MAY PEACE BE WITH HER

CAMPAIGN GUIDE – FALL 2017

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INTRODUCTION

As part of the Development and Peace Jubilee campaign celebrating our 50 years, we have chosen to look to the future. After highlighting the role of women at the heart of change in our Share Lent campaign, we are building on this momentum to focus on women’s role in building peace.

Doing so raises a number of questions: What is peace? How is peace achieved? How do we build a lasting, just, fair and inclusive peace?

Development and Peace – Caritas Canada believes that peace is much more than simply the absence of conflict. Peace must be cultivated, nourished and protected. It requires commitment on the part of individuals. It must also be a collective project rooted in openness and a recognition of the inherent dignity of all human beings. A commitment to peace includes taking a stand against physical and sexual violence, patriarchal norms, and social, political and economic structures that keep the most vulnerable people in a state of injustice where they are denied their fundamental rights.

We also strongly believe that women and men must be able to join hands and work together to build peace. In this sense, men are an integral part of the solution. When men become convinced of the importance of women being equal partners, and begin to support the development of structures, solutions, and policies that foster gender equality and women’s empowerment, peace will be within reach.

This fall, Development and Peace will herald the positive peace built by women. This is our way of honouring the women who build peace in their communities throughout the world: women who resist the chaos brought on by war, violence and social upset, and who contribute, in different ways, to building a more just and peaceful world; women survivors of sexual violence inflicted on them in situations of conflict, who now demand justice; women who reach out to their former adversaries in the hope of building a stronger future, and those who risk their lives to defend their ideals with courage, conviction and dignity. These women, who offer hope and love to the world, sow the seeds of justice. They inspire and encourage us to continue our work and not give up the fight. These women are artisans of peace.

We invite Canadians to join us in thinking about the ways in which they too can become artisans of peace in their everyday lives.
Join the Campaign!

**Bring the Women at the Heart of Peace campaign to life!**

**Workshops and planning:** Get in touch with your local animator who can help you organize a workshop, or provide you with the information and material you need to hold your own event.

**Organize a meeting with other Development and Peace members and supporters** to discuss the campaign and establish an action plan for your parish or school.

**Plan an activity** to raise awareness in your community about the importance of including women in peace processes. We suggest:

- organizing a vigil for women and peace; and/or
- hosting a meal with people from different religious, cultural, or political backgrounds. Make sure that women are included!

**Meet with other key people who may be interested in supporting the campaign,** such as your parish priest, members of the parish pastoral committee, student and youth leaders, chaplains, teachers, etc. Share your ideas, ask for their suggestions and think about ways to work together. This is also the time to plan your online strategies, such as sharing activities, events and campaign materials on Facebook and Twitter.

**Meet with your MP and ask for support.**

- For this campaign to be as effective as possible, we encourage you to form a small group to meet with your Member of Parliament during the week of November 13 to 17, 2017. Ask your MP to call for the support of women and women's organizations, by adopting a tangible strategy with a precise time frame to reach the goal of dedicating 0.7% of Canada's gross national income to development assistance.
- After you meet with your MP, tell us about it! Fill out the online form at [devp.org/campaign/reportac](http://devp.org/campaign/reportac). Be sure to attach a photo!

**Action Sheet and Action Card:**

- Distribute the Action Sheet one week before the Action Card so that people in your community can read the leaflet at home. Let them know that they will have the opportunity to sign the Action Card the following week.
- The following week, invite them to sign the Action Card. Place it on the church pews (together with pens) or on a table at the entrance of the church or parish hall.
- Make sure that Development and Peace members are at the table along with volunteer parishioners to hand out the materials and answer questions.
- Don’t forget to collect the signed cards and count them before sending them to the Prime Minister’s office by mail (no postage required).
- Then fill out the form on our website at [devp.org/campaign/reportac](http://devp.org/campaign/reportac).
MESSAGE TO PARISHES AND SCHOOLS

My dear sisters and brothers:

My name is __________, and I am bringing you this message on behalf of Development and Peace – Caritas Canada, and billions of women all over the world.

I would like to begin by inviting all of the women and girls in the congregation/classroom to stand up. [Wait for women to stand.]

