

Advocating for peace, justice & equality















MESSAGE FROM OUR LAUREATES

was a year of feminist peace action. From Iraq, Lebanon and Sudan to Chile, Colombia and Mexico, the Nobel Women's Initiative was proud to stand in solidarity with women demanding action on everything from climate change and sexual violence to disarmament and an end to war. We focused much of our work on amplifying the power and influence of feminist movements, particularly in conflict countries where women are risking everything to build a more peaceful world.

In 2019, we put feminist peacebuilders' messages and solutions in the media spotlight. We launched <u>InterviewHer</u>—an online platform connecting journalists to women experts on conflict and security—and a new podcast, <u>When Feminists Rule the World</u>, that features feminist changemakers from around the world. We continued to support the next generation of feminist peace leaders as they make change happen. Emerging leaders from more than 20 countries gathered in Liberia for the groundbreaking summit <u>Claiming Our Space: Emerging Feminist Voices for Peace</u>. Our flagship Sister-to-Sister Mentorship Program provided training in media, advocacy and leadership to young feminist leaders, and we highlighted the work and voices of emerging feminist leaders as the theme of our 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence campaign.

As we reflect on this powerful feminist-led work, we want to add that although this report covers 2019 work, it is being produced in 2020 in the midst of a global pandemic. As the world navigates the COVID-19 pandemic and looks ahead to recovery, we are inspired by those taking this pivotal moment in history to rewrite the future—and create societies that respect human security above national boundaries and hollow corporate interests.

The future is feminist, and as diverse women all working for peace, we are proud to be part of it.

In peace,

Throne



44 INVESTING IN WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IS THE WAY WE ARE GOING TO CHANGE A WORLD FROM ONE OF CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE TO ONE OF PEACE AND HOPE.**

LEYMAH GBOWEE



- In February, InterviewHer, a new online platform for journalists, was launched. The platform aims to connect media with women peace and security experts. At the end of 2019, InterviewHer featured 72 women experts from over 46 countries with 20,730 "Contact an Expert" page views.
- Women's Initiative's catalytic role in making justice for the Rohingya an international priority, a motion in the Canadian Senate called on the government to push for legal proceedings before the International Court of Justice under the UN Convention on Genocide.
- In May, emerging feminist leaders from more than twenty countries gathered in Liberia for <u>Claiming Our Space: Emerging Feminist Voices for Peace</u> a groundbreaking summit co-hosted with Nobel peace laureate, Leymah Gbowee, and the Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa.
- Affairs Canada to rewrite and strengthen its <u>guidelines on human</u> rights defenders. The guidelines were released during a visit to Canada by the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights. We also lobbied for Canada's Subcommittee on International Human Rights to conduct a study on women human rights defenders and were then called upon to appear as expert witnesses.
- Now! Campaign, the U.S. House of Representatives approved an amendment declaring diplomacy with North Korea essential and calling for an end to the Korean War.



- In October, we released an online version of our photo exhibit, <u>We Are Not Afraid: We Want Our Stories</u>

 <u>Told</u>, highlighting the experiences of Rohingya women and the Rohingya women making change.
- In October, Korea Peace Now! launched a report highlighting the detrimental impact of sanctions on North Korea and especially on women.
- In November and December, our Sister-to-Sister Mentorship Program provided training in media, advocacy and leadership to six emerging feminist leaders from conflict countries. During the six-week Ottawa-based program, participants met with dozens of Senators, elected officials, diplomats and decision makers in Canada.
- When Feminists Rule the World podcast. The podcast, featuring feminist change-makers from around the world, ranked in the top 50% of new podcasts, with more than 3,300 downloads in over 70 countries.
- Also in the fall, we travelled to meet with women's peacebuilding movements from Yemen to help strengthen those movements through advocacy and media training workshops.

OUR IMPACT IN 2019

obel Women's Initiative works to strengthen the strategic power of feminist peace movements by contributing to the development of future feminist peacebuilder leaders in conflict and post-conflict countries.

