



**WOMEN, FAITH AND CLIMATE NETWORK  
COLLABORATING TO GO FURTHER, FASTER ON CLIMATE ACTION**

“Where women lead, action follows,” Mary Robinson, Project Dandelion.

**PROGRESS REPORT SEPTEMBER 2025**

**Finance and Fundraising**

Since May 1, 2025, WFCB has been operating as a start-up project under the fiscal agency of ACT Alliance, with a small budget provided through seed funding from WFCN members. Members, including ACT Alliance, Lead Integrity, Project Dandelion, Tuz Chi, Uzury Empowerment hub-Kenya, Islamic Relief Worldwide, Union of International Superiors General, ORA Global Development, Self-Employed Women's Association, Brahma Kumaris, Organization of African Instituted Churches, Global ONE, Anglican Church, and Mothers Union, have all contributed valuable in-kind services. Additional services related to communications and support for on-line workshops have been provided by paid freelance consultants. WFCN Coordinator has contributed her services since October 2024.

WFCN members are being invited to provide seed funding grants, with Islamic Relief Worldwide, Soka Gakkai, and International Union of Superiors General being among the first to pledge. Approaches are underway to public and philanthropic donors. The Irish Government has committed a seed funding grant towards general operating expenses. Discussions are underway to jointly fundraise with Project Dandelion.

**Oversight**

The Steering Group (SG) agreed at Frascati to continue to serve until the group could be reconstructed. It meets monthly. The Steering Group is open to any member who wishes to join and take on a task. Members presently include: Husna Ahmad, Global ONE; Shahin Ashraf, Islamic Relief Worldwide; Laura Cook, Project Dandelion; Jean Duff, Partnership for Faith and Development; Fiza Farhan, ORA Global Development Advisors; Emi Hashimoto, Soka Gakkai; Alison Hilliard, Wilton Park; Lorna Gold, Laudato Si Movement; Azza Karam, Lead-Integrity; Frederique Seidel/Angeliki Ziaka, World Council of Churches; Rachel Tavernor, ACT Alliance; Meryne Warah, GreenFaith. A suitable organizational structure for the Network is currently being discussed by the Steering Group.

**Activities**

A Series of **3 Collaboration Workshops** has been delivered to explore and stimulate scaling up climate action through partnerships and radical collaborations. WFCN Member-led, with regional focuses in East Africa, South Asia, and Southern Africa, speakers presented

examples of good practices in Sustainable Agriculture, Renewable Energy, and Eco Champs. The online 90-minute sessions were attended by WFCN members and their members from around the globe, with a lively learning exchange, many new connections, and plans for follow-up in-person meetings underway. The Reports from the 3 meetings can be found on [the WFCN website](#).

In furtherance of its goal to raise the visibility of women of faith-led climate action, WFCN has been co-leading key **advocacy events**.

WFCN, in partnership with Project Dandelion, co-hosted a **Global Ethical Stock take** event ahead of COP30 during the London Climate Action Week, organized by Laura Cook, with Mary Robinson presiding and the Brazilian Environment Minister Marina de Silva and the COP team leadership present for the recommendations. The report can be found [here](#). WFCN members present included Brahma Kumaris, Tzu Chi, and Soka Gakkai, with Alison Hilliard and Jean Duff in support.

Together with Project Dandelion (Laura Cook Liaison), another Global Ethical Stock take event will be co-hosted by WFCN at the **Laudato Si 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summit** in Rome in early October, under the leadership of Lorna Gold. Many WFCN members will be in attendance.

WFCN will also be represented at **UNEA** in Kenya in November 2025 and at **COP30** in Belem

#### **In-person working meeting at Wilton Park**

Under the leadership of Alison Hilliard, an in-person WFCN meeting, “Scaling Radical Collaboration,” is now confirmed at Wilton Park, March 2-4, 2026, with funding from the UK government and others. In partnership with Project Dandelion and with Mary Robinson presiding, a small group of WFCN members, allies, and prospective donors will explore local women-led climate collaboration initiatives in 3 thematic areas, plan mechanisms for scaling up, and develop a plan of action for resourcing the expansion of collaborations.

