THE CENTURY *of* WOMEN

The twenty-first century has been called the Century of Women, highlighting the critical role of women in creating a peaceful future. ● Throughout history, women have worked tirelessly—often behind the scenes—for the peace and safety of their families and their communities. Today women are taking leading roles in the quest for global security and equal rights. ● The continuing empowerment of women throughout the world is a key to solving the world's most pressing issues, ranging from the abolishment of nuclear weapons to poverty and hunger. ● This exhibit features the contributions of a few women. Untold millions more—both prominent and little known—have dedicated themselves to a fair and peaceful future.

WOMEN *and the* NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

The Nobel Peace Prize has become the world's most prestigious prize for the preservation of peace. Since 1901 it has been awarded to individuals and organizations committed to peace, human rights and humanitarian causes.

Ninety-seven individuals and 20 organizations had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize by 2010.

Nine of these women have received the award since 1976 when Betty Williams and Mairead Corrigan won for their roles in the peace movement in Northern Ireland.

Female Nobel Peace Prize Laureates

1905 – Bertha von Suttner
1931 – Jane Addams
1946 – Emily Greene Balch
1976 – Betty Williams
1976 – Mairead Corrigan
1979 – Mother Teresa
1982 – Alva Myrdal
1991 – Aung San Suu Kyi
1992 – Rigoberta Menchú Tum
1997 – Jody Williams
2003 – Shirin Ebadi
2004 – Wangari Maathai

"We are deeply, passionately dedicated to the cause of nonviolence, to the force of truth and love, to soul-force. To those who say that we are naive, utopian idealists, we say that we are the only realists."

Betty Williams

Betty Williams and Mairead Corrigan lead a rally bringing together Protestants and Catholics, Belfast, Ireland, August, 1976.

Betty Williams (b 1943) was a Belfast office worker and mother in 1976 when she witnessed the death of three young children hit by a car driven by an IRA fugitive. The driver was shot and killed by British soldiers. Williams, raised a Catholic, and the children's aunt, Mairead Corrigan, were grief stricken and outraged. They organized public peace marches and petition drives. The incident set off a storm of protest over the history of violent religious conflict in Northern Ireland.

Williams co-founded The Community for Peace People, an organization dedicated to peace and harmony in the world. Williams and Corrigan won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1976.

Williams has devoted her life to creating a new way forward; a movement to begin a reversal of thinking on how we deal with the injustices, cruelty and horror perpetrated on the world's children. She heads the Global Children's Foundation and is founder and president of the World Centers of Compassion for Children International.

In addition to the Nobel Prize, Williams has received numerous awards and honorary degrees including the Schweitzer Medallion for Courage, the degree of Doctor of Laws from Yale University, and the degree of Doctor, Honoris Causa, from Soka University Japan.

“The struggle for democracy and human rights in Burma is a struggle for life and dignity.... Human beings the world over need freedom and security that they may be able to realize their full potential.”

Aung San Suu Kyi

Aung San Suu Kyi, a fighter for the democratization of her country, speaks at a rally, Yangon, Myanmar, 1996.

Aung San Suu Kyi (b 1945) is a Burmese opposition leader who headed the National League for Democracy when the party won a landslide victory in 1990. Her party was denied power by the military junta, and she has been in prison or under house arrest for 15 of the past 21 years. In November, 2010, she was released from house arrest by the military government.

Suu Kyi's father, who was instrumental in bringing about Burma's independence from British colonial rule, was assassinated when she was two years old. Her mother became her country's ambassador to India, where Suu Kyi went to the University of Delhi. She graduated from Oxford University in 1969 and later received a PhD from the University of London.

Suu Kyi married scholar Michael Aris in 1972 and had two sons. She worked in New York, London and Shimla, India before she returned to Burma in 1988 to care for her ailing mother and to lead the pro-democracy movement.

Suu Kyi has become an international symbol of the struggle for democracy and human rights. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991, and has received many other humanitarian and peace awards.

