Peace means...
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## Religions for Peace

*Religions for Peace*—the world’s largest and most representative multi-religious coalition—advances common action among the world’s religious communities for peace. *Religions for Peace* consists of a World Council of senior religious leaders elected at World Assemblies, six regional and more than seventy National Inter-religious Councils and bodies, and networks of Religious Youth and Women of Faith. Guided by respect for religious differences and a vision of the world’s religious communities cooperating effectively for peace, *Religions for Peace* assists religious communities to collaborate on deeply held and widely shared moral concerns.

### A word about the new *Religions for Peace* identity

We now have a formal “visual identity,” which will enable all *Religions for Peace* affiliates to be recognized as a common family with a unified purpose. This will strengthen all of us.

The most immediately apparent change is the re-tooling of our existing logo. This bright, simple, and powerful logo will be easily recognizable, and importantly it can be configured to fully honor the national and regional identities of all of our affiliates. The second component of our “visual identity” is a coordinated suite of colors and fonts that will help present all *Religions for Peace* publications in a clear, unified and attractive way. The logo, the official color palette, and instructions for their use may be downloaded from: [http://religionsforpeace.org/resources/media/visual-identity](http://religionsforpeace.org/resources/media/visual-identity).
To *Religions for Peace*,
peace means more than just an absence of war.
It means working toward transforming violent conflict,
an end to poverty,
and protecting our earth.

In more than seventy countries around the world, *Religions for Peace* is working to help communities of different faiths cooperate together to build peace.

In 2008, *Religions for Peace* was ADVOCATING for dialogue, RESPONDING to crises, TRAINING religious leaders and their communities, and building PARTNERSHIPS to strengthen the role that faith and faith communities are already playing in public life.
Dear Friends:

One of the greatest privileges of being part of the global Religions for Peace coalition is the opportunity to know and work with so many religious believers who are dedicated to peace in all its dimensions. As your Moderator, I have had the honor of traveling to the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Europe. Seeing first-hand the fruits of your dedication to peace continues to inspire me.

In July 2008, I traveled to Sapporo, Japan, to join the World Religious Leaders Summit for Peace, which was held immediately in advance of the Group of 8 (G8) meeting. More than a hundred senior religious leaders called on the G8 governments to take bold action to address violent conflict and climate change, among the focus areas of the Religions for Peace mission. The religious leaders, gathered by Religions for Peace, represented the world’s major faith traditions, including Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, Judaism, Islam, Shintoism and Zoroastrianism.

For Religions for Peace it was especially critical to draw attention to the link between the health of the environment and war. In addition to killing people, disrupting the lives of entire societies and thwarting development, war destroys the ecosystem.

“We—leaders of diverse religious communities—re-commit ourselves to working together and with other partners of good will to address the threats that confront us all,” we said in the statement. “While we labor to meet the challenges of our day, we are deeply mindful of religious traditions which have taught—each in its own way—compassion, forgiveness and reconciliation, and that these are essential for genuine peace.”

We presented our statement to the Prime Minister of Japan, who shared it with the G8 governments. We try to contribute to the international community an understanding of the moral imperative of shared security, a security which strengthens the human community.

The Hokkaido Summit followed similar work begun in multi-religious meetings held just prior to the G8 summits in Moscow, Russia (2006), and Cologne, Germany (2007). The Religious Leaders Summit for 2009 was held in Italy; a summit will be held in 2010 in Canada.

Such work as the G8 Religious Leaders Summit demonstrates the power and effectiveness of multi-religious cooperation. Together, we can accomplish far more than any one of us can achieve alone. In addition, multi-religious cooperation for peace can in many situations be more powerful—both symbolically and substantively—than the efforts of individual religious groups acting alone.

The symbolic strength arises when multi-religious cooperation helps to prevent or stop conflicts that can—directly or indirectly—involve different religious communities.

The substantive strength arises when cooperation helps diverse religious communities to address common challenges together, offers them creative ways to take advantage of their different strengths, and positions them for partnerships with others.

All of us in Religions for Peace are privileged to have this opportunity to work together, striving for a vision of a peace that we achieve collaboratively, grounded in our respective faith traditions. It is a joy for me to work in service of this goal with each of you; it is a pleasure to share just a snapshot of our great work together on the pages of this report.

