



In 2019, the U.S. Institute of Peace's public education team launched a pilot partnership with Inspired Classroom to engage students in grades six through 12 across the U.S. in creating **projects that elevate peacebuilding stories** from around the world to contrast with the stories of violent conflict and extremism that tend to dominate the news cycle.

The **USIP & Inspired Classroom Challenge** kicked off around the International Day of Peace in September 2019, combining teacher-led activities in the classroom, **live virtual events** with USIP experts, and **original student research**. By the end of the challenge, young people from across the country had researched and designed public awareness campaigns about international peacebuilding initiatives that mattered to them.

The challenge **engaged teachers and students from a dozen states**, connecting them to USIP experts and each other. It also provided a platform for them to explore their own definitions of peacebuilding, what keeps them from hearing about positive peacebuilding examples, and how they can **help raise awareness**.

Live Event Day Interactions



Why Peacebuilding Matters*



"Peacebuilding isn't just solving wars, it's solving injustices and working out problems in our world. It is standing up for what you believe in when your voice isn't being heard. It's

actually doing something about what you care about. I used to think peacebuilding was only solving violence; I didn't think about the small, little problems almost no one sees."

—Student from Texas

*Excerpt from a USIP & Inspired Classroom Challenge student project



The **USIP & Inspired Classroom Challenge** encouraged students to brainstorm and think creatively about ways to raise awareness of international peacebuilding in their schools and communities. Some specific ideas included:

- Create a website or social media account
- Use songs, murals, performances, and other art forms
- Create promotional materials like flyers, posters, and presentations
- Host community and cultural events

More Information: www.usip.org/programs/usip-inspired-classroom-challenge/