“We can work together for a better world with men and women of goodwill.... Mankind’s universal values of love, compassion, solidarity, caring and tolerance should form the basis for this global ethic, which should permeate culture, politics, trade, religion and philosophy.”

Wangari Maathai

Wangari Maathai addresses the United Nations Climate Change Summit at the UN headquarters in New York, September 22, 2009.

Wangari Maathai (b 1940) is a Kenyan environmental activist. She has a Master of Science degree from the University of Pittsburgh, and a PhD from the University of Nairobi, where she taught Veterinary Anatomy. In 1976 while serving on the National Council of Women in Kenya, she introduced the idea of community-based tree planting. She developed this idea into a broad based grassroots organization, the Green Belt Movement.

Beginning in 1986 the Green Belt Movement spread across Africa, encouraging rural women to plant more than 40 million trees to challenge deforestation, soil erosion and lack of water. The success of the project inspired a Pan African Green Belt movement in 1986, and similar initiatives have now been launched in numerous other African countries.

Maathai is internationally recognized for her persistent struggle for democracy, human rights and environmental conservation. In 2002 she was elected to Kenya’s parliament, with 98% of the vote. She is the author of two books: an autobiography, *Unbowed*, and an explanation of her organizational method, *The Green Belt Movement: Sharing the Approach and the Experience*.

Maathai won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004. She has received numerous international awards, including France’s highest honor, the Legion of Honor, in 2006.

“If the 21st century wishes to free itself from the cycle of violence, acts of terror and war, and avoid repetition of the experience of the 20th century ... there is no other way except by understanding and putting into practice every human right for all mankind, irrespective of race, gender, faith, nationality or social status.”

Shirin Ebadi

Shirin Ebadi at the Street Children's Home that she founded, Tehran, Iran, October 17, 2003.

Shirin Ebadi (b 1947) is an Iranian lawyer, writer, teacher and human rights and peace activist. She has focused on the struggle for the rights of women and children.

Ebadi received her law degree from the University of Tehran and in 1969 became the first female judge in Iran. After the 1979 revolution when conservative Islamic clerics took control, Ebadi and other female professionals were forced to resign their positions. Ebadi used her time writing books and articles in Iranian periodicals, which made her widely known. She was eventually allowed to practice law privately and to teach at the University of Tehran.

In 1996 Human Rights Watch honored Ebadi as a leading defender of human rights. Ebadi won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003 for her efforts for democracy and human rights. She was the first Iranian and the first Muslim woman to win the Peace Prize, which was widely viewed as a call for reform in Iran.

Ebadi has lived in exile in the United Kingdom since a disputed election in Iran in June 2009. She has said that the human rights abuses and the oppression of women by the Iranian government contradict the true teachings of Islam.

“My wish is that a conscious sense of peace and a feeling of human solidarity would develop in all the people, which could open new relationships of respect and equality for the next millennium, ruled by fraternity and not by cruel conflicts.”

Rigoberta Menchú Tum

Rigoberta Menchú Tum casts her ballot during a presidential election, Guatemala City, Guatemala, November 9, 2003.

Rigoberta Menchú Tum (b 1959) was born to a poor Guatemalan Indian family and raised in the Quiche branch of the Mayan culture. As a child she did farm work and picked coffee with her family. She became involved in issues of social justice and women’s rights while she was still a teenager. Her brother, father and mother were all imprisoned, tortured and killed by the repressive government.

