

Annual Report

20
25



“There is no
way to peace.
Peace is the way.”

Mahatma Gandhi

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Message from Executive Director



Behind every page of this report are women whose lives have been shaped by conflict, division, and inequality yet who have chosen a different path. A path of courage, of healing, and of leading change where it is needed most.

Through Women Creators of Peace, we have witnessed something deeply powerful: when women are given safe spaces, trusted voices, and the opportunity to reflect within, they become catalysts of transformation far beyond themselves. They rebuild trust where it has been broken, restore dignity where it has been denied, and nurture hope in communities where it has long been absent.

This work is not easy, nor is it immediate. Peacebuilding at the grassroots is often quiet, personal, and unseen. Yet its impact is profound and lasting. It is found in reconciled relationships, in communities choosing dialogue over division, and in the steady emergence of leaders rooted in integrity and compassion.

At Initiatives of Change Indonesia, we believe that sustainable peace begins within individuals and grows through relationships. The women in this program embody that belief with extraordinary strength and humility.

We are deeply grateful to our partners and supporters who make this journey possible. Your trust and commitment enable these women not only to heal, but to lead—to become creators of peace in their families, their communities, and their nations.

This report is both a reflection of what has been achieved and an invitation to continue this shared journey. Together, we can ensure that the voices and leadership of women remain at the heart of building a more just, inclusive, and peaceful world.

Miftahul Huda
lofC Indonesia Executive Director

Message from CoP Coordinator



With deep gratitude, we present the Creators of Peace (CoP) 2025 report. This year has been a meaningful journey, where every step, encounter, and process has brought us closer to the values of peace that we strive to live out together.

Through initiatives such as CoP for the Young Generation, we have sought to create spaces for young people to explore, experience, and practice the values of peace in their daily lives. Meanwhile, the Mindful Staycation programs in Bandung and Yogyakarta offered moments of reflection nurturing inner calm, self-awareness, and deeper connections with oneself and others.

The Peace Café has also served as a warm and inclusive platform for dialogue, where stories, experiences, and hopes for peace can be shared authentically.

At the same time, the CoPEX Preparation process has been a significant step in preparing individuals to further contribute to the peace movement, both locally and globally.

We recognize that this journey has not been without challenges. Yet, through collaboration, sincerity, and shared commitment, we continue to learn that peace is not merely a destination, but a daily practice.

Finally, we would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to everyone who has walked alongside us participants, facilitators, partners, and all who have supported this journey. We hope this report serves not only as a record of our activities, but also as an inspiration to continue nurturing peace, starting from within and extending to our communities.

**With hope,
Anisa
CoP Coordinator**

What We Do & Why It Matters



Women Creators of Peace (CoP), under Initiatives of Change (IofC) Indonesia, is part of a global movement that promotes peacebuilding and reconciliation through women's leadership. The program focuses on empowering women to become agents of peace within their communities by encouraging dialogue, mutual understanding, and collaboration. Women from diverse religious, cultural, and social backgrounds are invited to share their personal stories and experiences, reflect on inner peace, and explore ways to create positive change in their surroundings.

This initiative emphasizes :

- 1. Personal Transformation**
- 2. Dialogue and Reconciliation**
- 3. Leadership for Peacebuilding**

Program Coverage

5

Activities

- CoP for The Young Generation
- Mindful Staycation Bandung
- Mindful Staycation Yogyakarta
- Peace Cafe
- CoPEX Preparation

33

Beneficiaries

2 Male
31 Female

22

People Trained
to be Facilitators

In-kind contribution :
food, venue, free classes
(estimated monetary value)

IDR 3,555,100

(207.46 USD)



Learning Media



CoP Module



Photo Voice

Highlighted Activities

CoP for The Young Generation

CoP for the Young Generation is a personal development program designed for young people aged 20–28, focusing on nurturing the values of peace through reflection, dialogue, and practical application in daily life.

The program was conducted from May to June 2025 through five weekly sessions in Bandung, using a participatory approach to create a safe space for participants to develop self-awareness, build empathy, and strengthen peace-based leadership. Participants came from diverse backgrounds, including students, activists, educators, and homemakers. This diversity enriched each session, allowing participants to learn from one another's life journeys while sharing a common purpose—to become creators of peace within themselves and in their communities.







Circle of Peace Yogyakarta & Bandung

Women have a big role in building peace in society, yet also to destroy peace. The personal revenge, anger, and bitterness can escalate to the public arena. Therefore, Creators of Peace (CoP) and Trust building Program (TBP) Indonesia, hand-in-hand together, gave women's religious leaders and women's activists a safe space to share their personal stories. Through sharing each others stories, understanding how to listen, and their inner-strength to create a new story brought them to be ready to go back to themselves and gave safe space to their circle or community. Many participants shared feedback that they are ready to create a new story and see the past in other perspectives. Women's religious leaders and women's activists were selected because they have a big influence on their communities.







