



### Timeline: Advocacy for a Fifth World Conference on Women, 2001 — onward

**2001 – Gatherings in Northern California** to discuss and form the Millionth Circle Initiative, inspired by *The Millionth Circle: How to Change Ourselves and The World* (Jean Shinoda Bolen, 1999). MC Vision: *A proliferation of circles with a spiritual center becomes a worldwide healing force by bringing feminine values of relationship, nurturing, and interdependency into a global culture in which hierarchy, conflict and competition, power over others and exploitation of the earth's resources are dominant values.* Premise that a tipping point in culture and history will come about when a critical number of women's circles with a spiritual center are formed: this is the metaphoric "millionth circle." Draws upon morphic field theory and the allegory of "The Hundredth Monkey" (<http://www.millionthcircle.org>) MC initially convened by Peggy Sebera (California), Elinore Detiger (Costa Rica & the Netherlands) and Elly Pradervand (Geneva: Women's World Summit Foundation). UN NGO involvement at its inception included Pathways to Peace (Avon Mattison) and Ann Smith (then ED of Global Education Associates).

**2002 — Millionth Circle conveners in New York for UN Commission on the Status of Women followed by a retreat at Deer Hill conference grounds which brought MC together with many women involved with UN NGOs.** Learned that there would not only not be another (after Beijing 1995) women's world conference in 2005, but there were no plans to ever hold another one." Seeds of activism for what became 5WCW began here. Going to parallel events was "appalling and inspiring." Learning about the terrible experiences of abuse and neglect that women and girls are subject to—trafficking was just one appalling example of many, and hearing what women were doing that is making a difference, some of whom had once been victims—was inspiring. A significant workshop was given by women from Sierra Leone, who had been through the civil wars there and worked toward peace. While they did not mention "circle", they spoke about meeting together and staying in touch when some had to leave the country, returning to participate in the successful peace negotiations that had come about because Security Council Resolution #1325 had been evoked.

5WCW Timeline: 2001-2012:

Compiled by Jean Shinoda Bolen. Graphic by Carol Hansen Grey

**2003 — World Social Forum in Port Allegre, Brazil inspires initial Millionth Circle activism for a 5WWC in Brazil.** ([http://www.5wwc.org/origins/moving\\_forward.html](http://www.5wwc.org/origins/moving_forward.html)) Populist president had just been elected, announced cabinet level appointment of feminist to head a department on women.

First 5WWC paper petition began at the Gather the Women Congress in San Francisco taken to UN and presented to Secretary General Annan through Assistant SG for Women's Issues by Angela Weber (Brazil).

**2004— UN CSW attended by Canadian and American delegation** who brought flyers to advocate for 5WWC in Brazil

**2005— Written petitions began to be circulated, 1200 signatures before replaced by online versions.**

Publication of *Urgent Message From Mother: Gather the Women, Save the World* (Bolen, 2005) describes power of women's circles, mother archetype, UN documents, critical mass, tipping point

**2006 — 5WWC Website created** (now an archive site); <http://www.5wwc.org/index.html>. Current status: It is now being maintained as a site that will give people the background of this grassroots initiative and as a place for people to register their organizations in support of a 5WWC. Registered organizations, 32 UN NGOs, 88 supporting organizations (Now shifted to new Facebook site)

**2007 — first online 5WWC petitions began**, two versions, 4372 signatures, closed down.  
UN CSW Parallel Events;  
Workshop: the Millionth Circle and 5WWC

**2008 – First blue buttons** (5WWC) distributed at the UN CSW: (had 2012 as date)

UN CSW Parallel Events:

Panel “Envisioning a UN Fifth Women's World Conference,”

([http://www.5wwc.org/CSW/08CSW\\_5wwc\\_panel.html](http://www.5wwc.org/CSW/08CSW_5wwc_panel.html)) with Gloria Steinem, Jean Shinoda Bolen, Patricia Licuanan, Elahe Amani , Nancy Gruver, Rosemary Williams, moderator

**2009 —Began Online petition for 5WCW**

(<http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/5wcw/signatures.html> (over 15,000 signatures as of August 1 2012)

New website with change to 5WCW (<http://www.5wcw.org>)

UN CSW 53 Parallel Events: (sponsors included: WIN, AWE, The Grail-WIST, PTP, WWSF. MC)

Panel: Winning Strategies for Gender Equality

Workshop: The Millionth Circle: Form and Process for Sharing Caregiving Between Men & Women

Presentation: (Bolen) The Grail Story: Healing Psyche, Patriarchy, and Planet.

**2010 --UN CSW54 Parallel Events:** (sponsors included WIN, PTP, WIST, AWE, ECI. MC)

Panel: Winning Strategies for Gender Equity”(WIN panel)

Presentation: (Bolen) “Goddesses in Everywoman and Feminism”.

Panel: “Amplify the Girl Effect – Via a 5th World Conference on Women” included young women from WAGGGS, YWCA, Girlz Choir

Workshop: “Millionth Circle.”

Oral Presentation to CSW55 accepted “Advocacy for a UN NGO 5th World Conference on Women”(WIN,WWSF, PTP sponsors, +91 civil society organizations)

**2011 - -UN CSW55 Parallel.Events:**

NGO /CSW Written Statement accepted: Convening of a UN Fifth World Conference on Women (ECOSOC consultative status NGO sponsors PTP. WIN, WWSF)

Workshop "Proposal for 5th UN NGO World Conference on Women — 5WCW",

Workshop: UN Women Circle’s Campaign. Workshop: Millionth Circle: Empowering Women & Girls, Changing the World”

Panel: “Ecology & Feminism: Sacred Feminine, Circles, Valuing Girls & Trees.

Publication of *Like a Tree: How Trees, Women, and Tree People Can Save the Planet* (Bolen/2011)

NGO /ECOSOC/ High Level segment/ written statement accepted: Need for a 5th World Conference on Women (WWSF)

5WCW Concept Paper launched online April 2011.

**2012— UN CSW56 Parallel Events:**

NGO /CSW Written Statement accepted: Convening of a UN NGO Fifth Conference on Women (ECOSOC consultative Status NGO Sponsors IPPI, PTP, WIN, WWSF)

Panel: Need for a UN 5th World Conference on Women (5WCW) Ambassador Gertrude Mongella Seec-Gen Beijing 4WCW, Jean Shinoda Bolen, MD, Anele Heiges, (IPPI) moderator

Workshop: Millionth Circle: Empowering Women & Girls, Changing the World,” led by Millionth Circle conveners, PTP sponsor.

Panels: “Wise Like a Tree: Eco-Feminism and 5WCW” Nina Simons (Bioneers) Donna Goodman (Earthchild Institute), Yvonne Maingey (Kenya, UNEP conference coordinator), Rosemary Williams (Women’s Perspective) moderator.

ECOSOC High Level segment/ Written statement accepted: Convening of a UN 5th World Conference on Women as a Means to Achieve MDGs

**March 8, 2012:** Joint Statement by Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and President of the 66th General Assembly Nassir Al-Nasser proposing a Global Conference on Women in 2015.

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=5904>

Note: information and sources:

<http://www.5wcw.org> (active website)

<http://www.jeanshinodabolen.com>

<http://www.millionthcircle.org>

<http://www.5wwc.org> (archive website)

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