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This issue of Window on the World describes a number of international civil society organizations engaged in faith-based development and peace work. Religious communities are among the largest and best-organized civil institutions, successfully bridging the divides of race, class and nationality among their huge set of constituencies. As such, they are well equipped to meet the challenges of today's world: resolving conflicts, supporting the poor and promoting peaceful co-existence among all peoples. This selection highlights some of the most well-known groups, chosen not only for the breadth and scope of their work but also for the links they offer to other groups within their faith communities. It covers mostly global networks that work in English and with good access to the World Wide Web. There are of course many organizations other than the ones listed here, involving hundreds of thousands of people, who are, as the articles attest, the backbone of community development work. The list is organized in three parts: global interfaith organizations, which work from different religious positions towards the common goal of peace and development; faith-based organizations and networks from different religious affiliations, which work

towards peace and the common good; and faith-based development organizations engaged in practical development work largely at the community level. We hope the section, even if partial, will provide a useful resource for readers wanting to explore further the multitude of ethical, developmental and practical concerns raised in the articles about the interlinkages between religion and development.

Interfaith organizations

Global Peace Initiative of Women

www.millenniumpeacesummit.com/gpiw_about.html

The Global Peace Initiative brings together women religious, business and government leaders from every faith and region in the world, to forge a partnership to reduce conflict, violence and religious hatred. The aim is to develop specific action steps that will create and expand effective peace building led by women. The Initiative was founded by a small group of women religious leaders who participated in the Millennium World Peace Summit held at the UN in New York in 2000. Working together with UNIFEM, it provides grants and training for small businesses to women in order to promote economic and political stability in the Middle East, the Congo, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Pakistan among other regions.

Institute on Religion and Public Policy

www.religionandpolicy.org

The Institute on Religion and Public Policy is a think tank and advocacy organization founded to study and understand the relationship of religion, ethics and morality to public policy, government, culture and politics in both the international and US-domestic arenas.

It aims to provide a forum where people of all political and religious backgrounds, faiths and beliefs can meet and come to an understanding on issues of common concern. The Institute both undertakes academic inquiry into the relationship between religion and public policy, and actively participates on several levels to encourage cooperation between religion, ethics and morals and public policy.

Interfaith Youth Core

www.ifyc.org

The Interfaith Youth Core engages youth from different faith communities in a dynamic process of intercultural encounter, social action and interfaith reflection. The Interfaith Youth Core seeks to link the religious identities of youth to two areas: (1) understanding, appreciating and respecting other religious identities; and (2) making a difference in the broader society through social action.

International Association for Religious Freedom

www.iarf.net

The International Association for Religious Freedom works for freedom

of religion and belief at a global level, including encouraging interfaith dialogue and tolerance. IARF has over 90 affiliated member groups in approximately 25 countries from a wide range of faith traditions.

International Peace Council

www.peacecouncil.org

The International Peace Council is a diverse group of internationally known and respected religious and spiritual leaders whose mission is to demonstrate that peace is possible, and that effective inter-religious collaboration to make peace also is possible. The Peace Council supports local peacemakers in regions of special need and gives practical assistance to local peace efforts and to 'communities of peace.' The Peace Council also works with the United Nations, governments and other NGOs.

Religious Consultation on Population, Reproductive Health and Ethics

www.religiousconsultation.org

The Religious Consultation on Population, Reproductive Health and Ethics (TRC) is an international, multi-faith network of progressive feminist religious scholars and leaders. It aims to seek out the positive, renewable moral energies of our faith traditions, directing them to the issues of population, consumption, ecology, reproductive health and the empowerment of women. TRC recognizes that religion is a powerful motivator, so it seeks to influence scholarship, policy-making and popular opinion in appropriate and effective ways through participation in international and governmental forums, convening symposia of theologians, and the publication of scholarly and popular materials in the print and broadcast media worldwide.

United Religions Initiative

www.uri.org

The United Religions Initiative aims to promote enduring interfaith cooperation, to end religiously motivated violence and to create cultures of peace, justice and healing. The URI works through creating safe opportunities for dialogue, sharing and action, and piloting innovative approaches to peace building, youth work and development. It now has members in 47 countries, representing more than 88 religions, spiritual expressions and indigenous traditions. The URI website contains informative background information about a wide range of religions and spiritual traditions as well as resources and news about interfaith activities.

