Message from the Laureates

When the global women’s movement turned up at the UN for the launch of the Global Study on the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325—released in the fall of 2015—two things became abundantly clear: the international community is talking the talk, but not yet walking the walk.

Governments are paying lip service to the idea that women are key to peace and security, and yet when it comes time to put money on the table most of the governments sit on their hands or offer up a token amount. The same is happening at peace talks, most notably in the Middle East where women were left outside the negotiating room for talks on ending the wars in Syria and Yemen. All of us in the global women’s movement could be forgiven for occasionally getting discouraged. But then we witness the extraordinary work being done by grassroots women to build peace, and we are again energized. This year we were honored to work alongside sexual violence survivors of Colombia’s civil war—who have fought hard to be heard during Colombia’s peace process—and women who survived the Balkans war and are now helping Syrian and other refugees cross Europe to seek asylum from conflict and war. We dedicate our work to the women human rights defenders around the world who steadfastly show us the way towards peace, justice and equality.

Mairead Maguire, Rigoberta Menchú Tum, Jody Williams, Shirin Ebadi, Leymah Gbowee, Tawakkol Karman
“Women are great peacemakers. We must stand up for every life and transform this world.”

Mairead Maguire
Supporting our work for peace

Amanda Stuermer
Carolyn Buck Luce
Cynda Collins Arsenault
Lynne Dobson
Elizabeth Fisher
Kaye Foster
Marci Shimoff
Margot Pritzker

Melissa and Danny Giovale
Nancy & Emily Word and family, including Mary Ann & Don Flournoy, Cecilia Boone, Aimee & Ed Cunningham, Hylie & Bruce Voss, and Eli & Jill Flournoy
Sarah Cavanaugh
Tides Foundation

Funding Leadership and Opportunities for Women (FLOW) of Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
NORAD, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
Oak Foundation
Global Fund for Women
Embrey Family Foundation

All of the Nobel Peace Laureates of the Nobel Women’s Initiative:

Jody Williams
Shirin Ebadi
Leymah Gbowee
Tawakkol Karman
Rigoberta Menchú Tum
Mairead Maguire
Financial summary

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*Registered in Canada as a not-for-profit corporation.*

*These excerpts are unaudited but are summarized from an independent 2015 audit report by the firm Welch LLP, dated April 11, 2016.*
2015 Highlights at a Glance

January
- Congolese woman activist Julienne Lusenge launches *Beauty in the Middle: Women of Congo Speak Out* exhibit in Ottawa, Canada
- Laureate Leymah Gbowee leads a delegation of African women activists to the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

February
- Laureates Jody Williams and Shirin Ebadi lead the *Survivors United* delegation to Colombia to meet with survivors of sexual violence and women providing them with support
- *Partners for Peace* documentary plays at the Victoria Film Festival in Victoria, British Columbia
- Laureates Jody Williams and Shirin Ebadi join Tawakkol Karman in Istanbul, Turkey for the *Istanbul Conference on Peace in the Middle East: The Impacts of War on Women and Children*

March
- Nobel Women's Initiative co-hosts *“Protection in Practice for Women Human Rights Defenders and their work”*, a high-impact event at the United Nations Commission for Status of Women in New York City

April
- Nobel Women's Initiative hosts over 120 women activists from around the world at *Defending the Defenders! Building Global Solidarity for Women Human Rights Defenders* conference in The Netherlands
- Laureates Jody Williams, Shirin Ebadi, Mairead Maguire and Leymah Gbowee kick off the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom 100th Anniversary Conference in The Hague—where thousands of women peacebuilders gathered to celebrate and build the women's peace movement

May
- Twelve Nobel laureates call for an immediate end to violence against Muslims and other ethnic minorities in Burma
- Laureates Mairead Maguire and Leymah Gbowee join Gloria Steinem to walk across the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea to amplify the voices of women affected by the conflict and call for peace

June
- Laureates release a statement calling on Colombia to provide holistic healthcare to survivors of sexual violence

July
- Laureates Jody Williams, Shirin Ebadi and Mairead Maguire travel to Ottawa for *Feministing Foreign Policy*—a public forum with Oxfam Canada to put a feminist lens on foreign policy
- Neesa, Riya and Htet are featured on the cover of Embassy News Magazine for their work to promote women's rights in Honduras, South Sudan and Burma
- Nobel Women staff deliver media training for young women activists in Istanbul, Turkey

August
- Neesa Medina, Riya William and Htet Htet Aung arrive in Ottawa to participate in the 2015 Sister-to-Sister Mentorship Program
- Laureate Shirin Ebadi joins other Iranian human rights organizations and activists in welcoming the Iran nuclear deal

September
- Laureates Tawakkol Karman, Shirin Ebadi and Jody Williams lead *Opening Borders: #WomenRefugeesWelcome*—a delegation of expert women to the Balkans and Germany to highlight the experience of women refugees fleeing war

October
- Congolese woman activist Julienne Lusenge's *Beauty in the Middle: Women of Congo Speak Out* exhibit in Ottawa continues

November
- Laureates Tawakkol Karman, Shirin Ebadi and Jody Williams lead *Opening Borders: #WomenRefugeesWelcome*—a delegation of expert women to the Balkans and Germany to highlight the experience of women refugees fleeing war

December
- Together with the International Campaign to Stop Rape & Gender Violence in Conflict, Nobel Women's Initiative launches *Taking the Lead: Sexual Violence Survivors Forging Hope in Colombia*, a short documentary that highlights survivors and women defenders breaking the silence around sexual violence
- Laureates Jody Williams and Tawakkol Karman call for climate solutions that support peace
We have the vigour and drive to transform this world in desperate need of change.

Jody Williams
Sister-to-Sister Mentorship Program

Three determined young women activists from Honduras, Burma and South Sudan joined us in Ottawa for the 2015 Sister-to-Sister Mentorship Program. These young women use creative and innovative approaches to promote women’s rights, peace and equality in their communities.

**Neesa Medina, Honduras**
Neesa Medina works with the Centre for Women’s Rights (CDM) in Honduras to monitor violence against women and develop media campaigns that raise awareness about women’s rights in Honduras.

**Htet Htet Aung, Burma**
Htet Htet is the Gender Rights Program Manager for Partners Asia in Burma where she engages civil society organizations to encourage women’s participation in political and economic life.

**Riya William, South Sudan**
As a Civic Education Officer with the Mundri Relief and Develop Association, Riya brings together internally displaced peoples to promote women’s rights and build peace in South Sudan.

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE: http://nobelwomensinitiative.org

Advocating for peace, justice and equality
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