Did you know that women and girls just like you are essential in building peace and security in society? Studies have shown that a peace agreement is 35 percent more likely to last at least 15 years if women are included in its creation. This is because women are recognized as honest brokers in peace processes.

Did you know that the number of women in Parliament is the most effective predictor of peace in any country? Studies have shown that the more women parliamentarians there are in a given country, the less likely it is to ever be in a state of civil war.

Did you know that women all over the world, women just like you, are key players in reducing the likelihood of societies relapsing into conflict? In fact, in countries where at least 35 percent of parliamentarians are women, the risk of reverting to conflict is close to zero.

Did you know that the essential role of your sisters around the world in peacebuilding and conflict prevention was formally recognized in the year 2000 by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325? For the first time, it recognizes crimes committed against women in armed conflicts, including sexual violence and forced displacement, and stresses the absolute importance of women’s participation at all levels of peace processes.

Did you know that right now, as you stand here, your sisters all over the world are still being barred from peace processes and peace operations? The evidence shows that women play a vital role in creating lasting peace. Nevertheless, discrimination, marginalization by decision-makers, gender-based violence and cultural practices continue to stand solidly between women and a peace that would benefit all humanity. Did you know that there is something that we can all do about this?

As Development and Peace celebrates our 50th anniversary this fall, we also celebrate all the women who have been part of our rich history. Development and Peace invites you to learn more about why the empowerment of women is so important in any plan for peace. We also invite you to take action to help women who are currently barred from peacemaking and peacekeeping processes.

And so I invite ALL of you to now stand up! [Wait for all to stand.]

I invite all of you to continue to stand up in solidarity with each other and with your sisters around the world by becoming ambassadors for true peace. I invite all of you to become peacebuilders. I invite all of you to act now to ensure that all women have fair access to peace processes. The simplest way to do this is to sign our Action Card. It asks the Canadian government to support women and women’s organizations working for peace by increasing Canada’s official development assistance to build a more peaceful world.

For those who would like to do more, I encourage you to meet with or write to your Member of Parliament and ask them to support women who are working for peace in developing countries that are in conflict or at risk of conflict.

Also, consider becoming a member of Development and Peace, so that you never miss an opportunity to work for social, political, ecological and economic justice all over the world!

As long as we continue to allow others to bar women from peace processes, we ourselves continue to bar humanity from lasting peace. Together in solidarity, true peace is possible!
ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR PARISH BULLETINS

We invite you to ask your parish to kindly publish the following messages in its parish bulletin to promote the 2017 Development and Peace – Caritas Canada education campaign. You can also download these messages in Word format in the Resources section of our website at devp.org/campaign/resources.

- One week before your workshop

**Workshop on Development and Peace – Caritas Canada’s new campaign, Women at the Heart of Peace**

This fall, Development and Peace launches a new campaign called *Women at the Heart of Peace*. This campaign invites Canadians to learn more about the vital role women play in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Join us in paying tribute to the women who build peace in communities around the world. To learn more about the campaign and how to be a part of it, please join us at a workshop on [DATE] to be held at [TIME and LOCATION]. For more information, contact [NAME OF CONTACT PERSON and CONTACT DETAILS].

- One week before the launch of your parish campaign

**Strong and empowered women: lasting and inclusive peace!**

Did you know that a peace agreement is 35% more likely to last at least 15 years if women help build it? By adopting effective community-based and non-violent approaches and by forming networks that cross political, religious and ethnic boundaries, women transform peace and reconciliation processes. This fall, join the Development and Peace – Caritas Canada campaign to learn more about the role of women in violence prevention and peacebuilding. For more information, visit devp.org/campaign.

- Launch week in your parish

**This fall, let’s pay tribute to women who build peace!**

Across the world, brave women are coming together to struggle, to resist and to build a more peaceful world. This fall, Development and Peace – Caritas Canada will introduce you to three of these women. Consult our material at devp.org/campaign/resources and get acquainted with Luz Estella Cifuentes, a Colombian woman who leads an inter-ethnic political training school for peasant farmers, Afro-Colombian and Indigenous women; Jamila Safi, an Afghan woman who provides training for imams and women on women’s rights; and Rabia Kadiry, a Syrian woman who organizes workshops to build social peace in Lebanon.