In shared commitment to the mission of Religions for Peace.

(�he Very Reverend) Leonid Kishkovsky
Dear Colleagues:

As a religious believer and in my capacity as the Secretary General of Religions for Peace I have grown ever more convinced that it is each religious community’s respective experience of Transcendent Mystery which is at the heart of its capacity to build peace.

In place after place, I have seen religious people turn to their faith and find strength when everything seems to be at an impasse. Ordinary people in the midst of conflicts and gross injustices often humble us.

For example, in Sierra Leone, I worked with Muslim and Christian amputees, who said they were willing to forgive. During the formal peace talks in Lomé, Togo, I spoke with a man who had lost his beloved wife, his daughter, his house, his job. His loved ones could not be returned to him. Yet, he ended his story with simple words: “Thank God for peace. I forgive them all.”

Such people show us that—despite their sufferings, despite injustices that cry out to be addressed—they are not separated from what might be termed by each of our religious traditions in its own way as the “Gift of Peace.”

Each religious tradition’s experience of the “Gift of Peace” is also a “task”—a task that calls each tradition’s respective believers with the utmost urgency to work for true justice and true healing. And yet, the Gift of Peace remains always a “Gift.”

And what a mysterious Gift: We religious people often witness that people have hidden strengths, a living link with Transcendent Mystery that grounds their lives. Often, it is in the dark night of affliction, gross injustices, or withering losses that discloses the hidden strengths of spiritualities.

If each religious tradition works to build a link between its experience of the Gift of Peace and its respective spiritualities, then these spiritualities can provide to believers enormous courage and strength to confront the blend of tragedy and human wickedness encountered in violence and injustice. Religious communities can invoke their respective spiritualities to counter messages of hate, calls for violence, and other misuses of their religion for non-religious purposes. Today, religious communities can cultivate their respective spiritualities as truly irreplaceable resources for reconciliation and healing among and between conflicted persons and communities.

Religious moral heritages—like our respective spiritualities—are are also essential for managing and ending conflicts and building peace. Our moral heritages are not simply catalogues of “dos” and “don’ts.” They are great living moral discourses, shapers of character and conscience, and cultivators of virtue. These are essential for true peace with justice.

Believers in Religions for Peace are already using their respective religious traditions’ experiences of the Gift of Peace as resources for working together. They are responding to conflict and injustice; advocating at the grassroots and highest international levels; training religious communities to work for peace; and partnering with others to strengthen their efforts.

Allow me to invite you to explore how people of faith in Religions for Peace are cooperating by first embracing their own religious tradition’s experiences of the Gift—and task—of Peace in the pages of this Annual Report.

In peace,

Dr. William F. Vendley
Religions for Peace, the world’s largest and most representative multi-religious coalition of Inter-religious Councils and Networks of Youth and Women of Faith, mobilizes faith communities around the world to cooperate together for peace. These two pages help illustrate just a few of the actions taken by Religions for Peace in 2008.

Headquarters
Religious leaders called on the G8 to take action on climate change
Religious leaders advanced Millennium Development Goals during the UN General Assembly
Religions for Peace helped to launch Women, Faith, and Development Alliance
Religious leaders addressed poverty by advancing the Legal Empowerment of the Poor

Latin America
Religions for Peace addressed sexual exploitation of children and adolescents
Religions for Peace held leadership role at XVII International AIDS Conference in Mexico City

Europe
Religious leaders helped to ban cluster munitions
“European Encounter” was a major gathering of religious people and other stakeholders in Rovereto, Italy
Asia

Religious youth helped address violent conflict in Mindanao, Philippines
World Council Co-Presidents addressed humanitarian crisis in Sri Lanka
Religious leaders condemned terrorist acts in Mumbai, India
Religious leaders advocated for peace in Orissa, India

Africa

Religious leaders and youth helped build peace during post-election crisis in Kenya
Religious leaders trained to help end violence against women
$4 million grant addressed HIV and AIDS in Ethiopia and Tanzania

Middle East/North Africa

Senior religious leaders decried death of Iraqi Archbishop
Young adult forum engaged youth in dialogue
Religions for Peace participated with Saudi King Abdullah for inter-religious dialogue
Religions for Peace launched Middle East/North Africa Council

■ indicates the Religions for Peace affiliates
Our Work

Peace Is...

