

## How we work...

### Status

BWCP was founded in Brisbane in 2004 and registered as an independent community-based association in 2006. It has an elected coordinating committee which meets on a six to eight weekly basis, and a volunteer part-time activities' coordinator.

### Membership

We welcome women of all faiths and spiritual paths. Members pay an annual fee according to ability. BWCP also has a large group of informal contacts. Most activities are open to all of members and contacts, and some are open to a wider circle of friends and families of members.

### Schedule of activities & events

We organise and schedule our activities in a flexible way to accommodate the interests, contributions and availability of members, contacts and special guests. Participation is voluntary. All are welcome to initiate and be involved in organising activities and events. A regular bulletin of news and events is available in electronic format or by post.

### Networking & collaboration

Our association networks and collaborates with a wide range of other bodies and individuals, including faith, interfaith, women's, peace and social justice organisations. We have a strong relationship with the Multi-Faith Centre at Griffith University. We welcome the support of sympathetic women leaders in the political arena. We advertise and promote the activities and events of some of these partners.

## Contact us...

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BELIEVING WOMEN

*for a Culture  
of Peace*

## Vision

Living in a world where people of diverse faiths and cultural backgrounds mingle together as never before, believing women find themselves called to

- cultivate deep mutual respect, understanding and appreciation across faiths and cultures;
- develop relationships based on what we have in common, and celebrate the bonding power of religious faith and Indigenous spiritualities;
- fashion the diversity of our spiritual and cultural resources into a power for the good of society as a whole;
- counteract the potential of religious and cultural differences for divisiveness and conflict, and contribute to a lasting culture of peace.

## Goals

Believing Women for a Culture of Peace (BWCP) aims to

- promote respectful relationships and mutual support among women of different faiths and spiritual paths;
- develop the capacity of members to engage confidently in sharing their faith and spirituality with others and in interfaith dialogue;
- provide opportunities for personal spiritual development and growth in intercultural awareness;
- serve as a resource for other community groups and organisations seeking the contribution of women from diverse faith and spiritual traditions;
- build partnerships with other local organisations or projects committed to addressing prejudice and intolerance and promoting peace;
- network with other local, national and international women's interfaith and peace initiatives.

## Activities

BWCP's activities reflect the diverse interests of members. They include:

- information and discussion sessions focusing on a particular faith or spiritual tradition;
- dialogue sessions on themes or topics of interest across faiths and spiritual traditions;
- an annual retreat to provide the opportunity for in-depth sharing and relationship building;
- workshops to address the challenges of conflict resolution and peace-building;
- celebrations to mark key annual commemorations of particular faith communities;
- interfaith activities related to public events and commemorations such as International Women's Day and Harmony Day;
- informal social gatherings, including hospitality to a wider circle of women;
- participating in the events of other groups with whom we share a common interest;
- collaborating with such groups to organise joint activities.