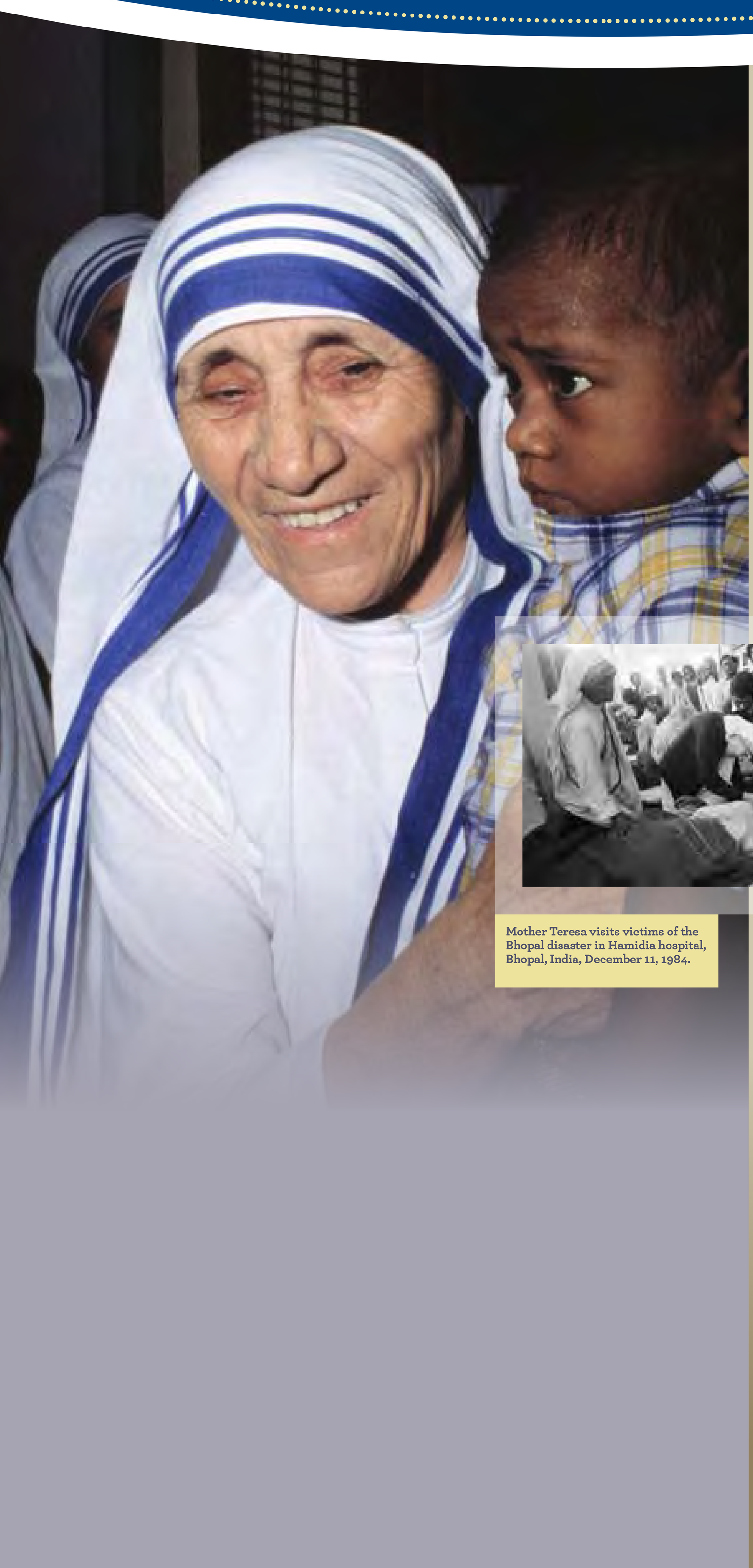
In 1979 Menchú Tum became active in the Committee of the Peasant Union (CUC), leading strikes and organizing anti-government protests. In 1981, she was forced to flee to Mexico, where she continued to resist oppression in Guatemala and lead the struggle for Indian peasant peoples’ rights.

In 1996 a peace accord was finally reached in Guatemala, ending the 36-year civil war. Menchú Tum headed an effort to have the political and military establishment tried in a court of law. She took the case to Spanish courts, and in 2006 the court called for the extradition of seven former members of the Guatemalan government on charges of torture and genocide against the Mayan people. In 2007 she ran for President of Guatemala.

Menchú Tum won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992. She is a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador.

"It is not how much we do, but how much love we put in the doing. It is not how much we give, but how much love we put in the giving."