CoPEX Preparation

CoPEX Preparation was designed as a preparatory process for participants who will take part in the Creators of Peace Exchange Program (CoPEX). The program aimed to equip participants with a deeper understanding of the values, principles, and culture of Creators of Peace, while strengthening their readiness to engage in a cross-cultural peacebuilding experience.

CoPEX itself is a collaborative initiative between CoP Indonesia and CoP Australia. This marks our first experience working together in this capacity, making it a significant milestone in strengthening international partnership within the Creators of Peace network.

Through a series of reflective sessions and guided discussions, participants were encouraged to deepen their self-awareness, clarify their intentions, and build a sense of responsibility as peace ambassadors. This preparation also served as a space to foster connection among participants, creating a supportive community prior to their international engagement.

Looking ahead, CoPEX 2026 will be held in two cities in Indonesia; Bandung and Yogyakarta. We hope that this initial collaboration will serve as a best practice and foundation for future CoPEX programs. Overall, the program played a crucial role in ensuring that participants were not only logistically prepared, but also emotionally and spiritually grounded to fully embrace the CoPEX journey.



Peace Cafe

The Peace Café at the Chinese Indonesian Museum in Bandung was a collaborative initiative involving UIN Bandung, the Chinese Indonesian Museum Bandung, IofC Indonesia, Peace Generation, and Jakatarub. As part of IofC Indonesia's program, Creators of Peace (CoP) facilitated a session titled "What Destroys Peace and What Builds It."

The session brought together 11 students from UIN Bandung in an intimate dialogue setting. For many participants, this was their first experience engaging in a reflective conversation on peace, making it both meaningful and impactful. The space allowed them to share personal perspectives and experiences, deepening their understanding of peace from an individual perspective.



Impact Testimonials



Before joining, I often felt anger toward injustice, but I didn't know where to begin. After participating in Creators of Peace, I learned that peace is not about being perfect but rather about having the courage to show up, to listen, and to change, even gradually.

Ahso – CoP for The Young Generation Participant



Peace is something we actively create. It begins with one person choosing sincerity, courage, and compassion. It grows through small actions that reduce fear and build trust. It becomes a lasting legacy when women come together, supporting one another, and shaping a future grounded in dignity and understanding.

Cayes – CoP Yogyakarta Participant



“I was the youngest participant, and I worried I wouldn’t understand or fit in, but they made me feel that I belonged. I stopped trying to become what the world expects of me and started accepting every part of who I am. Peace grows when you truly listen to your own heart. I returned home feeling lighter, knowing I can create calm within myself and for others.

Joe – CoP Bandung Participant



When women truly listen to one another, that is where empowerment begins. Every woman’s story and experience matters. Creating safe spaces for these stories is part of restoring harmony in the world. Nurturing is not only about speaking, but also about listening with deep empathy.

Ninis – CoP Yogyakarta Committee

Most Significant Story of Change

Story of change from **Teresa Avilla Ayuning Budi Cayestu**



The Women Creators of Peace program took place in Yogyakarta from 29 to 31 October 2025 with a clear purpose, to strengthen women as agents of peace in their families, communities, and wider society. The gathering brought together women from diverse backgrounds who carried stories of strength, struggle, and transformation. Among them was Cayes, a young educator and community worker who often moved between many roles. As the eldest daughter, a teacher, an active church worker, and a volunteer in her neighborhood, she had learned to carry responsibility from a young age while quietly managing her own struggles. The program offered a safe space where she could pause, reflect, and grow with honesty. She joined Women Creators of Peace because she believed women carry both resilience and vulnerability, and she wanted to transform her own experiences into a force for understanding and peace.

The first moment had already lifted her spirit. She opened the door to her room and found a custom letter with a flower. That simple gesture reminded her that every woman grows like a flower when she is seen and valued. It set the tone for the days ahead. The opening session set a meaningful tone. Participants introduced themselves and shared their backgrounds. They came from diverse professions and life situations (A teacher, a researcher, a mother, a student, a woman rebuilding her life, a single woman), yet each carried a story shaped by resilience. The first reflective question invited them to explore their understanding of peace through art therapy using playdough. Every creation looked different. There is a house, sky, light, flowers etc. This simple activity revealed an important truth that peace does not look the same for each person. Peace is a process and not a state condition which is shaped by daily choices. Peace demands practice, courage, and clarity.

This session opened the group to deeper reflection on justice, freedom from fear, human dignity, and the responsibility to protect vulnerability. Through group discussions, the participants explored deeper dimensions of peace. They spoke about justice, safety, compassion, fear, and exclusion. They recognized that peace is not merely the absence of conflict but the presence of fairness and respect.