Based on nearly fifteen years of experience, we have learned that by increasing the linkages, collaboration, and trust among diverse groups and movements—young women, Indigenous, rural, and urban women, women working at the international level and women at the grassroots—the resulting agendas, demands, and voices will be louder, more inclusive, and better coordinated to influence sustained change.

We approach change by:

- Bringing diverse groups of women activists together and linking them to policy makers and influencers.
- Using media to amplify the alternative narratives and solutions of women.
- Working with women leaders to access media and strengthen their capacity to advocate for change.
- Leveraging the prestige and visibility of the women Nobel peace laureates to bridge women leaders' messages and solutions to a global audience.

In 2019 we focused our activities on the next generation of feminist leaders who are working in conflict and post-conflict situations by creating opportunities to build leadership, advocacy and media skills. For women human rights defenders more broadly, we worked to amplify their voices in the media while also gaining access to influencers and policy makers to influence policy. We also worked to strengthen feminist grassroots peacebuilding movements.









OUR INVESTMENT IN YOUNG WOMEN'S POWER AND LEADERSHIP

We support the next generation of women peacebuilders as they make change happen. We provide young women activists training, tools and connections to contribute to the global women's movement.

CLAIMING OUR SPACE: EMERGING FEMINIST VOICES for PEACE

n 2019, Nobel
Women's Initiative
brought together
emerging leaders
from more than
twenty countries in
Monrovia, Liberia
in May 2019 for



Claiming Our Space: Emerging Feminist Voices for Peace—a groundbreaking summit co-hosted with Nobel peace laureate, Leymah Gbowee, and the Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa. Young women activists made valuable connections with other feminist leaders to support their future work. We collectively shaped the conversation through intergenerational discussions about decolonizing feminist leadership, the importance of collective care, and case studies for peace.

The convening also shifted the conversation on sustaining the peace in Liberia by highlighting the importance of feminist peace priorities. A meeting with President George Weah and our Nobel peace laureates at a key moment provided an opportunity for the laureates to speak in a united voice for peace and resulted in local media coverage highlighting feminist peace issues.

Read reflection pieces by participants Louise McGowan and Mbali Donna <u>here</u> and <u>here</u>.

PEACE PEOPLE MEMBER LOUISE MCGOWAN SHARES ON HER RECENT TRIP TO LIBERIA

May 10, 2019 | PeacePeople | Link

"...The group of women attending this conference are the embodiment of power and boldness. This is a group who will not and does not wish to shy away from difficult questions. This space provided an opportunity to explore what is grounding us, inspiring us, what feminist leadership looks like now and what could it look like in the future."

COME AS YOU ARE: THE POLITICS OF SPACE-CLAIMING IN GLOBAL FEMINIST SPACES — MBALI DONNA

June 26, 2019 | FRIDA - Young Feminist Fund <u>Link</u>

"... Regardless of the calibre, presence and international acclaim of the Lauveates, young people were equally encowaged and given the platform to lead and claim the space."

Link to conference video.





STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S PEACEBUILDING MOVEMENTS in SYRIA and YEMEN THROUGH ADVOCACY and MEDIA WORKSHOPS

n 2019, we held two advocacy and media training workshops with Syrian and Yemeni women peace activists. The participants reported feeling significantly more comfortable formulating key messages and policy asks, as well as increasing their skills in communicating key messages to media after the workshops.

The Yemeni activists went on to create the <u>Women4Yemen</u> coalition which is now active on social media. The coalition has presented at a number of global events and is influencing official peace channels. Women4Yemen has also been invited to participate in other forums pressing for women's inclusion in the peace process.

As a result of our work with Syrian women, the <u>Syrian Women's Political Movement</u> invited us to work with them to help get the word out about their first <u>policy papers</u>.





JUSTICE, THERE IS NO PEACE. IF THERE IS NO EQUALITY, THERE IS NO PEACE. WOMEN ARE CRITICAL TO THE PEACE PROCESS GLOBALLY."

JODY WILLIAMS

OUR WORK TO AMPLIFY WOMEN'S VOICES IN THE MEDIA

Visibility and consistent messaging shifts public conversations. We put feminist peacebuilders' messages and solutions in the media spotlight to change hearts and minds.