World Conference on Religion and Peace

www.wcrp.org

The World Conference on Religion and Peace is an international coalition of representatives from the world's major religions dedicated to achieving peace. WCRP aims to create multi-religious partnerships that mobilize the moral and social resources of religious people to address their shared problems. Some of WCRP's recent successes include mediating dialogue among warring factions in Sierra Leone; building a climate of reconciliation in Bosnia and Kosovo; organizing an international network of religious women's organizations; and a programme to assist children affected by Africa's AIDS pandemic.

World Council of Religious Leaders

www.millenniumpeacesummit.com

The World Council of Religious Leaders was founded in 2000 to serve as a model and guide for the creation of a community of world

religions, and seeks to inspire women and men of all faiths in the pursuit of peace and mutual understanding. It aims to assist the UN and its agencies by providing the spiritual resources of the world's religious traditions in the prevention, resolution and healing of conflicts, and in addressing global social and environmental problems.

World Faiths Development Dialogue

www.wfdd.org.uk

The World Faiths Development Dialogue was set up in 1998 as an initiative of James D. Wolfensohn, President of the World Bank and Lord Carey, then Archbishop of Canterbury. Its aim is to facilitate a dialogue on poverty and development among people from different religions and between them and the international development institutions. The focus is on the relationship between faith and development and how this is expressed, both in making decisions about development policy and in work with poor communities all over the world. WFDD aims to bring out what is positive in both arenas and to see if there are ways in which the religious organizations can contribute more vigorously through debate and action to bringing about an improvement for the poor.

Faith-based organizations

Bahá'í Movement

www.bahai.org

Members of the Bahá'í Faith, the second most widespread of the world's independent religions, come from over 2100 ethnic, racial, and tribal groups and number some 5 million in 235 countries and territories worldwide. Bahá'í communities around the globe work to break down barriers of prejudice between

peoples and collaborate with like-minded groups to promote the model of a global society. At the heart of the Bahá'í belief is the conviction that humanity is a single people with a common destiny.

Bombay Sarvodaya Mandal and Gandhi Book Centre

www.mkgandhi.org

A website hosted by non-profit Gandhian research organizations in India which is full of information about Gandhi, his life, his work and his philosophy. Gives access to Gandhi's work and writings, articles on and by Gandhi on various subjects, information about non-violence and conflict resolution, and on-line books and resources. Also hosts the official Gandhi e-archive and reference library (<http://web.mahatma.org.in/index.jsp>).

BuddhaNet

www.buddhanet.net

BuddhaNet is a non-sectarian organization based in Australia which aims to facilitate a significant Buddhist presence in the ever-expanding realm of computer communications technology, applying this technology to helping make the Buddha's teachings freely available to all. The website contains a wide range of educational and information materials as well as access to the World Buddhist Directory.

The Gaia Movement Trust

www.gaia-movement.org

The Gaia Movement considers it an ethical requirement that we protect the Earth and see ourselves as teachers and models for future generations. Gaia (the name for Mother Earth in Cretan mythology) was used by the English chemist James Lovelock to describe his theory that the Earth is alive and is more than the

elements it contains because of the interactions and symbiosis. All organisms, humans included, are not separate independent units but depend very much on the others for continued survival on the Earth. It is well documented that the balances are threatened by human activities. These conditions must be changed and humans are the only organisms with the ability to change them. We have or must develop the technology that allows us to stop the destructive activities and reach a dynamic equilibrium to the benefit and future of all organisms on Earth.

Hindu Resources On-line

www.hindu.org

Hindu Resources On-line is a website dedicated to Hindu solidarity, culture and the dissemination of Hindu knowledge. It is coordinated by the Himalayan Academy which was founded in 1957 as a non-profit educational institution dedicated to disseminating the teachings of Saivite Hinduism. The Himalayan Academy also publishes the magazine, *Hinduism Today*. Most of the content of www.hindu.org consists of links to other Hindu or Hindu-related websites.