Mother Teresa



Mother Teresa, (1910–1997) was born Gonxha (Agnes) Bojaxhiu in the former Yugoslavia, the youngest of three children. Her father died when she was a child and the family struggled with poverty. At 18, she joined the Loreto Sisters of Dublin, Roman Catholic missionaries and teachers. After a year in Ireland, she was sent to India where she made her first vows and took the name Teresa.

Mother Teresa began teaching history and geography in a girl's high school. She taught for 15 years before her "second calling" came in 1946 when she dedicated herself to working with the poorest of the poor.

She left her order and founded the Missionaries of Charity, working in the slums of Calcutta, teaching children and visiting the poor and ill. Others joined her and support flowed in from around the world. At the time of her death in 1997 the order operated missions in 123 countries.

Mother Teresa visits victims of the Bhopal disaster in Hamidia hospital, Bhopal, India, December 11, 1984.

Mother Teresa's work was recognized throughout the world. She received many awards, including the Pope John XXIII Peace Prize in 1971. Mother Teresa won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, and India's highest honor, the Bharat Ratna in 1980.

CALL TO TEN MILLION

> "If ten million women really want security, real representation, honesty, wise and just legislation, happier and more comfortable conditions of living, and a future with the horrors of war removed from the horizon, then these ten million women must bestir themselves."

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

WOMEN WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Countless women devote themselves to the pursuit of peace—though activities dedicated to such issues as education, children's rights, and nuclear abolition. Women lead in efforts to battle hunger, poverty and assaults on the environment.

Some of these women rose to prominence in their own fields—entertainment, law, and politics. Some are less well known. All are committed to the creation of a more just and peaceful world.

ROSA PARKS

"My mother taught me self-respect. She always insisted, 'There's no law that says people have to suffer.'"

Rosa Parks (1913–2005) was an American Civil Rights activist, widely known as the mother of the Civil Rights movement. In 1955 in Montgomery, Alabama, Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger and she was arrested and fined.

The resulting bus boycott, led by Martin Luther King, lasted for more than a year and brought the cause of civil rights to the attention of the world. A US Supreme Court decision eventually outlawed segregation on public transportation.

In later years, Parks continued working for equal rights for all. After her husband's death in 1977, she founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development. Parks received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996, a Congressional Gold Medal in 1999 and many other awards and honors.

FIGHTING FOR PEOPLE POWER

WORKS FOR EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

CORAZON AQUINO

MICHELLE BACHELET

"Democracy in the end is the best system for ordinary people. It is the only one that exalts them and unites them in peace across all the countries of the world."

Corazon Aquino (1933–2009) was President of the Republic of the Philippines from 1986 to 1992. She was the first popularly and democratically-elected female president and head of state in Asia.

Aquino's husband was a leading critic of Fernando Marco's authoritarian regime, and was assassinated in 1983. Aquino then became the opposition leader, and led the People Power Revolution, which restored democracy in the Philippines.

Aquino promoted civil liberties, human rights, and dialogue. Her administration focused on creating economic health and promoting social responsibility. Aquino also supported numerous charitable causes. She was a lifelong member of the Council of Women World Leaders.

"Women's strength, women's industry, women's wisdom are humankind's greatest untapped resource."

Michelle Bachelet (b 1951) is the daughter of a Chilean Air Force Brigadier General who was jailed during the reign of Augusto Pinochet and died in prison. Bachelet and her mother were also imprisoned and tortured.

Bachelet refused to let these early experiences make her bitter. A physician, she served as Chile's minister of health, and then minister of defense. Bachelet was elected president of Chile in 2006. One of her many accomplishments in Chile was the establishment of a national system of childcare centers.

Bachelet was appointed Under-Secretary-General for the newly formed initiative, Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) in September 2010. UN Women combines four existing programs for women, and promises a new level of commitment by the United Nations to women's issues.

On the 10th anniversary of UN Resolution 1325, which made historic commitments to women, peace and security, Bachelet commended the UN Security Council on its consideration of stronger implementation, monitoring and accountability measures. "The Security Council is better equipped than ever before to ensure that women engage in peace talks and to build a stronger protection environment for women," she said.