GLOBAL MEDIA COVERAGE

WI is committed to challenging the fact that there is a dearth of feminist voices for peace in the media. An astounding 81% of interviewed experts in global news are male.¹

We focus on the promotion of women peace and security experts—specifically those from conflict and post-conflict countries—to global media at strategic moments (during political or humanitarian crises, for example). We have succeeded in getting women peacebuilders included in coverage of many major issues related to peace and security, including the ongoing human rights crisis in Iran, sexual violence against women across the globe, the conflict in Yemen and the Rohingya genocide in such major global news outlets as the Washington Post, New York Times, CNN and the Globe and Mail.

WINNERS OF THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE: HERE'S HOW TO STOP WAR WITH IRAN

New York Times | July 8, 2019 | Link By Shirin Ebadi and Jody Williams

TEN YEARS AFTER HER MURDER, WE ARE STILL SEEKING JUSTICE FOR NATALYA ESTEMIROVA

Washington Post | 19 July 2019 | Link

NOBEL LAUREATES CALL FOR ACCOUNTABILITY OF SUU KYI

The New Nation Independent Daily | December 11, 2019 | Link

1 Global Media Monitoring Project - Who Makes the News? http://whomakesthenews.org/gmmp



A NEW ONLINE PLATFORM for JOURNALISTS: INTERVIEWHER

o systematize the promotion of women as peace and security experts, we launched an online platform in February 2019 to connect media with women peace and security experts.

Through <u>Interview-Her.com</u> we aim to include a greater diversity of voices in the media and to change the narrative around issues related to women, conflict and security.

By the end of 2019, the platform featured 72 women peace and security experts from over 46 countries with 20,730 "Contact an Expert" pageviews.

FOR JOURNALISTS SEEKING FEMALE EXPERTS ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS, HERE'S A NEW SOURCE, *PASSBLUE*

February 25, 2019 | <u>Link</u>

CREATIVE OUTREACH with PODCAST LAUNCH — WHEN FEMINISTS RULE the WORLD

n 2019, we launched a new podcast — When
Feminists Rule
the World.
Hosted by comedian
Martha Chaves, the podcast talks with feminist changemakers from around the world about



the future they are creating. Actively promoted on social media, the podcast ranked in the top 50% of new podcasts, with more than 3,300 downloads in over 70 countries.

Guests include Mexican feminist activist and executive director of Balance, Oriana López Uribe; poet, playwright and activist, Shailja Patel; climate justice advocate and communicator, Anjali Appadurai; and British-Syrian humanitarian, doctor and founder of CanDo, Rola Hallam. The podcast takes an edgy — and often humorous — approach to important conversations from a gender justice perspective, covering topics from #MeToo, reproductive rights, and decolonization, to climate justice and peace in the Middle East.

REACHING THOUSANDS THROUGH ONLINE CAMPAIGNS and SOCIAL MEDIA

e consistently use a variety of creative tactics to spotlight and promote the work of grassroots women peacebuilders.

We have a powerful and active presence on social media (over 100,000 followers on Twitter, 164,000 on Facebook, and 22,000 on Instagram by the end of 2019) where we engage with and gain the attention of high-level media outlets. Our messages are seen and amplified by public figures in the realms of politics, media, entertainment, social justice and human rights.

During the annual, global 16 Days of Activism **Against Gender Violence** campaign, we publish daily in-depth profiles of women human rights defenders. In 2019, we had over 240,000 views on Facebook alone, over those 16 days. Four of the women profiled were subsequently interviewed by an Italian author for a book on Middle Eastern women peace activists, and the profiles are regularly re-published by other organizations. Our campaign profile of Razia Sultana is now included as a resource for the Time to Act: Rohingya Voices exhibit at the Human Rights Museum in Winnipeg. Author and poet Helen Knott — <u>profiled</u> in 2016 — references her work with us in the jacket of her 2019 book, In my Own Moccasins. It is also referred to in the Globe and Mail book review.



OUR WORK TO ENSURE WOMEN INFLUENCE PUBLIC POLICY

Access to decision makers leads to influence and policy impact. We create access for women peacebuilders to senior officials. When decision makers are exposed to women's analysis and solutions, they put peacebuilding, human rights and the environment on their agenda.