ADVOCATING for dialogue
RESPONDING to crises
TRAINING religious leaders and their communities
Building PARTNERSHIPS
Senior leaders of different faiths from Religions for Peace called on the Group of eight (G8) governments to take bold action to address violent conflict and climate change. The leaders were among the one hundred who gathered for the World Religious Leaders Summit for Peace in advance of the G8 meeting in Hokkaido, Japan, held on 2–3 July 2008.

“We are united in our call to the G8 to take bold action to address the threats that confront humanity, including the destruction of the environment and climate change, extreme global poverty and deteriorating food security, nuclear arms, terrorism and violent conflict,” the religious leaders said in a statement.

On Friday, 4 July 2008, a Religions for Peace delegation delivered the call to action to Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukada in Tokyo, Japan; he, in turn, delivered the statement to his fellow G8 heads of state.

The Hokkaido Summit follows similar work begun in multi-religious meetings held just prior to the G8 summits in Moscow, Russia (2006), and Cologne, Germany (2007). The high-level engagement continues in 2010 in Canada.

AT A GLANCE

Problem. Dire poverty and climate change affects the world’s poorest citizens—those who live on less than USD$2 a day—most severely.

Action. Religions for Peace called on G8 governments in Hokkaido, Japan, to take bold action on violent conflict and climate change.

Impact. A Religions for Peace delegation delivered the call to action to the Japanese Prime Minister. The religious leaders continued their dialogue in L’Aquila, Italy, in July 2009, and plan to engage again in Canada in 2010.

ACTION SUMMARY | ADVOCATING

United Nations | Working For A “Decade of Interreligious Dialogue.” Religions for Peace is leading the steering committee that is galvanizing support for a “United Nations Decade of Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, Understanding and Cooperation for Peace 2011–2020.”

Spain | Advancing “Shared Security” in the Alliance of Civilizations. A notion of “shared security”—in which each person is responsible for the well-being of the other—was advanced by Religions for Peace at the Alliance of Civilizations in Madrid, Spain, on 15–16 January 2008. Plenary sessions were also held with the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, heads of state, and government ministers.

POVERTY
Consultation on Legal Empowerment of the Poor. About 70 percent of the world’s population is currently excluded from access to legal systems and formal economies, resulting in perpetual cycles of poverty. Religious leaders of different faiths are working together to change legal and economic systems to put an end to such suffering.

The religious leaders—representing Buddhist, Christian, Jain, Muslim, and Indigenous faith traditions—forged a partnership to advance “legal empowerment of the poor” as a means to help the underserved raise themselves out of poverty. The religious leaders were convened by Religions for Peace in New York on 5–7 February 2008 in collaboration with Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor; the Commission is co-chaired by former U.S. Secretary of State Dr. Madeline Albright and renowned economist Dr. Hernando de Soto. Hosted by the United Nations Development Programme, the Commission was launched in 2005 by a group of developing and industrialized countries. Its formal study was presented to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon on 3 June 2008.

ACTION SUMMARY | ADVOCATING (continued)
Peru | Fighting Pollution on Behalf of Indigenous Peoples. 99.1 percent of children in La Oroya, Peru, have three times the acceptable level of lead in their blood. Faith communities have created resources and conducted trainings about the dangers. Religions for Peace Latin America and Caribbean lobbied the U.S. Congress in Washington, D.C., on 26 May 2008.

United Nations | High-Level Advocacy to Help Achieve MDGs. During the UN General Assembly, Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon convened a High-Level Dialogue on the Millennium Development Goals on 25 September 2008. Religions for Peace played a leadership role in placing religious leaders and faith communities at the center of the week’s advocacy and action.

Liberia | Helping to Combat Female Genital Mutilation. A campaign to help stop the practice of female genital mutilation advanced, with the Religions for Peace Liberia Women and Children Desk advocating for laws that will end the practice.

Sweden | Interfaith Climate Summit Convened. Swedish Archbishop of Uppsala Anders Wejryd, of the Church of Sweden and a Co-President of the Religions for Peace World Council, convened the Interfaith Climate Summit in Uppsala, Sweden, on 27–28 November 2008.