SHINING LIGHT ON FORGOTTEN WOMEN

COMEDIAN IS SERIOUS ABOUT CHARITY

ESTHER CHÁVEZ

"It is necessary to create respect for the weakest ones—children, women and old people—and to teach, educate and campaign to raise awareness of the value of all life, the Divine Gift."

Esther Chávez (1933–2009) was born in Chihuahua, Mexico. She worked as an accountant in Mexico City and then transferred to the border city of Juarez. Shocked by the news of increasing numbers of murdered women in the desert outside the city, Chávez organized campaigns to protest police indifference.

After she retired she collected data about the murders and put together a library of facts to use to confront police and politicians. In 1999 she opened the Casa Amiga shelter and rape crisis center.

Chávez's tireless determination brought the world's attention to the murders in Juarez. In 2004 she received an International Human Rights Award in London, and in 2008 she won Mexico's National Human Rights Award. She died of cancer in December 2009.

ELLEN DEGENERES

"I know for sure I would never change any of the hard times I went through in my life. Because it was in those times that I grew the most and gained the most perspective. It's our challenges and obstacles that give us layers of depth and make us interesting."

Ellen Degeneres (b 1958) is an American actor, comedian and talk show host. She is known for her humor and for her positive attitude.

"I try to keep every single thing positive," she says. "It's so expected now that every joke has to be mean-spirited. Everything has to be against somebody. I don't think it's healthy."

Degeneres supports numerous charities and foundations. Her charitable interests include animal rights, combating world hunger and fighting cancer. A native of New Orleans, she raised over $10 million for hurricane Katrina relief. She often gives gifts and donations on her show and has won many awards for her philanthropy.

BELIEVES IN GIVING TO EFFECT CHANGE

PROFILES COURAGEOUS ORDINARY WOMEN

MELINDA GATES

MARIANE PEARL

> "If you are successful, it is because somewhere, sometime, someone gave you a life or an idea that started you in the right direction. Remember also that you are indebted to life until you help some less fortunate person, just as you were helped."

Melinda Gates (b 1964) is an American philanthropist and co-founder of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. After Gates graduated with a BA in Computer Science and an MBA from Duke University, she joined Microsoft where she worked on the development of multimedia products.

In 1994 she married Bill Gates, the co-founder of Microsoft. She left the company to focus on raising their three children, and now devotes much of her time to the foundation.

The Gates have donated more than $24 billion dollars to the foundation. "We literally go down the chart of the greatest inequities and give where we can effect the greatest change," Gates says.

> "Try to avoid complaints. Self-pity, even when legitimate, never fails to undermine your strength."

Mariane van Neyenhoff Pearl (b 1967) is a French writer and freelance reporter who grew up in Paris, where she covered immigration and identity issues, using her daily radio program for Radio France International to explore issues of society, identity and politics.

She met Daniel Pearl, a reporter for the Wall Street Journal when he was on assignment in Paris. The couple married in 1999. In 2002 he traveled to Pakistan on assignment, where he was kidnapped and brutally murdered by terrorists. Her memoir of these events, *A Mighty Heart*, was adapted for a film with Angelina Jolie.

Undefeated, Pearl continues her career as a journalist who searches the world for hero's and hope. Her second book, "Global Diaries" profiled courageous ordinary women who are changing the world in extraordinary ways. Pearl has won numerous journalism awards and other honors.

FOCUSES WORLD'S ATTENTION ON REFUGEES

ADVOCATES FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS' RIGHTS

ANGELINA JOLIE

"We cannot close ourselves off to information and ignore the fact that millions of people are out there suffering.... I think we all want justice and equality, a chance for a life with meaning."

Angelina Jolie (b 1975) is an American actress and humanitarian. Jolie trained at the Lee Strasburg Theater Institute in Los Angeles from the age of eleven, worked in music videos and as a model before beginning her acting career. Her fame grew after her role in 1999's "Girl, Interrupted," for which she won an Academy Award.

