



Fondation Sommet Mondial des Femmes (FSMF) Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF)



Creating Community Circles of Compassion

Introduction

Dear WWSF Partners and Friends,

We hope all of you are doing well and we apologize for the late announcement to inform you that we have replaced the **2025 version of our annual WWSF "19 Days campaign Kit for the prevention of violence & abuse against children & youth 1-19 November"** with a **reminder of our existing campaign "Creating Community Circles of Compassion"** to help increase our capital of compassion when it comes to creating a world fit for children.

Given the increase of violence and abuse against children and youth in too many places around the world today, we are drifting more into unacceptable forms of violence against children and youth. We kindly suggest that you continue to use the **2024 version of 19 Days Kit** to find statistics and numerous suggestions for social change. [Click here to access.](#)

WWSF decided this year, to remind and share with you our ongoing campaign **"Creating Community Circles of Compassion"**, to change our world compassionately. As always, we count on our members, partners and friends to be creative in finding ways to help turn our today's dangerous world around for the common Good for All.

The Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) is pleased to invite civil society, NGOs, and faith-based organizations around the world to join the movement of creating **Community Circles of Compassion**, safe, empowering spaces where people gather to foster healing, dialogue, and collective action for change.



- 👉 Register your Circle today using our online Form! [Click here](#)
- 👉 Discover WWSF initiatives [Click here](#)
- 👉 If you need support, contact us at wwsf@wwsf.ch



In a world struggling with continued challenges, our future depends on more people stepping up our responsibility. By joining or forming a Circle of compassion, you become an **agent of positive change** for children, youth, and future generations - helping to achieve the **UN Sustainable Development Goal #Target 16.2: "End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against children."**



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On November 2, WWSF World Day for Circles of Compassion, it would be great to announce your circle on that date and invite your families and friends to join you for urgent gatherings to express your compassion and support for too many children and youth suffering today.

Violence Against Children: Key Facts & Figures

- **Over 1 billion children** are affected by violence every year.
- **Violence against children** costs societies an estimated **USD \$7 trillion** annually.
- **1 in 2 children** worldwide experiences some form of violence each year.
- **A child dies every 5 minutes** as a result of violence.
- **1 in 10 children** is sexually abused before the age of 18.
- **In 90% of countries**, corporal punishment is still legal in some settings, leaving **732 million children** without full legal protection.
- **1 in 3 internet users** is a child; **800 million** of them are active on social media—exposed to cyberbullying, grooming, and exploitation.
- **Online child sexual abuse reports have skyrocketed**—from **1 million in 2014** to **over 45 million in 2022** (NCMEC).
- **246 million children** experience school-related violence every year.
- **1 in 3 students** report being bullied at school in the last month.
- **1 in 10** have experienced cyberbullying.

(Source: UN SDG #16.2, UNICEF, WHO & other child protection agencies, updated statistics in 2023)

What is a Circle?

“When people gather in circles, the illusion of separation dissolves. We remember that we are not alone.” Inspired by Beverly Engel’s *Women Circling the Earth*, a Circle is more than a physical arrangement of chairs, it is a **transformative space** for truth-telling, healing, listening, and collective empowerment.

Circles offer an **alternative to hierarchical systems**, fostering mutual respect, emotional safety, and **co-leadership**. They provide simple yet powerful tools for:

- Listening without judgment
- Fostering empathy, understanding, and cooperation
- Finding creative solutions to shared problems
- Bridging differences
- Resolving conflicts and reaching consensus
- Encouraging healing, forgiveness, and community spirit

Circle Guidelines

To create an effective and safe Circle, we recommend the following best practices:

- **Invite** friends, family, and community members to co-create a welcoming space.
- **Open the Circle** with silence or a reflection, led by a Circle convener.
- **Use a talking piece** (if necessary) to ensure only one person speaks at a time.
- **Speak** from your own experience, with honesty and from your heart.
- **Listen** deeply and compassionately—**not to judge, but to understand**.
- **Embrace** silence as a space for reflection.
- **Take ownership** of your experiences and contributions.
- **Aim for consensus-based decisions**, and document agreements.



- **Encourage diverse perspectives** and hold space for discomfort.
- **Maintain confidentiality and mutual respect.**
- **Rotate leadership** roles to practice shared responsibility.
- **Close the circle** with gratitude, reflection, and a set date for the next gathering.

Circles empower individuals to learn healthy, collaborative leadership, rooted in compassion and shared purpose.

Create Your Own Community Circle of Compassion

Gather your peers, colleagues, or community members and **commit to collective goals**, ideally aligned with the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Agenda 2030**, with a special focus on **SDG 16.2: "End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against children."**

As your Circle matures, members may initiate **community projects**, support causes, or join broader movements to protect and uplift children and youth. Some Circles have thrived for **10–15 years** or more, becoming strong support groups and sources of grassroots activism.

Adding a Spiritual Dimension

Including a **prayer or meditation moment** in your Circle can foster a deeper connection among members. Begin each session with a brief go-around where each person shares what's most present in their heart. At the close, you may choose to bless any issue discussed and offer a moment of silent contemplation. This spiritual layer is open to all paths and is **not meant to replace existing religious practices**.

Tell Us About Your Circle!

We'd love to hear from you! Please send a short report about your Circle at the end of the year (name, location, theme, and contact email) to wwsf@wwsf.ch. Your Circle will be featured in our global network and annual WWSF Global Impact Report.

Once we receive your registration online, you'll be granted the use of the WWSF **Circles of Compassion logo** ©CirclesOfCompassionWWSF2020, and recorded among the WWSF coalition members.

Resources and Inspiration

We honor the many pioneers of the circle movement, including:

- The Millionth Circle (Jean Shinoda Bolen)
- Women Circling the Earth (Beverly Engel)
- Calling the Circle (Christina Baldwin)
- Wisdom Circles (Garfield, Spring & Cahill)

These books and initiatives offer invaluable guidance for deepening your Circle work.



Charter for Compassion



We are sharing the Charter of Compassion to inspire more people to use it & participate it making it a global quality of life. [Read more here.](#)

"The Charter for Compassion is a document that transcends religious, ideological, and national differences. Supported by leading thinkers from many traditions, the Charter activates the Golden Rule around the world. The Charter for Compassion is a cooperative effort to restore not only compassionate thinking but, more importantly, compassionate action to the center of religious, moral and political life. Compassion is the principled determination to put ourselves in the shoes of the other, and lies at the heart of all religious and ethical systems."

The text of the Charter for Compassion: "The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the center of our world and put another there, and to honor the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.

It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others—even our enemies—is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.

We therefore call upon all men and women to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion ~ to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate ~ to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures ~ to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity ~ to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings—even those regarded as enemies.

We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community."