*For more on WFCN, see next page.*

## **WFCN Background**

The Women, Faith and Climate Network (WFCN) is a groundbreaking initiative bringing together **women faith leaders for a sustainable world**. The new network engages women of faith networks from diverse faiths and geographies. The network aims to scale up the powerful reach and influence of women of diverse faiths to go further, faster towards achieving climate goals.

The **combined reach and influence** of women of faith networks is enormous. Together their networks extend to over 73 million people within their broader faith communities, including groups like: Mothers' Union, with over 4 million members in 83 countries; the Gusdurian Network Indonesia with over 235,000 followers in 114 locations; the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation and its 6 million women; Brahma Kumaris with 600,000 women members; the Self Employed Women's Association with over 3 million members, Islamic Relief Worldwide with more than 16 million rights holders; more than 10,000 grassroots Laudato Si' "animators" in 900 Catholic institutions; and the Union of International Superiors General ISG with its 600,000 Catholic sisters across the globe.

The WFCN **is unique** in its diversity and its focus on practical action and collaboration. It aims to **increase the visibility** of the vast ongoing women-led practical climate action at grassroots and national levels, **scale up good practices**, foster "**radical collaboration**" among diverse women of faith networks, and **engage women of faith** in support of mass mobilisations of women for climate action.

The WFCN was **incubated** by leaders of diverse women of faith networks, and male allies, at two working meetings convened by Wilton Park, in the UK, 2023, and at Frascati, Italy, 2024. The Frascati event was supported by the British Embassy to the Holy See, the Irish Embassy to the Holy See, the International Union of Superiors General, and Islamic Relief Worldwide, in association with the UN Environmental Program's Faith for Earth, and Project Dandelion. Notable participants included Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and co-founder of Project Dandelion, a women-led global campaign for climate justice, and youth climate activist Ridhima Pandey. Leaders of diverse women faith networks and male allies included: Alissa Qotrunnada, Gusdurian Network; Amani Al Khatahtbeh, Muslim Girl; Rabbi Daniel Swartz, Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life; Debra Boudreaux, Tzu Chi Foundation; Husna Ahmad, World Muslim Leadership Forum; Iyad Abu Moghli, Director UNEP Faith for Earth; Lorna Gold, Laudato Si' movement; Sr Maamalifar Poreku, Union of International Superiors General; Martha Jarvis, Anglican Church; Meryne Warah, GreenFaith; Tamsyn Kereopa World Council of Churches, Gerry White URI. (Report [here](#))

WFCN was **launched** by Mary Robinson at COP 29 in Baku, November 2024, with support from WFCN members Tzu Chi, GreenFaith, UNEP Faith for Earth, Project Dandelion, Anglican Church, Brahma Kumaris, Self-Employed Women's Association SEWA, UNANIMA, and She Changes Climate.

## **Women, Faith, and Climate Network's goals are to:**

- Support multi-faith collaboration for a sustainable world among women of faith networks at the local community level.
- Increase visibility of women-led climate action through storytelling, mapping, and communications.
- Scale up impact on climate goals by supporting learning exchange, partnerships, and practical collaborations on specific areas of faith-based climate action, including renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, climate focal points (eco champs), and others.
- Combine forces for joint advocacy at key climate-related events in 2025 and 2026, including COPs, UNEA, CSW, African Union, and national events such as London Climate Week
- Amplify climate action and advocacy by bridging and connecting faith and secular initiatives.
- Establish and fund a coordinating mechanism for the Network to support connection, exchange, and collaboration among members.

### **1. What difference will WFCN make?**

- Women's leadership for climate justice will be more fully engaged, especially in the global south, and in grassroots communities.
- Women of faith networks' ongoing climate action will be scaled up through learning exchange, new partnerships, and radical collaboration among members.
- The vast ongoing climate-related influence and activism by women of faith networks around the world will be revealed and engaged.
- Women's faith networks will be at the climate policy and negotiation tables.
- The flow of financial resources to support and expand the women of faith climate action will be increased.
- Public funding for climate action will be leveraged through partnerships with existing, resilient, and internally resourced faith networks.
- Secular climate activists will value women of faith networks and partner with them to expand reach and scale up impact.

