

THE WORST JOKE IN THE WORLD

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Q: Why does CMI campaign for increasing women's participation at peace negotiations?

A: Peace processes offer a way to steer the direction of a society. Including women in peace processes is not only a question of equality, but it also makes peace processes fairer and more sustainable. Women often look at conflicts from different angles than men, which helps in achieving more comprehensive solutions. Without women, a substantial part of society may reject an agreement and refuse to participate in its implementation. Women's inclusion in the discussions that shape the future of a society paves the way for a more equal society.

Increasing the possibilities for women's participation in conflict resolution has become a high priority for the international community over the past two decades. Nonetheless, women and their views continue to be systemically underrepresented in peace processes. We want to do our share in changing this.

Q: What are the figures and facts used in the campaign based on?

A: The facts are based on information from international organisations and research institutes, usually looking at peace treaties signed between 1990 and 2017. This type of research is carried out by UN Women, Geneva Graduate Institute, Political Settlements Research Programme at University of Edinburgh and Council for Foreign Relations, for example.

Q: Why women? Why not, for example, minorities like disabled or elderly people?

A: More than half of the world's population are women, but only 8 % of peace negotiators and 4 % of people signing peace treaties are women. CMI's work is committed to the long-term goal of increasing the share of women in peace processes to at least 30 percent. In the long run, including women in peace negotiations helps to pave the way for other underrepresented groups to be included in peace processes and other broad processes of societal change. Women's participation is a way to broaden the understanding of who should be listened to and included in political decision-making.

Q: What does CMI do to achieve this? What results has CMI achieved?

A: CMI seeks to resolve conflicts around the world through dialogue and mediation. They are the core competences of CMI, and recognised as the most effective ways of resolving conflicts. Peace saves human lives and money. The average cost of one round of peace negotiations is 40,000 euros, while the cost of warfare is 4 billion euros a day. In the long term, peace



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makes it possible to improve the preconditions of life. It creates a base for economic growth and employment. A successful peace process makes societies fairer in order to prevent new conflicts.

We strive to increase women's role in conflict resolution by bringing together women from diverse social and political backgrounds to discuss and build consensus on the issues that matter to them. We also support them in ensuring that these recommendations then become part of peace and transition processes. CMI promotes gender-sensitive mediation. Our goal is to make it standard practice for gender considerations to be an integral part of all peace processes.

Our strength is that we can bring the perspectives of women directly into ongoing conflict resolution processes. We understand the various roles of women in peace and conflict. We recognize the importance of engaging men in gender issues. There is no single model for strengthening the role of women: instead, we strive for context-specific and locally-driven solutions where national actors carry the primary responsibility. Our work is rooted in our technical knowledge of inclusion mechanisms as well as strong local networks.

Currently, CMI is promoting women's inclusion in peacemaking in parts of Africa, the Middle East and Eurasia.

Q: We have enough problems in Finland, why should we give money to solve problems in other countries?

A: International conflicts also affect Finland. For example, the emergence and development of refugee crises and the tension that follows has strong links to tension between government and non-government actors. In addition, the geopolitical security situation in areas close to Finland has strong links to regional tensions elsewhere, such as Eastern Europe and the Middle East. In order to find sustainable solutions to problems like refugees and terrorism, it is important to address the core reasons that lie in the background. This is precisely what CMI does, helping to ease tensions between conflicting sides.

The peace mediation work of CMI gives Finland access to critical information about the development of the key conflicts around the world and about the development of the regional and international relations connected to them. In addition, CMI provides quiet first-hand information on smouldering conflicts that are yet to become known internationally.

Peace mediation can help profile Finland as a practical and solution-focused actor within the international community and strengthen the idea of the Finnish values and practices that have always been in the heart of Finland's international reputation.



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Q: Couldn't someone else do this?

A: CMI is the best actor for this, in close cooperation with other partners. According to an external assessment commissioned by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, the operation of CMI is unique, not only in Finland but globally. CMI's strength comes from remaining independent of states, offering solid expertise and being Finnish. In addition to this, CMI's work was found to be cost-effective and significant in terms of results.

Q: What about people in the target countries? Shouldn't we let them make decisions in matters concerning them?

A: CMI's view is that peace efforts cannot be outsourced. Sustainable peace processes are always based on local people taking over the process. CMI's principle is to provide support to peace processes led locally and nationally, to extensive social commitment, and to all key parties making an effort in the peace process.

In conflict areas, CMI's versatile pool of experts enables them to use peace mediators who are familiar with the local circumstances. CMI works in close cooperation with local operators and works directly with the conflicting sides. CMI's special added value in the international community comes from its ability to act as a mediator between the official and unofficial actors.

Q: What are the donations used for? Does all money go to increasing the number of women participating in peace negotiations?

A: All funds raised during the campaign will be used to support the activities of CMI. One of the key principles guiding our work is inclusiveness. Everywhere we work, we strive to ensure a greater role for women in peace processes and conflict resolution.

Q: Who is CMI funded by? Why should I give money to the campaign?

A: CMI is a non-profit organisation funded by public and private sources. The organisation's total income in 2017 was 7.3 million. CMI's biggest funder is the Government of Finland, accounting for 55 % of total funding in 2017. We are also funded by other governments, private foundations and other, mainly private sources.

Our projects are also funded by corporate partners and private individuals. A broad funding base ensures that CMI can remain independent and impartial. Private funding ensures that we can react rapidly to emerging conflicts and work confidentially in conflict zones.

By supporting CMI's work, you make room for women at peace negotiating tables.



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Q: How is Martti Ahtisaari connected to the organisation? Is he still involved in the work?

A: Former President of Finland, Nobel Peace laureate Martti Ahtisaari founded CMI upon leaving office of President of Finland in 2000. The main tasks of the organisation in its early years were to assist Martti Ahtisaari in his international assignments, to participate in policy discussions, and to support actors of civilian crisis management. Since then, CMI has developed into an expert organisation that focuses on peace building and conflict resolution.

Martti Ahtisaari stepped down as chairman of the board of CMI in 2017, and the current chairman of the board is Alexander Stubb. Ahtisaari now serves as a Senior Advisor for CMI.

Q: Does the campaign aim at increasing the number of women peace negotiators?

A: Our work focuses on increasing women's participation in peace processes, and our goal is to increase the share of women in peace processes to at least 30 percent. This can mean women's participation in dialogues and peace negotiations as parties to the conflict, peace activists or local experts, as well as peace negotiators. CMI supports international networks of women mediators and, together with the UN and partner organisations, educates peace negotiators to take gender issues into account in their work.

Q: What does a peace mediator do?

A: The goal of peace mediation processes is to create lasting solutions to violent conflicts. Mediation and dialogue are the core of our work. Our peace mediators bring conflicting parties together and develop spaces for dialogue based on mutual understanding. Our mediation work is based on confidential cooperation with all conflicting parties through informal meetings and dialogue. As an impartial facilitator, we can create safe spaces and communication channels where essential and difficult questions related to the conflict can be discussed, analysed and agreed on without being compromised by the high-stakes political manoeuvrings that often characterize official political struggles.

Through informal channels we can create spaces for genuine dialogue, build trust between the conflicting partners and work together with stakeholders towards mutually acceptable solutions for ending the conflict.