CALLING for LASTING PEACE on the KOREAN PENINSULA

orking in a consortium to increase our influence and our collective capacity, Nobel Women's Initiative co-founded—with four other feminist peace organizations—an ongoing global peace effort on the Korean peninsula – Korea Peace Now! Women Mobilizing to End the War. The campaign is strategically inserting itself into conversations with decision makers to demand peace. It has had a significant impact on the global conversation on the need for peace on the Korean peninsula and the importance of having women involved in the peace process.

The campaign has connected with key United States Democratic Party presidential candidates, President Moon of South Korea, and with North Korean officials. It also received high-profile media coverage (Time, Newsweek and CNN) in its first year of existence. Significantly, in July 2019, the U.S. House of Representatives approved an amendment by Rep. Ro Khanna declaring that diplomacy is essential with North Korea and calling for an end to the Korean War.

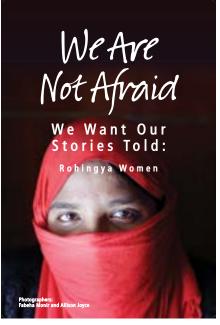
In October 2019, the campaign launched a report on the impact of sanctions on North Korea, showing adverse consequences for civilians, especially women. The report has been promoted extensively. Decision makers are being influenced, including **UN Special Rapporteur** on the situation of human rights in North Korea, Tomás Ojea Quintana, who directly



quoted from the report in his calls for a review of sanctions and their detrimental impact on the human rights situation in the country.

MAKING JUSTICE for the ROHINGYA an INTERNATIONAL PRIORITY

obel Women's Initiative plaved a catalytic role in shaping global conversations on the situation faced by the Rohingya women, starting with our Nobel peace laureateled delegation to the refugee camps near Cox's Bazar in February 2017. The delegation



heard directly from survivors of sexual violence, and met with the local Rohingya women leaders and Bangladeshi women's organizations that first responded to the crisis. The impact of this delegation continued to be seen through 2019. A motion in the Canadian Senate in April 2019 called on the Canadian government to push for legal proceedings before the International Court of Justice under the UN Convention on Genocide. More than a third of Canadian Senators have signed on, supported by a letter signed by more than 100 human rights organizations.

In 2019, we released an online version of our photo exhibit from the delegation, <u>We Are Not Afraid: We Want Our Stories Told</u>, highlighting the experiences of Rohingya women and the Rohingya women making change.



WE MOVE FORWARD, SO THAT THERE IS LIGHT AND HOPE FOR ALL WOMEN ON THE PLANET."

RIGOBERTA MENCHÚ TUM

OUR SUPPORT OF WOMEN'S MOVEMENT BUILDING

Change is driven from the ground up and women's movements provide the spark for change. The Nobel Peace laureates champion women, working across movements, to strengthen our collective power to bring about change.

IMPROVING POLICIES for WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS and BANNING of LETHAL AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS

lobally, we worked to improve policies and funding for women human rights defenders and the movements that support them. In 2019, we lobbied for the Subcommittee on International Human Rights in the Canadian House of Commons to do a study on women human rights defenders (WHRDs), and were then used as an expert witness. The final report which referenced our testimony, recommended that the Government of Canada develop an action plan "to mount a comprehensive effort to protect WHRDs and promote their work". We also worked with Global Affairs Canada to rewrite and strengthen its guidelines on human rights defenders; these new guidelines were released in June of 2019 during a visit of Michele Bachelet, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights.

We are active members of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots and we work in coalition with other organizations including Mines Action Canada and the Women Peace and Security Network-Canada to amplify the voices of women peacebuilders working for a world free of killer robots. In 2019, as part of our 16 days of Activism Campaign, we profiled campaign member Liz O'Sullivan with great success. Her written profile was one of our most popular, with high reach and engagement across our platforms.