DISARMAMENT
Religious Leaders Advocate to Ban Cluster Munitions. For more than sixty years, cluster munitions, like landmines, have killed and injured innocent civilians in war-torn regions. The most significant disarmament and humanitarian treaty of the decade bans the use, production, transfer, and stockpiling of cluster munitions and commits each participating government to provide victim assistance and to clear contaminated land. Sixty religious leaders from Religions for Peace signed an international appeal advocating the ban. The ban was adopted by all 107 participating governments during the Dublin Diplomatic Conference on Cluster Munitions in May 2008. In October 2008, H.E. Dr. Mustafa Ceric, Raisu-L-Ulama of the Islamic Community in Bosnia and Herzegovina and a Co-President of the Religions for Peace World Council, hosted the European Faith Leaders Conference on Cluster Munitions in Sarajevo; Cluster Munitions: A Resource Guide for Religions for Peace was also launched. On 3 December 2008, nearly one hundred governments from around the world—accompanied by a delegation of senior religious leaders from Religions for Peace—convened in Oslo, Norway, to sign the treaty.
In the midst of a bloody, brutal civil war that dragged on for nearly a quarter of a century, symbolic gestures could have a profound impact. Since 1983, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a separatist militant Organization fought the Sri Lankan government to create an independent state in the North and East.

The LTTE was made up of Tamils, the largest ethnic group in a country that is more than 80 percent Sinhalese. More than 30,000 had been killed, including tens of thousands of innocent civilians, many of them trapped in the North and used as human shields. In April 2008, a delegation of senior religious leaders from around the world convened in Colombo, supporting the Sri Lankan religious leaders in their pledge to work with the government, opposition parties, and the LTTE to address the burgeoning humanitarian crisis in the North, with 265,000 civilians trapped amid heavy military operations. They met with Sri Lankan President H.E. Mahinda Rajapaksa in partnership with Religions for Peace Sri Lanka and the National Peace Council, committing to assist the vulnerable and displaced persons.

An end to the civil war was declared in May 2009, following months of brutal, unremitting violence between the government and the LTTE. Religions for Peace Sri Lanka is poised to assist with the reconciliation, rehabilitation, and rebuilding of an exhausted and traumatized nation.
Zanzibar usually conjures up images of magnificent beaches, picturesque stone-walled towns, fragrant spices, and a blend of Arab and African cultures. But there is another side that most tourists don’t see. These Indian Ocean islands, part of Tanzania, are also a site of the ravaging effects of HIV and AIDS.

Ms. Riziki Makame knows all about it. Ms. Makame, forty-four, has lived on Pemba Island her whole life. Married with six children, she is a teacher at the local high school. She’s a member of her local mosque and deeply involved in the social concerns of her community.

A few years ago, she noticed the increasing number of children coming to the mosque for help because their parents had died or could no longer care for them. But the number of orphans keeps growing, and the resources are too little.

Ms. Makame herself adopted an orphan boy. Talib Abubakar came from Mombasa with his father a few years ago. His father, unable to find a job, came to the mosque for help. The mosque helped them, but one day, the father did not return from

continued
job-hunting, leaving his son in the care of the mosque. Ms. Makame found room in her already crowded house for the boy. He is now in Grade 3 at the local school.

Ms. Makame was chosen as one of twenty women from temples, mosques and churches across Tanzania to become a facilitator who will train others to give quality care to orphans and vulnerable children. Religions for Peace Tanzania, with support from Religions for Peace International, is mobilizing people and communities of all faiths across Tanzania to care for and support the children, particularly emphasizing the importance of keeping them in school. The three-year grant supporting this work, under the U.S. Government’s New Partners Initiative through the Health Resources and Services Administration, enables Religions for Peace to mobilize individual people of faith through their religious organizations, ensuring that orphans and vulnerable children like Talib will be cared for.

“Religions for Peace is an organization that truly respects authentic religious differences and has valued relationships with both governments and civil society actors to achieve sustainable peace. More importantly, Religions for Peace asks the critical question: ‘What changes as a result of multi-religious cooperation?’”

