

# KEY STEPS TO COALITION BUILDING:

Advocating for Women's Rights, Advancing Peace and Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

## Why is coalition building critical to end violence against women and girls and promote peace?

### Coalition building can:

1. Lead to increased influence, impact and lasting social change
2. Facilitate networking, representation and strengthen expertise
3. Support pooling of resources

## STEP 1: BUILDING A COALITION

### KEY PRINCIPLES AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR BUILDING A COALITION INCLUDE:



Having a feminist and intersectional approach



Identifying partners and coalition members



Recognizing local women's rights organizations as leaders and equal partners



Ensuring coalition building is context-specific



Building the capacities of all coalition members to strengthen the effectiveness of the coalition and build camaraderie

## STEP 2: OPERATING EFFECTIVELY IN A COALITION

The main challenges of operating effectively in a coalition include:

- Differing capacity gaps of coalition members in terms of knowledge can lead to tension and inefficiency
- There can be conflicts of interest between organizations engaged in the coalition
- A lack of financial resources, restrictive laws on the legal registration of civil society-led coalitions and limited support available for women's rights organizations contributes to scarce fundraising opportunities for coalitions
- The protection of coalition members is a key concern, particularly in contexts where there is shrinking space for civil society and backlash against those working to end VAWG and build peace

“Regarding the advantages of the coalition – I start from the idea that **alone we are invisible, together we are invincible.**”

## USEFUL TIPS TO WORK TOGETHER IN A COALITION

- Define clear objectives, strategies and agree on the timeframe of the coalition
- Sign partnership agreements or protocols for collaboration, specifying the roles and responsibilities of coalition members
- Assign focal points within each organization and representatives or branches at grassroots levels
- Ensure inclusive communication and transparent information-sharing
- Raise awareness in communities and encourage local ownership
- Be patient with the process

## STEP 3: AMPLIFYING RESULTS OF THE COALITION AND LEARNING FROM THE PROCESS

- Foster a collective spirit and accountability
- Build upon and systematize learning of the coalition's work
  - Producing knowledge products is a helpful way to do so
  - Using participatory evaluation tools can generate evidence, which in turn can be used for advocacy

“ **COALITIONS EMPOWER CSOs TO PRESSURE AND CHALLENGE THE STATUS QUO** ”