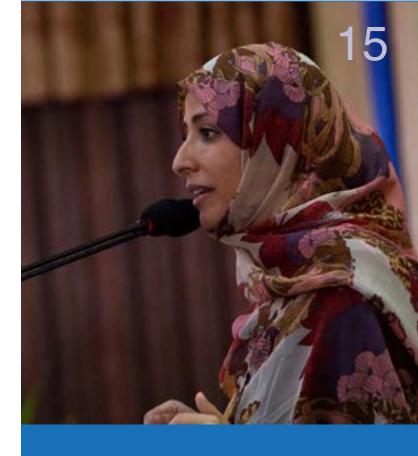
ADVOCATING for MILLIONS of DOLLARS in NEW FUNDING for WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

ur advocacy and communications efforts, in partnership with the MATCH International Women's Fund (now the Equality Fund), laid critical groundwork for the significant and path-breaking progress towards commitments by the Government of Canada for new funding for women's rights organizations and movements. This includes a commitment for \$300M for women's rights organizations through the Equality Fund, announced at Women Deliver in June 2019. Much of our advocacy with the Government of Canada focused on the importance of women's rights organizations being contracted as 'implementing partners'.

Our strength in advocacy and communications and an ability to strategically leverage these skills in the months leading up to the launch of the Equality Fund, played a critical role in laying the groundwork for the successful creation of the fund. Collaborative efforts have continued following the announcement of the fund and strategic decisions and NWI leadership resulted in opportunities to connect those at the top (including the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs) with women working at the grassroots.

LEVERAGING FINANCIAL RESOURCES for GRASSROOTS WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH ADVOCACY

e were instrumental, through advocacy efforts, in grants being awarded (valued at \$4.5M) to grassroots women's organizations though other funding mechanisms (Global Affairs Canada Peace and Stabilization Operations Program, MATCH International Women's Fund, and the Norwegian Agency for Development Assistance) including critical funding for the Organization for Women's Freedom in Iraq, recognized by the Norwegian Agency for Development Assistance.



44 WOMEN ARE AT THE FOREFRONT OF EVERY GREAT CHANGE."

TAWAKKOL KARMAN

SISTER-TO-SISTER

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Areeg Abass, National
Officer on Sexual and
Reproductive Health, Sudan

Areeg is a final-year medical student and women's rights activist. She believes in the



Areeg works to raise awareness about women's health and rights, including gender-based violence, especially in rural communities. She coordinated a large campaign in Sudan against female genital mutilation. She has worked and volunteered with many organizations, including the Sudanese Red Crescent and the Institute of Reproductive Health and Rights.



Carine is a cofounder of des Défenseurs des Droits de la Fille (Defenders of Girls'

Rights) where she works to protect the rights of girls in Eastern Congo. She obtained her university degree in project management.

Carine uses the power of storytelling to include survivors of sexual violence in their journey to healing and empowerment. She believes it is important for women who have gone through difficult experiences to know that they can rise above it, still pursue their dreams, and be successful. She embodies the philosophy that your experience does not have to dictate your future.



Cassandra Spade, Research and Policy Assistant, Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation

Cassandra is from the Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation. She recently completed a B.A. from the University of Manitoba. She is currently enrolled in Anishinaabemowin at Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig while working on educational policy at the Nishnawabe Aski Nation.

Exploring both Western and Indigenous modes of education, Cassandra engages both worldviews, methods, processes and knowledge in advocacy for her surrounding community. Her advocacy involves the acknowledgement of Indigenous systems of education such as land-based education, the recognition of Indigenous languages at post-secondary levels and increasing the accessibility of education to Northern Indigenous communities.



Joyce is an activist for women's rights. Her drive as

a feminist derives from fighting for a fair and just South Sudan. She believes collaborating with people of shared ambition and positive influence can bring South Sudan to peace and prosperity. She is a powerful spoken word poet.





Through her work, Joyce promotes community space for young women to challenge patriarchal stereotypes, explore their talents, and to nurture them to be independent and successful in their desired future endeavors. She is especially passionate about promoting women and girls in sport in South Sudan and runs basketball programs for young women.

Nandar, Founder of Purple Feminist Group, Myanmar/ Burma

Nandar is a feminist advocate, a translator and a storyteller. She is recognized as one of the most powerful feminist thinkers in Myanmar/Burma.

