

# Women Peacemakers – A Global Selection

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## North America

**Maria Chapman** born Weymouth, MA July 25, 1806. Co-founded world's first nonviolent society 1838; Editor abolitionist journal *The Non-Resistant*.



**Jane Addams** born Sept 6, 1860. Quaker-raised. Principal founder of Women's International League for Peace & Freedom (WILPF); Nobel Peace Prize, 1931.



**Emily Greene Balch** born Jamaica Plain, MA Jan 8, 1867. Called the "Improper Bostonian"; WILPF leader; awarded Nobel Peace Prize, 1946.



**Virginia Gildersleeve** born Ireland Jan 28, 1893. Historian; dean of Barnard College; founder of UN and UNESCO; drafted Preamble of UN Charter.



**Jeanette Rankin** born June 11, 1880. Lifelong pacifist; first woman elected to US Congress, 1916. Voted against both World Wars.



**Eleanor Roosevelt** born Oct 11, 1884. Drafter of UN Human Rights Declaration; chair of UN Commission on Human Rights; US delegate to UN.



**Winona LaDuke** born Aug 18, 1959. Member Native American. Anishinaabeg people; Green Party Vice-Presidential Candidate, 1996 & 2000.



## Great Britain/Ireland

**Emmeline Pankhurst** born Manchester, England July 15, 1858. Radical suffragist whose direct action inspired Gandhi; mother of three suffragist daughters.



**Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence** born England Oct 21, 1867. Founding Member of WILPF; opposed WW I.



**Virginia Woolf** born London Jan 25, 1882. Wrote feminist pacifist classic – *Three Guineas*, 1938.



**Kathleen Lonsdale** born Ireland Jan 28, 1903. Physicist; Quaker. President of WILPF and Pugwash Conference.



**Peggy Duff** born England Feb 8, 1910. Peace organizer; helped establish GND (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament), 1957.



**Betty Williams** born Belfast, N. Ireland May 22, 1943. Co-founded the Community for Peace People; Shared Nobel Peace Prize, 76.



**Mairiad Corrigan Maguire** born Belfast, N. Ireland Jan 27, 1944. Co-founded the Community for Peace People; Shared Nobel Peace Prize, 1976.



## Northern Europe

**Bertha von Suttner** born Prague June 9, 1843. Founded Austrian Peace Society 1891; First female to win Nobel Peace Prize, 1905.



**Aletta Henriëtte Jacobs** born Netherlands Feb 9, 1854. First Dutch woman to become physician; radical pacifist; helped organize WILPF.



**Alva Myrdal** born Sweden Jan 31, 1902. Founded Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, 1966; Shared Nobel Peace Prize, 1982.



**Sophie Scholl** born Forchthegen, Bavaria May 9, 1921. Leader of White Rose nonviolent resistance to Hitler (executed by guillotine 1943).



**Hildegard Goss-Mayr** born Vienna, Austria Jan 22, 1930. Nonviolence activist; honorary president of International Fellowship of Reconciliation.



**Gro Harlem Brundtland** born Norway April 20, 1939. Three times prime minister of Norway (1981, 1986-89, 1990-96); UN Special Envoy for Climate Change, 2007.



**Petra Kelly** born Bavaria Nov 29, 1947. Founding member German Green Party, 1979; opposed nuclear weapons and Vietnam War; received Right Livelihood Award, 1982.



## Southern Europe

**Marie-Olympe de Gouges** born France May 7, 1748. Revolutionary Declaration of the Rights of Women, 1791. Executed by guillotine, 1793.



**Marie Goegg-Pouchoulin** born Geneva, Switzerland May 24, 1826. Pioneer Swiss feminist; pacifist; co-founder of international women's peace society.



**Maria Montessori** born Italy Aug 31, 1870. Pioneer in peace research and pedagogy; lifelong pacifist; antiwar and militarism activist.



**Magda Grilli Troceni** born Italy Nov 2, 1901. French nonviolent activist whose efforts helped save 3,000 Jews during WW II.



**Simone de Beauvoir** born Paris, France Jan 9, 1908. Feminist; existentialist philosopher. Led opposition to wars in Algeria & Vietnam.