Interfaith News Network

www.humanitarian.net/interfaith

A project hosted by the Humanitarian Resource Institute in Connecticut, USA (www.humanitarian.net) which offers news and on-line resources for faith-based and community organizations. Has links to major organizations associated with all the major faiths and brings together a range of useful interfaith documents, such as the International Interfaith Peace Declaration which aims to encourage open discussion, strategic planning and development of initiatives associated

with conflict resolution, healing, reconciliation and crisis management and intervention.

International Grail

www.grail-us.org/international.htm

International Grail is an international, ecumenical, spiritual, cultural and social movement of women which is rooted in Christian faith and committed to transforming the world into a global community of justice and peace. The spirit of the Grail is expressed in practical work towards its international goals: working for justice and solidarity; building bridges of understanding and breaking down barriers; facing cultural change creatively; healing our planet and the divisions among us; enabling women to develop their full potential in different walks of life.

International Humanist and Ethical Union

www.iheu.org

Founded in 1952 in Amsterdam, IHEU is the only umbrella organization of humanist, rationalist, atheist, secularist, ethical culture and agnostic groups around the world. Its member organizations range from large membership groups to specialist bodies such as publishers, universities and development agencies. IHEU fosters development of new humanist organizations and supports them with resources and advice. In collaboration with its Dutch Specialist Member HIVOS, IHEU funds activities in developing countries through its Humanist Networking and Development Programme.

New Age Movement

www.religioustolerance.org/newage.htm

The New Age Movement is a free-flowing spiritual movement of individuals, many of whom graft some new age beliefs onto their regular religious affiliation. Unlike most

formal religions, it has no holy text, central organization, membership, formal clergy, geographic centre, dogma or creed. New Age teachings became popular during the 1970s and its roots are traceable to many sources: Astrology, Channelling, Hinduism, Gnostic traditions, Spiritualism, Taosim, Theosophy, Wicca and other neo-pagan traditions. The movement started in England in the 1960s where many of these elements were well established and small groups, such as the Findhorn Community in Inverness and the Wrekin Trust formed. It quickly became international and is now a stable force in North American religion as a reaction to the dominance of logic and science.

Quaker Peace and Social Witness

www.quaker.org.uk/peace

Quakers recognize that one of the major roots of conflict in the twenty-first century is the imbalance of economic benefits and human rights. Quaker Peace and Social Witness aims to address the relationship between violent conflict and its causes, as well as striving for peace and social justice across the world. Programmes include peace-building projects and support for local peace-making processes; promoting peace studies and conflict resolution skills in schools; training in active non-violence as a way to bring about social change; working for freedom of information and greater government accountability; campaigning for greater use of restorative rather than punitive justice; working with multinational companies on fair labour and trade standards.

World Council of Churches

www.wcc-coe.org

The World Council of Churches is an international fellowship of Christian

churches that promotes encounter, dialogue and collaboration. The WCC addresses development issues through the work of its International Affairs, Peace and Human Security team. The team works both in advocacy and information provision on human rights violations, conflicts and peace-making initiatives, as well as through programme activities in the fields of human rights and religious freedom; disarmament and arms control; peace and conflict resolution; global governance, including UN relations; refugees, migrants and internally displaced people; and impunity, truth and reconciliation.

World Jewish Congress

www.wjc.org.il

The WJC is an international federation of Jewish communities and organizations. As an umbrella group it represents Jews from the entire political spectrum and from all Jewish religious denominations. Serving as a diplomatic arm of the Jewish people to world governments and international organizations it tries to preserve the principle of unity in diversity and always seeks consensus. Congress members include more than 100 communities organized in regional frameworks. The Congress has offices in New York (headquarters), Jerusalem (where the WJC's research institute is located), Paris, Buenos Aires and a United Nations liaison office in Geneva. The WJC strives to coordinate the common interest of its members, defend Jewish rights and status without interfering in domestic affairs.

Faith-based development NGOs

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)

International
<http://adra.org>

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) International is an independent humanitarian agency established in 1984 by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. ADRA serves people without regard to their ethnic, political or religious association. It simply helps people in need, especially those most vulnerable such as women, children and senior citizens. ADRA's development and relief work is divided among five core portfolio activities: Food Security, Economic Development, Primary Health, Disaster Preparedness and Response, and Basic Education.