One of the leading organizers and directors of *The Vagina Monologues* play in Myanmar, she has also translated the book *Why We Should All Be Feminists* and *Dear Ijeawele*. In 2019, Nandar also started her country's first feminist podcast, to inspire positive change.

Wafa Al-Yousifi, Media Activist, Yemen

Wafa works towards the promotion of development, leading communities to democracy and development. She is a writer and television presenter, specializing in humanitarian and social programs.

Wafa works to promote gender equality and raise awareness of the challenges faced by Yemeni women. She defines herself as a universal citizen with the global message of equal citizenship and equal humanity, calling for co-existence between different cultures, religions, and politics.



FEMINIST THINKING BELIEVES IN THE EQUALITY OF HUMAN BEINGS. IT DOES NOT ACCEPT CORRUPTION OR CLASS DISTINCTIONS. INSTEAD OF BUYING ARMS WE SHOULD BUILD SCHOOLS. THIS IS THE THINKING WF NFFD 77

SHIRIN EBADI

SUPPORTING OUR WORK FOR PEACE

The Nobel Women's Initiative would like to thank the following organizations and individuals whose generous support allowed us to be a voice for women, peace and security around the world in 2019:

Anat Baniel
Carolyn Buck Luce
Cynda Collins Arsenault
Elizabeth Fisher
Gloria Joseph
Kathy Terry
Kimberley Agnew
Lauren Embrey
Lynne Dobson
Marci Shimoff
Mary Byron
Nancy & Emily Word and family
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Trea Yip

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NoVo Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation
Oak Foundation
Women 2020 Peace Campaign Fund of the Peace Development Fund

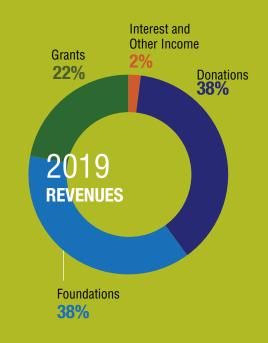
ALL OF THE NOBEL PEACE LAUREATES
OF THE NOBEL WOMEN'S INITIATIVE:

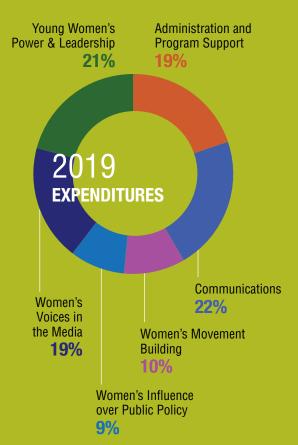
Jody Williams Shirin Ebadi Leymah Gbowee Tawakkol Karman Rigoberta Menchú Tum Mairead Maguire

...and many more generous individuals.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	2019	2018
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 934,401	\$ 687,109
Accounts Receivable	65,916	235,218
Prepaid Expenses & Deposits	2,399	7,190
	\$ 1,002,716	\$ 929,517
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities	\$ 70,480	\$ 90,901
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS	470,479	543,487
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS BEGINNING	295,129	495,367
Net Revenue (Expenditures)	166,628	(200,238)
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS ENDING	461,757	295,129
	\$ 1,002.716	\$ 929,517
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS	ψ 1,00 <u>211 10</u>	4 020,011
REVENUE		
Donations	\$ 747,765	\$ 365,894
Foundations	748,041	337,969
Grants	435,548	422,503
In Kind Contributions	455,540 -0	422,303 -0
Interest & Other Income	_	· ·
interest & Other income	47,016	14,944
	\$ 1,978,370	\$ 1,141,310
EXPENDITURES		
Administration & Program Support	353,652	201,194
Communications	398,572	250,972
Women's Movement Building	173,830	359,063
Women's Influence over Public Policy	157,154	195,134
Women's Voices in the Media	344,816	236,294
Young Women's Power & Leadership	383,717	98,893
	\$ 1,811,742	\$ 1,341,548
NET REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES	\$ 166,628	\$ (200,238)







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YOUTUBE & FLICKR @NOBELWOMEN

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: NOBELWOMENSINITIATIVE.ORG

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NOBEL WOMEN'S INITIATIVE

Advocating for peace, justice & equality