Faith-Inspired Women: The World’s Peacebuilders

Religions for Peace (RfP) recognises that women of faith are irreplaceable and co-equal partners in peace and development and that women have unique potential to spearhead solutions aimed at overcoming many of the world’s challenges, including gender inequality, violent conflict and degradation of the environment, to work towards a more peaceful, just and inclusive society.

The RfP Global Women of Faith Network (WoFN) seeks to amplify the role of women of faith to advance the RfP mission of multi-religious cooperation for peace. Through the WoFN, diverse women of faith leaders coordinate strategies and pool resources and capabilities for cooperative action for peace. Historically, RfP’s WoFN has led numerous initiatives, including efforts to overcome gender-based violence through its Restoring Dignity Campaign.

In August 2019, RfP – the world’s most representative multi-religious peacebuilding coalition – elected its first woman Secretary General, Prof. Dr. Azza Karam. The movement also elected the largest number of women to serve on its World Council, the highest decision-making body in the organisation.

Upon her election, Prof. Dr. Karam stated in an interview with DW news that the moment was historic because, “Religious leaders of major religious institutions of all religions around the world expressed and signalled their readiness to accept a woman as a leader of their joint collaborative effort towards building peace.”

During the month of March, in celebration of International Women’s Day (8 March) and in commemoration of RfP’s 50th anniversary, RfP will be highlighting the voices, stories and leadership of faith-inspired women within the RfP global movement. These stories will feature both current and historic RfP women leaders and women-led initiatives. We invite people within and beyond the RfP movement to learn more about the power of women’s leadership and voices within RfP and share their own stories with us, using the hashtag, #FaithInspiredWomenforPeace.

Learn More:

- RfP Press Release, 22 August 2019: Religions for Peace Announces New Secretary General: Prof. Azza Karam
- RfP Press Release, 23 August 2019: Religions for Peace Concludes its 10th World Assembly Unifying to Protect Rainforests and Welcoming New Secretary General, Dr. Azza Karam
- DW News: August 2019 Interview with Prof. Dr. Azza Karam