After an eye-opening visit to Cambodia during filming for "Laura Croft: Tomb Raider," Jolie became increasingly involved in humanitarian efforts.

Jolie is now a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR), and has traveled to more than 20 countries to meet with refugees and displaced persons. She also commits a significant proportion of her income to charity.

LEAH TUTU

"Even with the few laws that have been given in their favor, it is still very hard for domestic workers to make demands as a union.... I don't think people are aware of domestic workers' conditions because it is such a private thing, a family affair."

Leah Tutu (b 1933) was born in Krugersdorp, South Africa. She trained as a teacher, noting that the choices for women at that time were limited to domestic work, teaching or nursing. She married Desmond Tutu in 1955 and they are the parents of four children.

Archbishop Tutu won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for his role in ending Apartheid and encouraging reconciliation. Leah Tutu became an icon of the civil rights struggle in South Africa in her own right. The daughter of a domestic worker, she became a leading advocate of South African domestic workers' rights.

In 1998, Desmond and Leah Tutu established The Desmond Tutu Peace Trust, whose mission is to nurture peace by promoting ethical, visionary, values-based human development.

CARRIED ON DREAM OF EQUALITY

REFUGEE RETURNS TO LEAD CAMBODIAN WOMEN

CORETTA SCOTT KING

> "I am convinced that the women of the world, united without any regard for national or racial dimensions, can become a most powerful force for international peace and brotherhood."

Coretta Scott King (1927–2006) was an American author and activist. She was born in rural Alabama, one of four children. Though her parents were uneducated they were determined that their children go to college.

King attended Antioch College in Ohio, where she joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). She transferred from Antioch when she won a scholarship to the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston.

Married to Martin Luther King Jr., she became a revered Civil Rights leader in her own right after his assassination in 1968. In the years after Dr. King's assassination she took on the leadership of the struggle for racial equality and became active in the Women's Movement.

NANDA POK

> "We are educating women ahead of the election so they will be aware of important issues that empower women."

Nanda Pok (b 1959) and her family fled to France and then to the United States in 1975, when she was 14 years old, just before Pol Pot took control of Cambodia. She lived in the United States for 18 years, and returned to Cambodia to continue her humanitarian work.

Pok is the founder and executive director of Women for Prosperity, an organization that promotes women's political participation in Cambodia. "We want to promote a culture of peace not revenge," she says.

Pok is committed to teaching women to be effective leaders and empowering them to speak up. The organization brings together people who were formerly enemies and helps them to build trust.

ROYAL WORKS FOR JUSTICE AND WORLD PEACE

LEADER OF RWANDAN WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

QUEEN NOOR OF JORDAN

VENERANDA NZAMBAZA-MARIYA

"I've seen it around the world, in the poorest countries and in countries riven with conflict.... It is women who are the key to breaking out of poverty, breaking out of stagnation.... It's women who can contribute to achieving real security—not bombs and bullets and repressive governments."

Queen Noor of Jordan (b 1951) was born Lisa Halaby in Washington, DC. She became Queen of Jordon in 1978 when she married His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal of Jordon. The King died in 1999, and as Queen Dowager she has continued to engage in a wide range of charitable activities, both in Jordon and around the world.

Queen Noor chairs the King Hussein Foundation, which she founded to build on her husband's humanitarian work, and the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, which facilitates social and economic advancement in Jordon.

Queen Noor leads numerous humanitarian organizations focusing on such issues as refugees, poverty and disarmament. She has won many awards for her work in advancing development, democracy and peace.

"Like Martin Luther King, the women of Rwanda had a dream: that that nightmare will never happen again, in Rwanda and elsewhere."

Veneranda Nzambazamariya (1958–2000) was among a handful of women who, immediately after the Rwandan genocide of 1994 urged women to rise above ethnic differences and come together to heal the country.

Nzambazamariya was a founding member of two dynamic women's organizations in Rwanda. She was active in promoting women's issues throughout the continent and was a committed member of the Women's Committee for Peace and Development.