Aga Khan Development Network

www.akdn.org

The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) is a group of eight development agencies working in health, education, culture and rural and economic development, primarily in Asia and Africa. The agencies of the AKDN are private, international, non-denominational, organizations. Their programmes are open to everyone within their areas of operation without reference to religion, race, ethnicity or gender. The work of all AKDN agencies is heavily concentrated in South Asia, Central Asia and eastern Africa. Individual agencies have activities in other areas such as western Africa, the Middle East, Europe and North America. The Aga Khan Trust for Culture conducts programmes directed to the entire Islamic World.

American Jewish World Service

www.ajws.org

AJWS is an independent not-for-profit organization founded in 1985 to help alleviate poverty, hunger and disease among the people of the world regardless of race, religion or nationality. AJWS works in partnership with

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local grassroots NGOs engaged in education, community building, health care, agriculture reform and economic development, and initiates projects to alleviate poverty. The inspiration for AJWS's work is drawn from the demand for social justice articulated by the Jewish tradition, in the Torah and in the Talmud.

Caritas Internationalis

www.caritas.org

Caritas Internationalis is a confederation of 154 Catholic relief, development and social service organizations working in 198 countries and territories. Caritas works without regard to creed, race, gender or ethnicity, and is one of the world's largest humanitarian networks. Its mandate includes integral development, emergency relief, advocacy, peace building, human rights and protection of the environment and natural resources. The Caritas approach is based on the social teaching of the Church, which focuses on the dignity of the human person. Caritas fights poverty, exclusion, intolerance and discrimination, and empowers people to participate fully in all matters affecting their lives, and it advocates on their behalf at national and international forums.

Catholic Relief Services

www.catholicrelief.org

Catholic Relief Services was founded in 1943 by the Catholic Bishops of the United States to assist the poor and disadvantaged. CRS provides direct aid to the poor, and involves people in their own development, helping them to realize their poten-

tial. And CRS educates the people of the United States to fulfil their moral responsibilities toward others by helping the poor, working to remove the causes of poverty, and promoting social justice.

Islamic Relief

www.islamic-relief.com

Islamic Relief (IR) is an international relief and development charity founded in the UK in 1984. As well as responding to disasters and emergencies, IR promotes sustainable economic and social development by working with local communities – regardless of race, religion or gender. Islamic Relief works in four main sectors: Emergency Relief, Development, Orphans, and *Waqf* (the principle of charitable trust, one of the most important pillars of Muslim society). IR currently has field offices in Afghanistan, Albania, Bangladesh, Bosnia, Chechnya, Egypt, Indonesia, Kosovo, Pakistan, Mali, Palestine and Sudan carries out further projects in India, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Somalia and Yemen.

Jesuit Refugee Service

www.jesref.org

The Jesuit Refugee Service is an international organization, which works in over 40 countries, whose mission is to accompany, serve and defend the rights of refugees and forcibly displaced people. This mission embraces all who are driven from their homes by conflict, humanitarian disaster or violation of human rights, following Catholic social teaching, which applies the expression 'de facto refugee' to many related categories of people. Prioritiz-

ing work wherever the needs of displaced people are urgent and unattended by others, JRS offers a human and pastoral service to refugees and the communities who host them through a wide range of rehabilitation, relief activities and social services.

Maryknoll Mission

www.maryknoll.org

Maryknoll is a US-based Catholic mission movement made up of the Maryknoll Society (priests and brothers), Maryknoll Congregation (sisters), the Maryknoll Mission Association of the Faithful (laity, priests and religious), and the Maryknoll Affiliates. Founded in 1911, Maryknoll Missioners today help people overseas build communities of faith, working with refugees, with the sick, the elderly, orphans or people with AIDS. Maryknoll is an important publisher of books on Christianity, peace and development through its imprint Orbis Books.

Muslim Aid

www.muslimaid.org

Muslim Aid was founded in November 1985 by 23 leading British Muslim organizations, in response to continuing conflicts and disasters around the world. While responding to emergencies is one of the major priorities, Muslim Aid also works on strategic programmes for poverty eradication that focus on education, skills training, provision of clean water, healthcare and income generation projects in 50 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe and the Caribbean.