

ABOUT USIP

Congress founded the U.S. Institute of Peace in 1984 as a nonpartisan, independent organization dedicated to protecting U.S. interests by helping to prevent violent conflicts and broker peace deals abroad. Our work helps keep America safe, reducing the risk that the United States will be drawn into costly foreign wars that drive terrorism, criminal gangs and migration. We help make America stronger by projecting U.S. influence and bolstering partner countries in regions destabilized by China and other U.S. adversaries.

The Institute provides the U.S. government and those working to end conflict around the world with proven solutions to manage political tensions before they escalate and to support peace processes.

WHAT WE DO

The only organization created by Congress that specializes in resolving violent conflicts, USIP is a lean and cost-effective national security tool. The Institute's work often happens out of the public eye to allow space for sensitive negotiations. USIP pursues its mission by:

- **Deploying** technical specialists to strategically important countries and regions, working directly with U.S. allies and like-minded leaders on innovative ways to reduce drivers of conflict, get parties to agreement and implement solutions.
- **Training** peace negotiators and mediators, diplomats, and security actors so they are better equipped to end their own destabilizing conflicts.
- **Providing** U.S. military planners, diplomats, and partners with field-tested analysis, tools, and strategic gaming exercises to help them tackle security challenges ranging from terrorism to migration to arms proliferation.
- **Serving** the American people, across the United States, by connecting the public with resources on America's role, heritage, and commitment to peace, dating back to George Washington's proposal to create a National Academy of War and Peace.

As a vital **resource to the U.S. Congress**, the Institute regularly briefs Members and their staff upon request and holds briefings on Capitol Hill. Recent briefings have focused on transnational criminal networks with links to China, crime and mass migration in Central America, and critical minerals in Africa. The Institute has long facilitated congressionally mandated commissions, including the National Defense Strategy Commission (2018), the Task Force on Extremism in Fragile States (2018) and the bipartisan Syria Study Group (2019). The Institute also regularly convenes senior expert groups to analyze pressing issues like China's dominance of Africa's critical minerals (2024), the transnational crime threat from Southeast Asia (2024), and the enduring counterterrorism challenges in Afghanistan and Pakistan (2024).

USIP **works closely with the Department of Defense**. Building on a long history of high-level assessments and other support to defense officials, the Institute regularly convenes simulations and scenario-planning exercises to help military planners and diplomats address emerging threats. USIP's Senior Military Advisory Group of retired three- and four-star officers provides strategic guidance to the Institute.

Building on the Institute's contributions to the 1998 **International Religious Freedom Act**, the Institute collaborates closely with faith-based groups and partners with federal agencies like the White House Faith Office and State Department Office of Religious Freedom.

USIP builds capacity to resolve conflicts, catalyzing innovative solutions. It maintains a small number of field representatives and regional offices in strategic locations.

OUR PRIORITIES

USIP's priorities are to counter the destabilizing influence of China and other strategic rivals in fragile states; to reduce violent conflict and address factors like criminal networks and unresolved grievances that destabilize communities and drive mass migration; to diminish the threat posed by ISIS and other terrorist networks; and to de-escalate conflicts, bolster effective deterrence, and support key partners in strategic regions.

WHO WE ARE

Congress provided USIP with a unique status to enable the organization to operate in sensitive areas where diplomats and military units are often constrained for practical or political reasons. Our work strengthens U.S. influence and extends its reach in strategically important countries. The Institute is small and nimble and can adapt more quickly to changing conditions on the ground than large bureaucracies.

USIP is governed by a bipartisan, Senate-confirmed Board of Directors that includes the Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, and President of the National Defense University, ensuring close alignment between each administration's national security objectives and our work.

“USIP is a next-generation national security organization — flexible and focused on small-scale engagements in strategic regions. It aligns with the America First agenda, supporting a cost-effective role for the United States in a world of rising disorder.”

– Amb. John Sullivan, Chair, USIP Board of Directors

CASE STUDIES

Burma Program: *USIP is laying the groundwork for U.S. sanctions and a strong U.S. government response to China-linked criminal networks based out of Burma that directly threaten Americans. The U.S. Treasury Department utilizes USIP research on human trafficking, narcotics production, and online scams to implement sanctions on these crime groups. The State Department cited the Institute's report on Chinese-financed “casino cities” in designating Chinese criminals under the Magnitsky Act. Major U.S. companies credit USIP's work in removing more than two million social media accounts associated with scam centers in the region.*

Training: *USIP has trained over 150,000 frontline peacebuilders, conflict mediators, and security actors who lead or participate in peace negotiations and dealmaking in strategic countries.*

Latin America Program: *Through a series of activities in territories controlled by armed groups who benefit financially from mass migration, USIP provides technical advice to state security forces in the volatile Darien Gap. The Institute helps them develop operational rules of engagement and cease-fire protocols, improving their work with communities. This work supports the safe return of citizens who have fled their countries and are seeking to migrate to the United States.*

Scenario-Planning Exercises: *A specialized unit within USIP convenes simulations and scenario-planning exercises on emerging threats. These exercises help American diplomats and military planners prepare to respond to threats like Chinese aggression in the Taiwan Strait, the Indian Ocean and the Korean Peninsula.*