One of the meaningful highlights came from a simple activity, preparing meals together. Participants were divided into groups, went to the market, and cooked side by side regardless of age or background. Shared laughter, teamwork, and learning created an atmosphere of trust. It showed that peace can grow from everyday actions. It also echoed the spirit of the first founders of Creators of Peace, who began their journey by gathering women to cook together, listen to one another, and open new circles of connection.

The group entered the Circle of Concerns with focused attention. Each woman listed the burdens that weighed on her, starting from her home, extending to her community, and then to broader national issues. They spoke about family conflict, financial strain, children's wellbeing, workplace expectations, and worries about safety and stability.

As the circle deepened, they learned to separate problems they could influence from those beyond their control. They recognized that some concerns demanded action, while others required acceptance and wise boundaries. The activity exposed how personal struggles often mirror larger social patterns, showing that many challenges are shared rather than isolated. This insight helped them feel less alone and more capable of responding with clarity, responsibility, and resilience.

The group then analyzed what destroys peace and builds peace. Each woman chose a picture card that reflected her personal path. The cards acted as mirrors for their emotions and values. Cayes picked up the image of two girls dancing. The movement and energy in the picture reminded her that joy remains available even in challenging seasons. For her, the card became a commitment. She would guard her peace with a clearer mind, a calmer heart, and a stronger sense of responsibility for her own reactions. The other also talked about how harmful narratives spread quickly and influenced how people judge one another. They saw how unresolved tension creates broken relationships that slowly erode trust. They recognized how self-centered behavior blocks cooperation and keeps conflicts alive.

After identifying these patterns, they shifted their focus to actions that strengthen peace. They discussed how courage helps you address problems without anger. They explored how integrity builds credibility. They noted how generosity creates connections and reduces suspicion. They agreed that honesty keeps communication clean and prevents misunderstanding. To close the activity,

The second day began with Quiet Time. The guiding question asked participants to reflect on what they had learned from their personal pain.

In silence, they learned to pause, listen, and open themselves to God's voice. The stillness encouraged them to recognize what action needed instead of waiting passively for circumstances to change. In that moment, Cayes realized that many of her strengths were shaped not only by love but also by difficult experiences. She also understood that waiting for external change was not enough. She needed to transform from within. She recognized that growth required action, clarity, and the courage to listen to God's voice with honesty. Her action card, which encouraged flexibility, confirmed her desire to move forward with deeper faith and readiness to grow.

The participants explored the qualities of a peace creator by breaking each value into concrete actions, studying love as consistent care, unselfishness as serving the common good, purity as clarity of motive, honesty as the discipline to speak truth, patience as steady calm, discipline as purposeful action, and justice as the duty to confront harm. They saw that peace begins inside each person, grows at home through daily habits, and expands outward through respectful behavior. The session moved into forgiveness, where they wrote letters expressing anger that had been held for years and then wrote letters of compassion to themselves.

The process felt heavy, yet naming their emotions released pressure they carried quietly. The activity opened a path toward emotional freedom and helped them see that healing is a deliberate choice. They then moved into the topic of forgiveness, a session that demanded honesty and courage. The facilitators asked each woman to write a letter of anger to someone who had hurt her, forcing them to confront wounds they had often avoided. Some wrote to parents who were never present, others to partners who broke trust, friends who abandoned them, or people who silenced their voice.



The second letter shifted the focus inward, inviting them to write with compassion to themselves. They apologized to their younger selves, acknowledged the weight they had carried, and forgave their own fear and mistakes. The room felt heavy yet gentle as every participant met her truth without judgment. This challenging process opened a real path toward emotional freedom, helping them understand that forgiveness does not erase the pain but releases its hold, allowing them to choose peace with intention.

The peace-in-practice session brought all the lessons together and pushed the participants to look honestly at themselves.

They began by understanding that stress touches every life and that inner peace grows when a person knows how to manage pressure with clarity and resilience. They identified the doubts, ego, and fears that quietly block growth and learned to face them with courage. The listening practice reminded them that peace also depends on how they receive others, because listening without judgment builds trust, strengthens relationships, and prevents unnecessary conflict. As they reconnected with their inner guidance and values, they realized that real change does not come from grand gestures. It begins with consistent small actions that shape character and influence the environment like a kind response, fair decision, a patient tone, an honest step.

These simple choices, that are done continuously, create a steady culture of peace. Each woman left the session understanding that peace is not a distant ideal. It is daily discipline, a practice that grows stronger every time a person chooses integrity over impulse and compassion over fear.

Next, the informal girl's day out provided space for joyful connection. They walked through Malioboro, shared conversations, and enjoyed cultural performances. This moment reminded them that peace is also nurtured through joy, friendship, and shared humanity.