— The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams, Co-President of Religions for Peace, at International Trustee meeting in June 2008, Lambeth Palace, United Kingdom
**ACTION SUMMARY | PARTNERSHIP**

**Middle East | Leadership Hails Saudi King’s Calls for Dialogue.** *Religions for Peace* is partnering with Saudi Arabia to help advance multi-religious cooperation. Saudi King Abdullah made a historic call for multi-religious dialogue, which was hosted by the Muslim World League on 16–17 July in Madrid, Spain, and at the High-Level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on 13 November 2008. King Abdullah’s call for dialogue is aligned with the mission of *Religions for Peace*, its solid principles of respect for religious differences and its forty-year history of building peace through common action.

**Mexico | XVII International AIDS Conference.** *Religions for Peace* played a leadership role at the XVII International AIDS Conference in Mexico City on 3–8 August 2008. *Religions for Peace* co-sponsored two sessions: “Faith in Action at the Margins,” a multi-religious session reviewing how faith groups are working with such marginalized communities affected by HIV and AIDS as intravenous drug users and refugees; and “Effective Partnerships with Religious and Faith-Based Communities Responding to HIV.”

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**Faith-Based Forum, Germany**

When disaster strikes around the world, faith communities are often the first on the scene to bring humanitarian relief and support. *Religions for Peace* continued its efforts to help find ways of advancing coordination of emergency responses among those faith-based organizations by co-sponsoring the second annual Faith-Based Forum for Multi-religious Cooperation for Humanitarian Relief, Development, and Peace in Frankfurt, Germany, on 3–4 November 2008. The forum brought together leaders of thirty faith-based development and relief organizations from Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America to discuss approaches and challenges to implementing multi-religious programs in situations of armed conflict. The group agreed to launch a joint pilot project in the Horn of Africa, with *Religions for Peace* Africa serving as the focal point. *Religions for Peace* will map the advocacy actions of the participating agencies to begin a discussion around potential future joint advocacy initiatives. The forum was hosted by Humanity First-Germany. The third Faith-Based Forum will be held October 2009 in Toronto, Canada.
Religions for Peace built and strengthened its networks around the world. What follows is a glimpse of some of the global actions around the world to help communities of faith work together to build peace.

New Networks

Middle East/North Africa Council
Religions for Peace Belgium
Religions for Peace Bulgaria
Religions for Peace Burundi
Religions for Peace Sri Lanka
New Networks

European Women of Faith Network
Asian & Pacific Women of Faith Network
Zambia Women of Faith Network
Uganda Women of Faith Network
Nigeria Women of Faith Network

GLOBAL ACTION

USA | Women, Faith, and Development Alliance Breakthrough Summit. The majority of the nearly 3 billion people living on less than $2 a day are women and girls. Leaders of different faiths in Religions for Peace joined together with members of the international women’s and development communities to launch a new initiative that places women and girls at the center of the fight against global poverty. An unprecedented US$1.5 billion in commitments to women’s and girls’ issues was announced on 13 April 2008 at the launch of the Woman, Faith, and Development Alliance at the Washington National Cathedral. Religions for Peace is a co-founder of the Alliance, along with the Cathedral’s Center for Global Justice and Reconciliation, Women Thrive Worldwide, and InterAction. Women of faith in Religions for Peace helped launch the first national chapter of WFDA in Monrovia, Liberia, on 6 November 2008.

United Nations | Commission on the Status of Women. The Religions for Peace Women’s Mobilization Program helped empower women of faith to address environmental issues and violence against women at the annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women was the focus of the 52nd Session of the CSW, held 25 February–7 March 2008 at the UN headquarters in New York.

STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK

Libya | International Women’s Coordinating Committee. The Religions for Peace International Women’s Coordinating Committee, the leadership body of the Global Women of Faith Network, forged an action plan for 2009 on 1–2 December 2008 in Tripoli, Libya. Among their key actions was electing new members to the committee: Mrs. Karen M. Hurley, Catholic, USA, President General, World Union of Catholic Women’s Organizations; Mrs. Evelyn Zentner de Falck, Jewish, Ecuador, International Council of Jewish Women and IWCC Regional Coordinator of Religions for Peace Latin American and Caribbean Women of Faith Network; Lt. Colonel Geanette Seymour, Protestant, Australia, Deputy Director International Social Justice Commission of the Salvation Army; Dr. Lilian Sison, Roman Catholic, Philippines, Chair Women’s Committee, Asian Conference of Religions for Peace. In addition, the members launched the Religions for Peace Global Women of Faith Network working paper series to help place women of faith as religious leaders and public actors. The first theme of the working paper series was identified to be “Women, Peace, and Security.”
When enraged citizens—many of them young men with machetes—began tearing through villages in Kenya’s Rift Valley area and in the capital, Nairobi, Ms. Stellamaris Mulaeh knew where she had to go. It was to Kibera, a sprawling community southwest of Nairobi’s city center. It has been called Africa’s largest slum, home to one million packed in an area just under a mile square (2.5 square kilometers): refugees, citizens seeking escape from dire rural poverty.

After the 27 December 2007 election in which incumbent President Mwai Kibaki was declared the winner, supporters of rival Orange Democratic Party candidate Raila Odinga declared that the victory was rigged. Violence broke out along deep-seated tribal lines, including in Nairobi, the Rift Valley Province, and Mombasa.

Ms. Mulaeh, Coordinator of the Religions for Peace Global Youth Network, knew it was in Kibera that she and other youth could have the most impact. She mobilized youth for a roundtable event with thirty youth groups from eight villages in the Kibera area and, in Thika, organized a youth rally with 2,500 participants. By February, she held Youth of Faith Workshop in Nairobi, trying to help mediate the conflict and calling for peaceful dialogue. Throughout the conflict, she and other youth gathered blankets, water, and food to assist with the humanitarian crisis that was developing.

New Networks

Asia & Pacific: Japan, South Korea, Philippines
Asia & Pacific Sub-regional: Northeast Asia, South Asia
Africa: DR Congo, Uganda, Tanzania, Liberia
Latin America & Caribbean: Argentina, Costa Rica, Peru, Uruguay
Latin American & Caribbean Sub-regional: Central America, Andean Cone, Southern Cone
Middle East: Jerusalem

Global Youth Network

STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK (continued)

Philippines | The Religions for Peace Asian Women of Faith Network. The Religions for Peace Asian Women of Faith Network held a conference just prior to the Asian Conference of Religions for Peace Seventh Assembly at the University of Santo Tomas on 15–16 October 2008. The women of faith re-affirmed how women play an essential role in peacemaking. Dr. Lilian Sison, University of Santo Tomas Graduate School Dean, was elected to head the Asian Women of Faith Network.

STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK

Kenya | International Youth Address Poverty, Peace. Fourteen members of the Religions for Peace International Youth Committee, the leadership body of the Global Youth Network, worked together on 15–19 December 2008 in Nairobi, Kenya, to help address issues of poverty and violent conflict.

Italy | Regional European Youth Forge Strategic Plan. The Religions for Peace European Youth Network on 21–22 May 2008 in Rovereto, Italy, brought together sixteen youth representatives from ten European countries. The European youth elected a Core Group of five, who are responsible for implementing the first phase of the strategic plan.

Philippines | Religions for Peace Asia and Pacific Youth Network held a Youth Summit in Davao, in the Mindanao region of the Philippines, which has been a site of violent conflict. The ninety youth from sixteen countries called for a truce in Mindanao and urged all antagonists to pursue peace “with honor and sincerity.”

Operations

Kenya | Orientation Training for New Partners Initiative. As part of the Religions for Peace $4 million, three-year project to address HIV and AIDS in Africa from the U.S. Government, a four-day orientation workshop was organized from 9–12 December 2008 in Nairobi, Kenya. Participating were staff from the New York-based Religions for Peace International Secretariat and other project-related staff from Kenya, Ethiopia, and Tanzania. The partners discussed the results and action plans of the organizational capacity assessments that were undertaken in Ethiopia and Tanzania. They also finalized the work plan, implementation plan, and the monitoring/evaluation plan. The grant is provided under the New Partners Initiative through the Health Resources and Services Administration.

HQ | Organizational capacity assessment. To evaluate how best to serve the operations of Religions for Peace International around the world, an organizational capacity assessment was conducted at Religions for Peace in New York from 6–8 October 2008. A detailed action plan was developed, and steps to improve—in such areas as monitoring and evaluation and financial reporting—have been taken through 2009.
Japan | World Council and Executive Committee Address Food and Energy Crisis. The World Council and the Executive Committee of Religions for Peace convened on the occasion of the Summit of the G8 heads of state in Japan on 4 July 2008 and endorsed a statement calling on the G8 Governments to address the global food crisis.