**Simone Weil** born France Feb 3, 1909. Philosopher and social activist; advocate of nonviolence; self-identified anarchist.



**Carla Del Ponte** born Switzerland Feb 9, 1947. Swiss Attorney General 1994-99; prosecutor of UN International Criminal Tribunals, 1999-2007.



## Oceania

**Vida Goldstein** born Australia April 13, 1869. Revolutionary Declaration of the Rights of Women, 1891. Executed by guillotine, 1793.



**Eleanor May Moore** born Australia March 10, 1875. Pacifist and anti-nuclear advocate; WILPF leader; author of "The Quest for Peace"; 1949; Opposed WW I.



**Te Puea Herangi** born New Zealand Nov 9, 1883. Maori Pacifist; Opposed Maori Wars; leader of nonviolent resistance to conscription in WW I.



**Alice Wedega** born Papua New Guinea Aug 20, 1905. Peacemaker at home and in N. Ireland; first woman legislator; conscientious objector.



**Helen Caldwell** born Sri Lanka April 7, 1938. Physician; led international opposition to nuclear tests; Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament



**Amelia Rokotiuva** born Fiji Aug 7, 1941. Feminist; fought for peace, justice and equality; protested for nuclear free Pacific.



**Helen Clark** born New Zealand Feb 26, 1950. Leader of peace movement; promoted nuclear free zone; Three term Prime Minister of New Zealand, 1999-2008.



## South Asia

**Sarojini Naidu** born India Feb 13, 1879. Nonviolent activist for Indian independence; poet; Known as "The Nightingale of India".



**Anasuya Sarabhai** born India March 5, 1871. Anti-militarist labor organizer; Fabian Socialist. Founded Textile Labour Association, 1920.



**Vijaya Lakshmi Nehru Pandit** born India Aug 18, 1900. Gandhian nonviolent resister. First woman president of UN General Assembly, 1953.



**Anuradha Koirala** born Nepal April 14, 1949. Founded Maiti (Mother's home) to rescue girls / victims of sex trafficking, 1993.



**Radhika Coomaraswamy** born Sri Lanka Sept 17, 1953. Human rights expert; UN Special Envoy on children in war; UN Rapporteur on Violence against Women, 1994-2003.



**Irene Khan** born Dhaka, Bangladesh Dec 24, 1956. Human rights activist. Secretary General of Amnesty Int., 2001-09; awarded Sydney Peace Prize, 2006.



**Taslima Nasrin** born East Pakistan Aug 25, 1962. Bangladeshi. Author; physician; human rights activist; UNESCO prize for tolerance and nonviolence, 2004.



## Eastern Europe

**Helena Blavatsky** born Ukraine Aug 12, 1831. Founder of Theosophy, a philosophy of universal brotherhood 1875; profoundly influenced Gandhi.



**Rosa Luxemburg** born Poland March 5, 1871. Anti-militarist revolutionary; opposed WW I. Marxist critic of Soviet bureaucracy; murdered 1919.



**Alexandra Kollontai** born Russia March 31, 1872. Soviet diplomat; credited with ending Winter War with Finland, 1940; opposed World War I.



**Rosika Schwimmer** born Budapest Sept 11, 1877. Hungarian Internationalist; pacifist; World Peace Prize, 1937; Nobel Peace Prize nominee, 1947.



**Emmy Arnold** born Riga, Latvia Dec 25, 1884. Founder of nonviolent Bruderhof Community, 1920.



**Mother Teresa** of Calcutta born Albania Aug 26, 1910. Catholic nun; awarded First Templeton Prize, 1972; Nobel Peace Prize, 1979.



**Melina Mercouri** born Greece Oct 18, 1920. Anti-militarist; leader resistance to military junta; co-founder of Amnesty International.



## East Asia

**Michi Kawai** born Japan July 29, 1877. Internationalist; pacifist; president of Japan Peace Society; "The greatest woman leader in Japan".



**Wu Yi-Fang** born China Jan 26, 1893. Biologist, diplomat; First female university president in China, 1928-52; one of four women to sign UN Charter, 1945.



**Mari Hasegawa** born near Hiroshima, Japan Sept 17, 1918. Peace activist; called "Gentle Woman of a Dangerous Kind"; awarded Niwano Peace Prize, 1996.



