Women, Peace and Security Program
Peace and Social Change Fellowship Program
The Earth Institute, Columbia University

Call for Applications
APPLICATION DEADLINE MARCH 18TH NOON (EST)

The Peace and Social Change Fellowship Program aims to generate knowledge, build skills, strengthen relationships and exchange strategies among frontline advocates and organizers working on issues of social change, justice, and, more broadly, security for all people.

Through six-month fellowship cycles, cohorts of women¹ changemakers representing a variety of geographic and thematic areas will come together as a critical learning community to learn from and with each other, both virtually and in person. As part of the fellowship, each fellow will be invited to bring representatives from their respective organizations/movements for two in-person workshops: one at the start of the fellowship and one at the end.

During the course of the six-month fellowship, fellows and their organizations/movements will receive tailored support from a team of interdisciplinary graduate student interns, comprised of students from Columbia University. Rooted in the needs of the fellows, these graduate students will generate specific projects aimed at increasing the visibility of the peace fellows’ activism and organizing. Grounded in solidarity and a sense of radical transnational possibility, the WPS Program believes that in times of heightened inequality, hate crimes and global consciousness of violence against women, as well as vibrant transnational mobilizations for gender and racial justice, the Peace and Social Change Fellowship Program can generate knowledge, advocacy and new networks to support a wide range of peace and justice projects launched and led by women.

¹ The Women, Peace, and Security team uses the term “woman” to describe any individual who self-identifies as a woman, including but not limited to cisgender and transgender individuals.
Peace and Social Change Fellowship Overview- Cohort Two, New York, 2019

The second round of the Peace and Social Change Fellowship Program will begin with a three-day Peace and Social Change workshop in New York, New York in June 2019. Fellows and their colleagues will help shape and design the June workshop.

By participating in this program, Peace and Social Change Fellows will have a platform to increase the visibility of their work and strengthen their relationships with other women changemakers in the field through:

- The exchange and creation of knowledge with fellow grassroots activists and practitioners in New York working on various aspects of peace and security, including reproductive health, environmental justice, gender-based violence and so on.
- Six months of ongoing knowledge and skill exchanges through participatory design.
- Tailored project support from graduate students at Columbia University based on the needs of fellows and their organizations/movements.
- The opportunity to learn from and develop relationships with one another and with a range of faculty and WPS program staff, including Nobel Laureate, peace activist, and WPS Executive Program Director Leymah Gbowee.

In order to deepen cross-learning, and to recognize the collective efforts behind transformative social change actions, fellowships are designed to engage both individuals and the organizations/movements that they represent. While individuals apply on behalf of their organizations/movements, each applicant who is awarded a fellowship will be invited to bring two to three representatives from their respective organization/movement to the June and December workshops. This will ensure that representatives with a variety of positions within each organization/movement (for example, both Executive Directors and frontline outreach workers) will be able to participate in the workshop, and that a range of voices and leadership roles will be highlighted. Accepted fellows will be interviewed about the opportunities they seek to gain from the Peace and Social Change Fellowship Program, and the program design will be adapted based on the cohort’s collective expertise and needs.

Following the June workshop, WPS staff will facilitate six months of ongoing communication among the fellows via webinars and email. Fellows will also receive tailored project support from interdisciplinary graduate student teams, comprised of graduate students across a range of background and disciplines. In December 2019, the fellows, along with WPS staff and graduate student teams, will meet for a second gathering in New York, New York to discuss and present their collaborative work.

Fellowship Eligibility

The second Peace and Social Change Fellowship cohort is designed for practitioners and grassroots activists working broadly on issues of peace and security. This includes less commonly recognized aspects of peace and security, such as economic equity, sexual and reproductive rights, and environmental realities, among other topics. Given the collaborative nature of the program, the
fellows will be selected to bring together a diverse range of experiences and to ensure that a variety of focus areas are represented. The selection process will be based on the following criteria:

- Currently work on behalf of an New York-based grassroots-level organization or movement in the area of social justice and social change
- Have a history of movement-building or change-making in their community
- Have some aspect of their work related to the theme of peace and security (including but not limited to sexual health, environmental justice, gender based violence, racial justice, etc)
- Are interested in receiving ongoing interdisciplinary support from WPS staff and graduate student interns
- Are 18 years of age or older
- Are proficient in English

**About the Women, Peace and Security Program**

The mission of the Earth Institute’s Women, Peace and Security (WPS) program, led by Nobel Peace Laureate Leymah Gbowee, is to contribute to greater global and regional understanding of the diverse roles women play to successfully influence sustainable peace and promote human security through everyday activism. Through education, public service and research, the WPS program advances visibility and knowledge exchange among women peacebuilders and practitioners – domestically and internationally – and disseminates lessons learned from their experiences.