- Action Card distribution week in your parish

**Together, let’s take action for peace!**

In June 2017, the Minister of International Development and La Francophonie presented Canada’s new International Assistance Policy. Canada therefore committed to ensuring that women and girls have the opportunity to take active roles in establishing and maintaining peace in their communities. Despite its remarks in support of women and peace, the government did not increase the international aid budget and chose instead to increase the military budget by 70% over 10 years.

Sign the Development and Peace – Caritas Canada Action Card today! Together, let’s call on the Canadian government to give women the resources they need to be at the heart of peace. Sign our Action Card online: devp.org/act.

- A week or two after the distribution of Action Cards in your parish

Thank you!

On behalf of all women who build peace in their communities, Development and Peace – Caritas Canada thanks you for your continued commitment. Together, we have the power to change things! Join a dynamic pan-Canadian movement that takes action for peace and justice – become a member of Development and Peace. Without your action, there’s no change, no justice! For more information, please go to devp.org/membership.
RESOURCES FOR THE WOMEN AT THE HEART OF PEACE CAMPAIGN

For all

Poster
We have chosen “May Peace Be with Her” as the slogan for this fall campaign. This richly symbolic phrase evokes one of the most beautiful moments of the Mass, the moment when people acknowledge the presence of others around them. In the same way, we invite you to acknowledge the women in your community and recognize their importance in building just and peaceful societies. This slogan is also a tribute to the many cultures and traditions throughout the world that mention peace when people greet each other.

The picture chosen is that of a young woman living in a refugee camp in Darfur.

Action sheet
As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Development and Peace, mobilization remains at the heart of our work. The Action Sheet summarizes the key thematic issues of our campaign and calls for action to recognize the importance of including women in peace processes. To illustrate the courageous peace work done by women around the world, we present portraits of three women building peace in Afghanistan, Colombia, and Syria.

Action Card
The Action Card is both the cornerstone of our campaign and our main mobilization tool. Please distribute Action Cards in large numbers in order to send a strong message to the Canadian government: supporting women is supporting peace!

A reflection inspired by our faith
This fall, as food for thought, Development and Peace offers a short reflection exploring how our faith calls on us to recognize and support the work done by women working for peace.

Backgrounder on women and peace
This tool is tailor-made for those wishing to learn more about the role of women in conflict prevention and peacebuilding! In this backgrounder, you’ll find detailed analysis on these issues, as well as examples of our partners’ work on women and peace.
Youth tools (aged 13 and over)

Microfiches and youth activity guide

The Microfiches are short easy-to-read cards that introduce our campaign theme to a younger audience in a fun and accessible way. The cards are grouped under a common theme: “Ten words for peace.” You can use them with our youth activity guide to organize educational activities that help young people to understand the importance of women in peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

Online tools

Videos

Our campaign videos introduce three women who work with passion and determination for peace in their countries. You will meet Jamila from Afghanistan; Luz Estella from Colombia; and Rabia from Syria.

View or download the videos via our website: devp.org/campaign/videos.

And much more!

Read stories about our partners and projects in the Global South.

View or download all the key resources including videos, logos, banners and other tools to promote the campaign.

Follow and share the campaign on social media: @devpeace #womenbuildingpeace
On October 20, 2017, Development and Peace will celebrate its 50th anniversary!

Go to [devp.org/50years](http://devp.org/50years) to learn about our history, watch our videos and find out about upcoming celebrations. Stay connected! Exciting news and events will be announced throughout the fall.

From September to December
Quilt patches that were created during the solidarity pilgrimage will be made available for Diocesan Councils to borrow and to display.

Tuesday, September 26
The Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops will celebrate a 50th anniversary mass at Notre-Dame Basilica in Ottawa. The mass will begin at 3:30 pm and a reception will follow in the parish hall.

October 20-22 weekend
Regional events are being planned to celebrate the founding of Development and Peace.

Saturday, November 25
A celebratory mass at Saint Joseph’s Oratory of Mount Royal, in Montreal, will mark the end of our anniversary program.