For more information, please contact Jean Duff, WFCN Interim Coordinator at [info@womenfaithclimate.org](mailto:info@womenfaithclimate.org)

# Women, Faith, and Climate Network

## Collaborating to Go Further, Faster on Climate Action



**"Where women lead, action follows"**

**– Mary Robinson, Project Dandelion and Women, Faith and Climate Network**

The Women, Faith, and Climate Network (WFCN) is a ground breaking initiative bringing together women faith leaders for a sustainable world. The new network engages women of diverse faith networks and geographies. The network's aim is to scale up the powerful reach and influence of women of diverse faiths to go further, faster towards achieving climate goals. Launched at COP29 by Mary Robinson, WFCN emerged from high-level convenings by Wilton Park in the UK in 2023 and Italy in 2024, with funding from the British Embassy and the Irish Embassy to the Holy See and supported by diverse partners including UNEP's Faith for Earth, Islamic Relief, UISG, and Project Dandelion. The WFCN is poised to amplify women's climate leadership, mobilise millions, and drive systemic change from the ground up.

### Problem Statement

The climate crisis demands urgent, coordinated action that mobilises every available resource - including women of faith. Already at the forefront of grassroots responses, they lead efforts in reforestation, renewable energy, advocacy, and disaster preparedness, yet their vast potential remains under-recognised, fragmented, and under-resourced. To address this, the Wilton Park dialogue convened over 50 women faith leaders from diverse traditions and regions, highlighting both the proven impact of their initiatives and the pressing need for radical collaboration and rapid scaling to transform scattered efforts into a global force for change.

### Why Women, Faith, and Climate Network Matters

The Women, Faith, and Climate Network collectively engage over 73 million people across diverse global communities, making them one of the most powerful yet underutilised forces in climate action. These networks - spanning Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, and interfaith movements - include major faith actors such as the Mothers' Union, Islamic Relief Worldwide, Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, ACT Alliance, Self Employed Women's Association, and the Union of International Superiors General, among others. Their deep grassroots presence, working in diverse communities around the world, make them trusted agents of change.

WFCN unlocks the untapped potential of women of faith in climate justice—especially in the Global South and grassroots communities. By scaling existing initiatives and forging new partnerships, WFCN:

- **Brings visibility** to overlooked climate leadership.
- **Mobilises millions** through trusted, resilient networks.
- **Channels funding** to impactful, community-rooted solutions.
- **Ensures representation** at key climate policy tables.
- **Bridges movements** to deepen impact and drive systemic change.



## Strategic Goals

The **Women, Faith, and Climate Network** is action-driven, with clear goals to:

- **Foster multi-faith collaboration** for climate resilience and sustainable development.
- **Elevate visibility** of women-led climate action through storytelling and strategic communications.
- **Scale grassroots solutions** via learning exchanges and partnerships, for example, in renewable energy, agriculture, and eco-leadership.
- **Coordinate joint advocacy** at global and national climate platforms (COPs, UNEA, CSW, AU, London Climate Action Week).
- **Bridge faith and secular efforts** to expand climate action and advocacy.
- **Establish a funded coordination mechanism** to support collaboration and knowledge-sharing.

## Progress and Momentum

WFCN has already built a strong foundation, with a diverse steering group in place, seed funding secured from member contributions and the Irish Government, as well as UK Government backing for the upcoming Wilton Park convening in March 2026. Fiscally hosted by ACT Alliance, it has launched active communications channels (add links), fostered collaboration through regional and interfaith workshops, and advanced its profile through strategic advocacy at global climate events such as COP29, the UN Commission on the Status of Women 69, and London Climate Action Week, where the first self-organised Global Ethical Stocktake (GES) dialogue took place, in partnership with Project Dandelion.

These milestones demonstrate WFCN's credibility, momentum, and readiness to scale its impact.

## Partner with Us to Power Change: Invest in the Women, Faith, and Climate Network

WFCN is seeking visionary funders and partners to empower this transformative movement.

Funding and in-kind contributions will:

- **Enable deeper collaboration across faiths and regions for climate justice**
- **Amplify faith-rooted storytelling as a powerful tool for advocacy**
- **Fund grassroots climate solutions led by women**
- **Ensure women of faith are heard in global climate policy**
- **Drive systemic change for a just and sustainable future**

**Let's go further, faster—together.**

Jean Duff, WFCN Coordinator  
[www.womenfaithclimate.org](http://www.womenfaithclimate.org)