Nzambazamariya died in an airplane crash in 2000. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) awarded her the Millennium Peace Prize for Women in 2001.

WORKS FOR THE WORLD'S CHILDREN

HELPS WOMEN WAR SURVIVORS REBUILD LIVES

OPRAH WINFREY

ZAINAB SALBI

"My philosophy is that not only are you responsible for your life, but doing the best at this moment puts you in the best place for the next moment.... Where there is no struggle, there is no strength."

Oprah Winfrey (b 1954) is an American talk show host, actor, producer, activist and philanthropist. Her television show is the highest–rated talk show in US television history. Winfrey is also ranked as one of the country's most generous philanthropists.

Oprah's Angel Network, started in 1998 as a campaign to encourage her viewers to collect spare change, now supports organizations around the world improving access to education, protecting basic rights and more. The Angel Network has raised over $50 million, which is all distributed since Winfrey covers all administrative costs.

Winfrey also founded a Leadership Academy for Girls in South Africa, has contributed to rebuilding New Orleans, and encourages parents to involve their children in volunteering.

"I really don't believe that this world can be a better place and can be safe and stable if women and girls do not have an equal share and equal participation in all decision making."

Zainab Salbi (b 1970) is an Iraqi-American writer and activist. She was born in Baghdad and came to the United States at 19. Her own experiences made her particularly sensitive to the plight of women affected by war.

Salbi writes and speaks extensively on the uses of rape and violence against women during war. In 1993 she and her husband founded Women to Women International, an organization creating connections between women sponsors in the United States and women war survivors in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The organization has distributed more than 80 million dollars in direct aid and microcredit loans, helped more than 77,000 women and impacted over a million children's lives.

FIRST LADY STANDS UP FOR PEACE

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

> "It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it."

Eleanor Roosevelt (1884–1962) was an author, philanthropist, diplomat and champion of social causes. After a difficult and lonely childhood, she married her cousin Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1905.

Eleanor Roosevelt was First Lady of the United States from her husband's election in 1933 until his death in 1945. She championed her husband's New Deal policies and became an outspoken advocate of civil rights. After his death she assumed an active career of her own.

Roosevelt supported the formation of the United Nations and President Harry S Truman appointed her a delegate to the UN General Assembly. Truman called her the "First Lady of the World" as a tribute to her many activities on behalf of social justice.

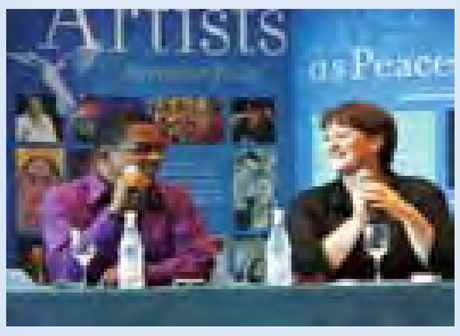
Roosevelt served as Chairman of the United Nations Human Rights Commission and helped to draft the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. She chaired John F Kennedy's groundbreaking Presidential Commission on the Status of Women.

ICAP

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF ARTISTS FOR PEACE

The International Committee of Artists for Peace (ICAP) is an organization of passionately committed individuals using the creative power of the arts to bring about a peaceful society. Collaborating with individuals and organizations that share its mission for peace, ICAP employs dialogue and the full creative power of the arts to instill the ideals of humanism and nonviolence in today's youth. Since 2002, ICAP has sponsored concerts, exhibits and dialogues in support of the United Nations Declaration and Program of Action on a Culture of Peace.

ICAP's mission is to establish peace and develop peacemakers through the transformative power of art. Its goal is to continue expanding circles of peace and friendship through culture and the arts around the globe.



Dr. Patricia Lewis, former Director of United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, and Herbie Hancock conduct a workshop on Artist as Peacemakers.

Nobel Peace Prize winner Betty Williams speaks at the Culture of Peace exhibit opening at the UN Headquarters in New York.

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