UK | Archbishop of Canterbury and Trustees Confront Poverty. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams, a Co-President of the Religions for Peace World Council, on 9 June 2008 hosted Religions for Peace International Trustees and a small delegation of World Council Co-Presidents to discuss the power of multi-religious cooperation to combat poverty.

Italy | European Encounter in Rovereto Explores Shared Values. More than 250 participants of eleven faiths from thirty-four countries met in Rovereto, Northern Italy, for the European Inter-religious Encounter on 22–25 May 2008, “Shared Values for a Changing Europe—Contributions of Cultures and Religions.”

Philippines | Asian Conference of Religions for Peace Seventh Assembly. More than 300 delegates from thirty countries attended the Seventh Assembly of the Asian Conference of Religions for Peace (Religions for Peace Asia) held on 17–21 October 2008 in Manila, the Philippines, focusing on “Peacemaking in Asia.” Dr. Din Syamsuddin, president of Muhammadiyah in Indonesia and an Honorary President of Religions for Peace, was elected Moderator, and Dr. Sunggon Kim of Korea was re-elected as Secretary General.


Germany | European Council of Religious Leaders Annual Meeting. On 3–5 March 2008, the Religions for Peace European Council of Religious Leaders held their Annual Council Meeting. Areas of focus including the situation of the Jewish minority in Europe as well as the situation in Kosovo. The meeting was hosted by Religions for Peace Co-President Bishop Bärbel Wartenberg-Potter (Nordelbische Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche) and the Protestant Churches in Germany (EKD).
“All of the world’s great religions have a critical role to play in building and cementing global peace. Asia is the cradle of great religions that share noble values pursued by all humanity—values such as mercy, justice and peace...And yet, mankind has created so many conflicts in the name of religion. That is why organizations like yours are so important. I commend the Asian Conference of Religions for Peace for its commitment to bringing peace to Asia and the world as a whole.”

— United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, at the Seventh Assembly of the Asian Conference of Religions for Peace in October 2008, Manila, Philippines

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<td>World Conference of Religions for Peace Belgium</td>
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<td>Interreligious Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
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<td>World Conference of Religions for Peace France</td>
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<td>World Conference of Religions for Peace Italy</td>
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<td>Religions for Peace Netherlands</td>
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<td>World Conference of Religions for Peace United Kingdom</td>
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<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
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<th>Regional Bodies:</th>
<th>National Inter-Religious Councils and Groups:</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Argentine National Interreligious Committee</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Barbados Interreligious Organization</td>
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<td>Interreligious Dialogue Table of Bolivia</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Abrahamic Forum of Chile</td>
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<td>Interreligious Group of Colombia</td>
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<td>Religions for Peace Costa Rica</td>
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<td>Religions for Peace Dominican Republic</td>
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<td>Interreligious Meeting of Ecuador</td>
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<td>Religions for Peace El Salvador</td>
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<td>Interreligious Guatemalan Dialogue on Developmen t</td>
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<td>Interreligious Organization of Guyana (IROG)</td>
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<td>Interreligious Council of Mexico</td>
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<td>Ecumenical Committee of Panama</td>
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<td>Peruvian Inter-Religious Conference - Religions for Peace</td>
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<td>Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Coalition of Puerto Rico</td>
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<td>Inter-religious Council in Suriname</td>
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<td>Interreligious Organization of Trinidad and Tobago (IROT)</td>
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<td>Jewish-Christian Fraternity of Uruguay</td>
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<td>Committee of Relations between Churches and Synagogues Established in Venezuela</td>
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<th>Middle East</th>
<th>National Inter-Religious Councils and Groups:</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Inter-religious Coordinating Council in Israel</td>
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<td>Religions for Peace Palestine</td>
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<th>North America</th>
<th>National Inter-Religious Councils and Groups:</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>World Conference of Religions for Peace Canada</td>
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<th>Europe</th>
<th>National Inter-Religious Councils and Groups:</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Malawi Public Affairs Committee</td>
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<td>Council of Religions of Mozambique (COREM)</td>
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<td>Nigeria Interreligious Council</td>
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<td>Interfaith Commission of Uganda</td>
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<td>Inter-religious Council of Sierra Leone</td>
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<td>World Conference of Religions for Peace South Africa</td>
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<td>Sudan Interreligious Council</td>
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<td>World Conference of Religions for Peace Tanzania</td>
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<td>Inter-religious Council of Uganda</td>
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<td>Zambia Interfaith Networking Group (ZINGO)</td>
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<th>Asia and the Pacific</th>
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<td>Asian Conference of Religions for Peace</td>
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| National Inter-Religious Councils and Groups: |
|***********************************************|
| Religions for Peace Bangladesh              |
| Cambodian Interreligious Council (CIC)      |
| China Committee on Religion and Peace        |
| Religions for Peace Democratic People’s Republic of Korea |
| Religions for Peace India OR All India Conference of Religions for Peace (AICRP) |
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| Korean Conference on Religion and Peace      |
| National Council of Religions for Peace Sri Lanka |
| Religions for Peace Thailand                |