On the final day, the women gathered in a circle for evaluation and commitment, ready to close the program with intention and clarity. One by one, they shared the next steps they would take to live out the values they had learned. The circle felt safe and respectful, a space where honesty was welcomed, and every voice mattered. They then moved into a symbolic act of prayer using threads. Each woman held a piece of thread that connected her to the others in the circle. As they prayed, the threads formed a web that represented unity, shared strength, and mutual care. No one stood alone.

Every thread carried the story, hope, and resilience of the woman holding it. The moment was simple but powerful.

It reminded them that peace grows stronger when women support one another. When the circle closed, the threads became a symbol they carried home. A reminder that they are part of a community of women committed to healing, courage, and peace.

Cayes returned home with renewed conviction. She understood that peace begins with self-awareness and daily discipline. Peace grows through empathy, forgiveness, and responsibility.

She carried with her the commitment to practice these values in her roles as a teacher, a community servant, and a woman who seeks to build understanding wherever she enters. The experience sharpened her belief that peace is not accidental. Peace is created. It starts with one person who chooses sincerity, courage, and compassion. It expands through small actions that reduce fear and strengthen trust. And it becomes a legacy when women rise together, support one another, and shape a future defined by dignity and understanding.

Story of change from **Anisa Eka Putri Kusmayani**



Anisa Eka Putri Kusmayani began her journey in the Circle of Peace carrying emotions she had not fully understood. On the first day, she heard people weeping, echoing not only around her, but also from within. There was a part of her that cried, screamed, and returned to a time when she had lost her sense of self. Some of the cries were loud, while others were barely audible whispers longing for courage: the courage to face those who had caused pain, to move forward from wounds, and to forgive.

She spent three days and two nights in the Circle of Peace in Bandung. Although she was unsure where God was leading her, the lighting of a candle symbolized something awakening within her a quiet but steady light of hope, and with it, the possibility of creating a new story.

During one session, Riri, a facilitator, posed a simple yet profound question: “What is peace?” The question resonated deeply within her. In the Circle of Peace, she was invited to explore and define her own understanding of peace, including through creative reflection such as sculpting with clay. Through this process, she began to realize that unresolved personal anxiety not only affects oneself but also impacts others. At the same time, collective wounds are often rooted in individual pain. As one participant, Linda Sebastian, reflected; she became able to identify the underlying motives behind her actions.

In this space, wounds were neither glorified nor used to define participants as victims. Instead, they were gently invited to face those wounds to confront the people they found difficult to forgive, and to recognize that inner peace cannot exist without forgiveness. Holding onto resentment, she realized, only prolongs inner unrest.

One of the most challenging moments came when participants were asked to write a letter to someone they struggled to forgive. Through this exercise, she expressed her readiness to forgive. It was an emotional process, bringing her to tears not of pain alone, but of release. In letting go of anger and grief, she began to make space for peace and acceptance. She could also witness similar shifts in others. One participant, Chintia Giana, shared that her anger toward her parents had softened.

Despite the deeply personal nature of the journey, she was not alone. Fellow participants in Creators of Peace held space for one another with empathy and care. Every story was valued, creating an environment where old narratives could be released, and new ones could emerge. Another participant, Jo, shared a reflection that deeply resonated with her, that being a woman is a beautiful gift from God.

Through this Circle of Peace experience, Anisa came to understand that acknowledging wounds and choosing forgiveness can free a person from inner turmoil. In the end, it was through forgiveness that she found her way back to herself.



Partner Collaboration



Initiatives of Change
Australia



CoP Team 2025

Facilitators



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Syafii**



**Siti
Zaetun**



**Nenden
Vinna**



**Anisa
Ladhuny**

Supporters



**Anisa
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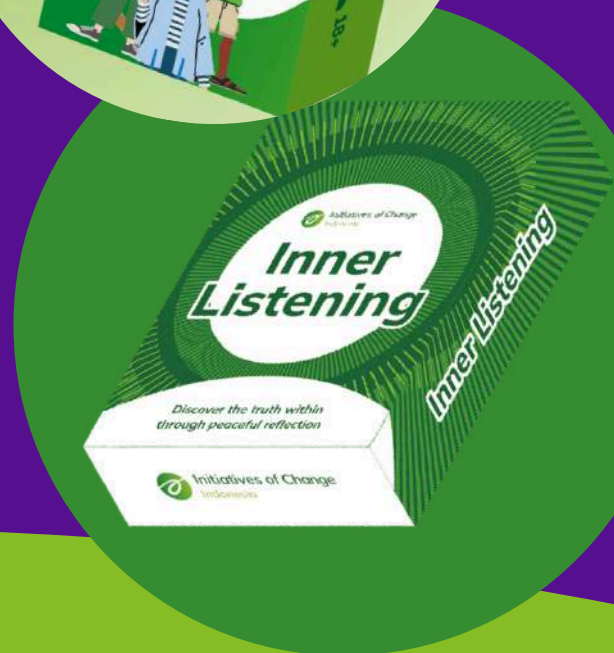


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