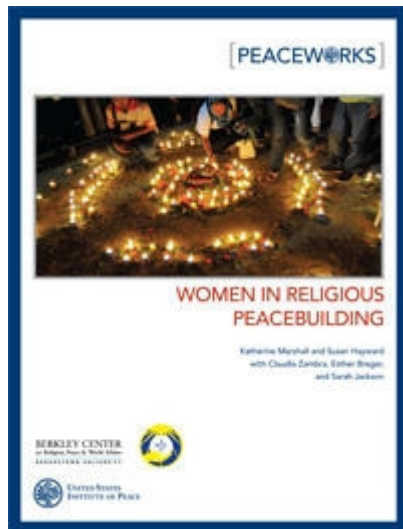


## Women in Religious Peacebuilding: Stories Yet to be Told



What role do women play in peacebuilding? A recently authored report by the United States Institute of Peace and Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs on “Women in Religious Peacebuilding” seeks to answer these questions and set the stage for further inquiry about women in interfaith peacebuilding.

The authors note that across religious traditions, women are often marginalized in formal religious spaces and rarely hold leadership positions, meaning that they do not receive the recognition that male clergy do. This marginalization, however, have freed women from institutional constraints, and behind the scenes, they have worked creatively to build peace. In addition, pathbreaking women have attained some formal recognition in religious institutions and have used it to bolster peacebuilding work.

For peacebuilding to take place more effectively across religious lines, it is imperative to better understand the role that women and women-led interfaith peace initiatives have played in resolving religious disputes. The authors affirm, “The lack of attention [paid to women-led initiatives] also has led to failures in understanding the nature of the conflict and has hidden from view potential avenues for resolving conflicts and promoting postconflict healing and reconciliation.” Peace is multi-gendered. So too are the initiatives that bring it about.

The authors of the report are Katherine Marshall and Susan Hayward, with Claudia Zambra, Esther Breger, and Sarah Jackson.