



*"Knowing the OFP has allowed me to recover my life project, to believe in myself again, to give myself the right to feel joy, to heal emotionally and psychologically. Now, I also believe that I can help other women so that they might not experience violence and so that they believe in peace."*

—Nancy, who participated in a training by **Organización Femenina Popular** on Colombia's Peace Agreement.

This is one of many stories of change we heard during the first year of KAIROS' *Women of Courage: Women, Peace and Security* (WPS) program.

In just one year, the program undertook critical steps towards transformative change for women victims and survivors of violence in the Global South - despite regional difference, escalating security threats and political challenges.

The WPS program is based on solid evidence that women victims and survivors of violence in armed conflict and post conflict situations are empowered through psychosocial and legal support. This support helps them heal, restore their self-esteem and realize legal rights, becoming key voices in peace building processes.

### **KAIROS' Women of Courage partners:**

KAIROS' local partner organizations work in some of the most protracted conflicts and egregious human rights situations in the world: Héritiers de la Justice, in the Democratic Republic of Congo; National Council of Churches in the Philippines; South Sudan Council of Churches; Organización Femenina Popular, in Colombia; and Wi'am: Palestinian Conflict Transformation Centre, in the West Bank.

These partners are a testament to the courageous and effective work of grassroots women-focused programs in peacebuilding and are a concrete example of Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy in action.

### **Global Affairs Canada funding**

In 2018, Global Affairs Canada approved funding for this program, injecting \$4.5 million over five years to support the work of grassroots women-focused organizations. This funding is made possible with matching funding from KAIROS member churches and development agencies, religious communities and individual donors.

# KAIROS Women of Courage: Women, Peace, and Security

**YEAR ONE AT A GLANCE**  
**April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019**





## South-South Exchanges - Developing a common plan

A unique component of this program is the focus on South-South and South-North gatherings and exchanges. In November 2018, an inaugural South-South gathering brought all partners together in Toronto to share experiences and strategies. Partners participated in a trilingual KAIROS Blanket Exercise to learn about the history of colonization and cultural genocide in Canada. Partners later travelled to Ottawa for important meetings with Parliamentarians, government and other civil society organizations.

*"You continue to inspire me."*—MP Anita Vandenberg, co-chair of the Subcommittee on International Human Rights of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development addressed the partners at a meeting of the All Parties' Women Caucus.

## Measuring success

During the first year, KAIROS and its partners created an implementation plan to track and measure change at the level of beneficiary and organization. In creating this shared plan, partners demonstrated that their work can be understood, consolidated and strengthened despite regional differences.

We tried to answer the question: How do you measure confidence? Together we identified the following characteristics of a woman who is confident and participating in her community:

***A confident woman is observed as one who voices her opinion in an effective way, is willing to be visible and assertive, is a strong communicator, and has the courage to speak out in a solid voice.***

## Year One Results

KAIROS and its partners witnessed significant change in the lives of women survivors of gender-based violence, male allies, program facilitators and human rights defenders.







## In Year One:

- 1,052 women survivors of gender-based violence received psychosocial and medical counselling and care
- 425 women used legal services provided by partners
- 884 women and 494 men participated in workshops on the psychosocial impacts of war
- 393 women and 223 men participated in gender awareness training
- 48 human rights training sessions were held on national and international frameworks (878 women and 233 men participated)
- 30 human rights facilitators training workshops (797 women participated)
- 109 campaigns advocating for legislation, law reform and implementation that related to women, peace and security were organized (28 were directed to male allies in government, multilateral organizations and media)
- 74 communities or municipalities were reached

The program also sought to *visibilize* and share the work of the partners through media, social media, video and publications. Highlights include 26 WPS-related op-eds and blogs, 967 subscribers to KAIROS' gender justice list, and more than 19,600 engagements on Facebook.

Key international days and events such as the *16 Days of Activism to End Violence against Women* (November 25-December 10), International Women's Day (March 8) and the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW) provided opportunities to highlight the partners' work and advocate for women peacebuilders.

*"At the UN CSW, the most compelling voices for me were those of survivors of sexual violence in situations of war, who have become the heart of the fight for justice and peace in their regions. There was a clarity and urgency in the messages I bring back. Now is the time to pressure our governments and stakeholders for more action, investment, strengthening and implementation of gender-responsive, human rights-based and integrated approaches to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls."*

—Jane Thirikwa, KAIROS Global Partnerships Coordinator



## STORIES OF CHANGE

Participants in the KAIROS WPS program spoke of claiming their rights to heal and take legal action, changing narratives about women and taking action to benefit others and their communities.

### Wi'am: Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center

*"When I arrived, I heard women talking about the difficulties of life that they endure...I was able to share with them about the violence that I suffered and instead of feeling shamed, was supported. It may sound silly, but I had known that I didn't deserve to be hit, but I didn't truly realize it was wrong until I shared it. I was always afraid to say what I feel and believe, but now I must. It might help someone, just like they helped me."*—A woman from Hebron, a mother of two children

### South Sudan Council of Churches

*"These lessons on human rights have certainly opened my eyes to see the imbalance not only in our households, but also in our institutions."*  
—Captain John Jeremiah, Chaplain

### Héritiers de la Justice

*"I was a victim of the violation of my rights to the inheritance left by my father. I have had my rights restored. After taking part in an activity organized by Héritiers de la Justice, I went to see the head of my village, and demanded my rights based on the Congolese law that stipulates the equality of children, girls and boys in matters of inheritance."*—Mrs. Kusira de Kalehe

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Value of Project.....\$5,782,860.00  
Total Global Affairs contribution...\$4,456,516.00  
Total KAIROS contribution .....\$1,326,344.00  
Project start date ..... April 1, 2018  
Project end date.....March 31, 2023

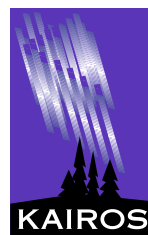
### Year 1 (2018-2019) financial information

Total project costs ..... \$951,033  
Global Affairs contribution ..... \$732,906  
KAIROS contribution ..... \$218,127



KAIROS is deeply grateful to partners for their courage, tenacity and persistent hope, often in the face of extreme risk and adversity. It is a privilege to work in partnership with these organizations. As well, this program would not be possible without the support of member churches, donors and supporters and Global Affairs Canada. For this, KAIROS is profoundly thankful.

### KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives



TORONTO OFFICE

310 Dupont St., Suite 200 Toronto, ON M5R 1V9  
Tel: 416-463-5312 | Toll Free: 1-877-403-8933

CONTACT

Rachel Warden, Partnerships Manager

1-877-403-8933 x 242 | [rwarden@kairoscanada.org](mailto:rwarden@kairoscanada.org)