**Carmel Budiardjo** born London June 18, 1925. Human rights activist. Founded TAPOL. Received Right Livelihood Award, 1995.



**Sadako Ogata** born Tokyo Sept 16, 1927. 10 years UN Refugee Commissioner. Received Ramon Magsaysay Award, 1997; Indra Gandhi Prize, 2001.



**Leticia Ramos-Shahani** born Philippines Sept 30, 1929. Diplomat. UN Assistant Secretary General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, 1981-86.



**Aung San Suu Kyi** born Burma June 19, 1945. Pro-democracy activist. Placed under house arrest for 15 years; Nobel Peace Prize, 1991, Nehru Award, 1992.



## Middle East

**Felicja Langer** born Poland Dec 9, 1930. Human rights activist; Israeli attorney who defended Palestinian clients. Received Right Livelihood Award, 1990.



**Nawal El Saadawi** born Egypt Oct 27, 1931. Psychiatrist, feminist; North-South Prize, 2004; tented in Tahrir Square, 2011.



**Hanan Ashrawi** born Ramallah, Palestine Oct 8, 1946. Palestinian peace negotiator; poet; diplomat; professor.



**Shirin Ebad** born Iran June 12, 1928. Anti-apartheid activist; leader and writer, Mandela biography. Reestablished Gandhi's Phoenix Settlement, 1979.



**Roza Otunbayeva** born USSR (now Kyrgyzstan) Aug 23, 1950. Professor of Philosophy; leader of Kyrgyz Tulip Revolution 2005.



**Lisa Halaby aka Queen Noor** of Jordan born Washington DC Aug 23, 1951. Led effort to abolishing nuclear weapons and international landmine campaign.



**Tawakul Karman** born Taiz, Yemen Feb 7, 1979. Nonviolent leader of Yemeni Arab Spring, 2011. Shared Nobel Peace Prize, 2011.



## Africa

**Olive Schreiner** born S. Africa March 24, 1855. Environmentalist, writer. Close friend of Gandhi; nonviolence advocate; opposed WW I.



**Nadine Gordimer** born S. Africa Nov 20, 1923. Awarded Nobel Literature Prize, 1991; early opponent of Apartheid; Writer, books banned.



**Fatima Meer** born S. Africa Aug 12, 1928. Anti-apartheid activist; leader and writer, Mandela biography. Reestablished Gandhi's Phoenix Settlement, 1979.



**Ellen Johnson Sirleaf** born Liberia Oct 29, 1938. Led campaign to end civil war and violence against women; shared Nobel Peace Prize, 2011.



**Wangari Muta Maathai** born Kenya April 1, 1940. Founded Green Belt Movement dedicated to planting trees; Awarded Nobel Peace Prize, 2004.



**Jenni Williams** born Zimbabwe April 1, 1962. Founded women's advocacy org WOZA (Women of Zimbabwe Arise), 2003; awarded Ginetta Sagan Fund prize.



**Leymah Gbowee** born Liberia Feb 1, 1972. Nonviolent activist; peacemaker in Liberian civil war; shared Nobel Peace Prize, 2011.



## Central & South America

**Berta Lutz** born Brazil Aug 2, 1894. Leader of Brazilian suffrage and equality movements; One of four women to sign UN Charter, 1945.



**Minerva Bernardino** born Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic May 7, 1907. 1945. One of four women to sign UN Charter, 1945.



**Janet Rosenberg Jagan** born Chicago, IL Oct 20, 1920. First female president of Guyana; Awarded Gandhi Peace Prize, 1997.



**Estela Barnes De Carlotto** born Argentina Oct 22, 1930. Received UN Human Rights Award, 2003; president of Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo.



**Rosario Green Macias** born Mexico City, March 31, 1941. Diplomat and economist. First woman foreign minister; UN Assistant Secretary Gen.



**Bianca Jagger** born Nicaragua May 2, 1945. Human rights activist. Inspired by Gandhi; Alternative Nobel Prize.



**Michelle Bachelet** born Chile Sept 29, 1951. First female president of Chile 2006-10; Head of UN Gender Equality; imprisoned and tortured by Pinochet.

