Spanish sexual assault crisis line, workers association and community campaigns.

### **PLURALITY OF LIFESTYLES AND ROLES**

#### **Dialogue**

[Compassionate Listening Project](#).

[Mediation Ireland](#) – Gender conversation circles and Genderpeace conference report, for a gender-conscious approach to peacemaking.

[Move to End Violence](#) – Movement Conversations and a Movement Makers training program.

[peaceCENTER](#), San Antonio TX – peace tools for educators, including "Working it Out: Managing and Mediating Everyday Conflicts," suitable for all ages.

[Reconciling Works](#) – Lutherans for full participation.

#### **Men as Allies**

[A Call to Men](#) – To create a world where all men and boys are loving and respectful and all women and girls are valued and safe.

[Defenders USA](#) – Men anti-trafficking.

[Engaging Men](#) – Extensive library on gender justice and involving men in preventing violence; and [Men Care](#) – Global fatherhood campaign.

[Mentors in Violence Prevention](#) – Education and training to counter gender/school violence/bullying.

### **MILITARISM**

[16 Days Campaign](#) – from Rutgers University, Nov. 25 to Dec. 10 annually, to end gender violence.

[Code Pink](#) – Works to end U.S. wars, oppose global militarism, and bring the dollars home.

[Women in Black](#) – Holds silent vigils to oppose war, militarism, and violence.

IFOR International Fellowship of Reconciliation – [Women Peacemakers Program](#) action pack for the International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament.

### **MORE LPF WOMEN'S RESOURCES:**

[Inspiration from Women](#) -- Quotes, litanies.

[Stopping Violence Against Women and Girls](#) – With "To Weavers Everywhere" poem.

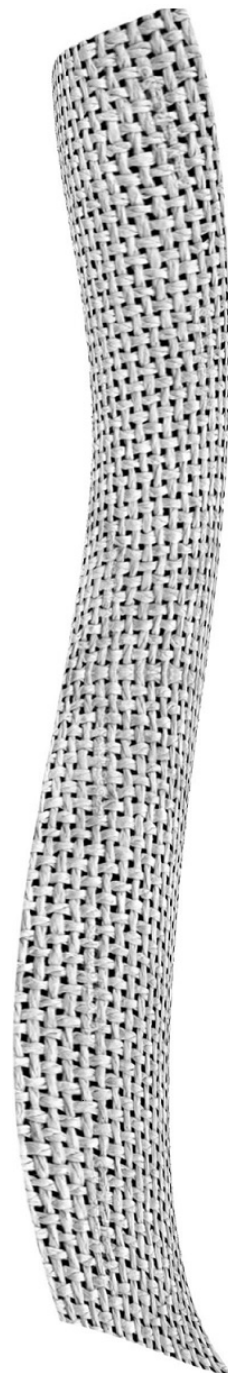
[Women's Path of Hope](#) – Timeline of women's peace and justice actions.

[Women's Peace Video Gallery](#)

### **ABOUT OUR WOVEN PATH**

The "woven path" design of the LPF Women's Initiative symbolizes the often **curvy road** we travel in peacemaking. Though the path may be unfamiliar, we can find beauty in the motion.

The **texture** suggests how our efforts are interconnected/interwoven with those of other peaceweavers. And the **rolling quality** of the weave symbolizes our commitment to keep "rolling along" for the sake of peace and justice!



**Lutheran Peace Fellowship (LPF)** is a nationwide community responding to the gospel call for us to be peacemakers and justice-seekers.  
*Core issue areas:* Christian peacemaking and nonviolence, war and militarism, family and community violence, and justice issues such as hunger and inequality.

Your peacemaking efforts and donations enable our work: support for peace education and advocacy, resources for forums and groups; blogposts; advocacy updates; computer-based activities; and more.

We welcome your comments, suggestions, and activity reports.

**Join with us** as we walk together! <http://www.lutheranpeace.org>  
LPF, 1710 Eleventh Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122 [lpf@ecunet.org](mailto:lpf@ecunet.org) or (206) 349-2501

This Nurturing Peace Guide was compiled by Lily R. Wu with thanks to all who offered ideas and to Alan Forsberg for the woven path design.

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