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<th>Europe</th>
<th>Regional Bodies:</th>
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<td></td>
<td>European Council of Religious Leaders</td>
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# New Publications and Tools

All of these resources are available for viewing or downloading from: www.religionsforpeace.org.

## Women, Faith, and Development Alliance Video

The Religions for Peace Global Women of Faith Network is a founding partner in a new partnership, the Women, Faith, and Development Alliance (WFDA). The Alliance combines the power of faith and secular communities to increase the political will and action to end global poverty through the advancement of women and girls. With the help of supporting faith communities, women’s groups, and development organizations, WFDA aims to affect policy change and increase financial investments for women’s and girl’s empowerment.

## Legal Empowerment of the Poor Video

Seventy percent of the world’s population—four billion people—are currently unable to improve their livelihoods no matter how hard they work due to multiple forms of exclusion. This exclusion is a grave injustice and a violation of the sacred dignity of every human being, affecting indigenous communities and women the worst, depriving them of political voice, equal rights and participation.

## Guide for Faith Leaders on Cluster Munitions

Religions for Peace can play a leading role in supporting and coordinating the efforts of senior religious leaders to address the challenges of cluster bombs. Religious leaders are uniquely positioned to share these concerns with their own communities. They can also urge their governments to implement a ban on cluster munitions. This toolkit is designed to assist religious leaders as they provide leadership on these two fronts.

## Combating HIV and AIDS and Related Stigma and Discrimination

A third volume in a series on what faith communities in Africa can do to help combat HIV and AIDS. This volume addresses the stigma, discrimination, and denial challenges that faith communities may help overcome.
## Statement of Activities

### REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>2008 Temporarily restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>2007 Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$ 592,968</td>
<td>$ 2,411,091</td>
<td>$ 3,004,059</td>
<td>$ 2,560,056</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>1,305,620</td>
<td>10,812</td>
<td>1,316,432</td>
<td>1,847,869</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest/dividends</td>
<td>709</td>
<td>80,797</td>
<td>81,506</td>
<td>104,110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net gain (loss) – investments</td>
<td>(238,226)</td>
<td>(238,226)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>(14,265)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>2,287,697</td>
<td>(2,287,697)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenues, gains and other Support</strong></td>
<td>4,186,994</td>
<td>(23,223)</td>
<td>4,163,771</td>
<td>4,497,770</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### EXPENSES

**Program services**
- Conflict Transformation: 249,074
- Peace Building: 22,418
- Equipping IRC/Human Development: 893,392
- Interreligious Council Building: 823,679
- Women: 334,496
- Youth/child: 163,973
- Sustainable Development: 709

**Supporting services**
- Administration and general: 382,624
- Fund raising: 407,256

**Total program services**
3,442,281

**Total expenses**
4,232,161

### Change in net assets

- Net assets - beginning of year: 916,742
- Net assets - end of year: $ 871,575
- Change in net assets for year ended December 31, 2008: (45,167)
- Change in net assets for year ended December 31, 2007: (68,390)

### Total

- 2007 Total: 1,200,670
- 2008 Total: 1,200,670

---

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