Women’s Knowledge International

Fundación Cultura de Paz

“The Missing Piece for Peace”

Founders and Co-Directors: Margarita Benítez and Teresa Langle de Paz

www.womensknowledge.org
www.fund-culturadepaz.org
The full development of societies requires the recognition of women’s contributions, the restoration of historical omissions, and the application of women’s critical thinking skills. Achieving lasting peace beyond the end of military conflict means counting on women as agents of social harmony as well as promoting gender equality and women’s rights. The active incorporation and recognition of women’s diverse forms of knowledge to the achievement of these goals is “the missing piece for peace.”

We recognize an urgent need to create new channels for the exchange of such knowledge among diverse sectors of society at the local, regional, and national levels, for the purpose of establishing new productive synergies or reinforcing existing ones.

**General Information**

Women’s Knowledge International is a global initiative founded in 2011 as a partnership of networks, higher education institutions, non-profit organizations and individuals committed to building cultures of peace by promoting the visibility of women’s diverse forms of knowledge and by fostering gender equality.

Our efforts bolster the goals and methods of the 1999 United Nations Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, specifically the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, and the primacy of education as the means to achieve that goal.

Our home institution is the Foundation Culture of Peace in Madrid, Spain, founded and headed by Federico Mayor Zaragoza—former UNESCO General Secretary (1987-1999)—since the year 2000.

**Mission**

To recognize and disseminate women’s knowledge globally through transnational educational initiatives focused on the construction of cultures of peace.

**Goals**

To foster formal and non-formal educational programs in the benefit of women in which academic institutions, NGOs, social movements representatives, and policy makers are engaged. To promote the recognition and incorporation of women’s experiential knowledge in formal education programs. To create synergies between feminist theory and action, and among diverse stakeholders at the local, national and international levels. To claim women as agents of social change and of cultures of peace. To foster women’s individual and collective empowerment through education and inter-institutional collaborations.

**Vision**

To develop an educational network with global reach to support the creation and dissemination of women’s knowledge as an essential element for the promotion of cultures of peace.

**Areas of Work**

Contemporary feminists widely recognize the need to work together to overcome the challenges to women’s rights around the world. We have created WKI to address some of these challenges by fully engaging representatives from three key sectors (academia, policy making and activism) in every initiative.

All our actions take a multi-disciplinary approach to our strategic priority areas of work:

- Gender violence
- Human Rights
- Indigenous movements
- Environment
- Health
- Democracy
- Culture and religion
- Migrations
Our Network

In order to maximize the impact and duration of local efforts, WKI connects national or regional projects to broad international initiatives and alliances. Simultaneously, WKI brings a global outlook to local realities and activities by WKI continuously expanding its network of collaborators, be they organizations or individuals.

Institutional Partners and Collaborators:

- Bibliotheca Alexandrina (Egypt),
- University Jaume I (Spain),
- Autonomous University of Madrid (Spain),
- Complutense University of Madrid (Spain),
- Lehman College-City University of New York (USA),
- University of the Sacred Heart (Puerto Rico),
- Montana State University (USA),
- California State University at Northridge (USA),
- Faculty Resource Network-New York University (USA),
- Scholars at Risk-New York University (USA),
- Altia Institute on Gender Equality and Women’s History (Netherlands),
- Centro para Puerto Rico-Sil M. Calderón Foundation (Puerto Rico),
- Washington Internship Institute (USA),
- National Women’s Studies Association (USA),
- Hispanic Theological Initiative (USA),
- University of Puerto Rico (Puerto Rico),
- University of La Roca (Spain),
- Institute for Global Cultural Studies at State University of New York-Binghamton (USA),
- Nkumbuwe-Health-by-Motorbike/University of Wisconsin, Madison (Kenya/USA).

Join our Network

Universities or university departments and programs, networks of institutions and organizations; NGOs and representative associations of social movements, as well as individuals may request to be part of our network in order to jointly develop specific collaborative venues.

A Letter of Interest suggesting possible actions and explaining shared interests should be sent to the WKI co-directors.

Actions

Our main actions are:

1. Promoting Action Oriented Research and Internships.
2. Developing Formal and Non-Formal Educational Programs that Integrate Women’s Experiential Knowledge.

We are currently developing transnational educational projects in various geopolitical regions: the Middle East and North African countries, the Great Lakes region in East Africa, and the Caribbean, in collaboration with local institutions and institutions in Europe and the United States.

http://www.womensknowledge.org

@Womensknowledge
Contact Information

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