



The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) is an independent, nonpartisan organization, created and funded by Congress to prevent and resolve violent international conflicts. USIP's mission is to increase the United States' capacity to manage international conflict—to think, act, teach, and train. It uses its convening power to bring together diverse communities to devise practical approaches to peacebuilding.

Since its founding in 1984, USIP has been leading the nascent field of conflict management and peacebuilding and helping to professionalize it, translating research into practice, and educating students and professionals about the causes of and approaches to managing international violence.

OUR WORK

In the wake of the Cold War and 9/11, the nature and number of international conflicts have changed. Fragile states, ethnic and religious strife, extremism, competition for scarce resources and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction all pose significant challenges to peace. There are many emerging, active, or post-conflict hot spots in the world today that threaten the lives of millions of people who live in conflict zones. Americans are not insulated from the effects of these conflicts. Directly and indirectly, they threaten American security. The United States, working with the international community, has been active in helping to manage and resolve these conflicts, and USIP's expertise in peacebuilding is critical for these efforts.

While conflict is part of the human condition, there are proven ways to prevent and manage violence and stabilize societies affected by war. The Institute provides knowledge, skills, and resources to policymakers, the U.S. military, government and civilian leaders, nongovernmental organizations, practitioners, and citizens through educational programs and training designed to address the challenges of conflict prevention, management and resolution, and to prepare professionals for conflict management challenges in unstable areas around the world. The topics we work on include prevention, peacebuilding, mediation, identifying best practices, strengthening civil society, promoting rule of law, interfaith dialogue, sustainable economies. USIP operates an Academy for International Conflict Management and Peacebuilding.

OUR MISSION AND GOALS

- Prevent and resolve violent international conflicts;
- Promote post-conflict stability and development; and
- Increase conflict management capacity, tools, and intellectual capital worldwide by empowering others with skills and resources, and directly engaging in global peacebuilding efforts.

We offer policy recommendations, specialists, partnerships, grants, fellows, and programs that help fulfill our mandate to think, act, teach, and train:

THINK

USIP conducts original research, develops new techniques, and produces reports and publications used by policymakers, practitioners, educators, journalists, and a range of professionals in this country and abroad. Our active grants and fellows program enriches the field of study and the body of best practices. Our work has included:

- Managing the Iraq Study Group—led by James A. Baker and Lee H. Hamilton—to provide an independent assessment of the then-current and prospective situation on the ground in Iraq;
- Creating the Genocide Prevention task force, co-chaired by former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and former Secretary of Defense William Cohen;
- Developing and publishing the first set of guidelines for civilian government agencies operating in conflict situations abroad;
- Creating a practical toolkit for promoting the rule of law, a widely cited series on international negotiating behavior, and other field-defining publications;

“I am certain that our decision to establish the United States Institute of Peace will be regarded by those who come after us as one of the best investments in the future that our nation has ever made.”

—Senator Jennings Randolph

- Facilitating, at Congressional request, task forces on United Nations reform, the strategic posture of the United States, and a review of the Quadrennial Defense Review;
- Authoring original books, reports, and teaching materials on a diverse range of issues;
- Providing Jennings Randolph Senior Fellowships to support the work of outstanding scholars, policy-makers, journalist, and other practitioners;
- Providing dissertation scholarships to promising graduate students; and
- Awarding grants to individuals and organizations involved in peacebuilding.

ACT

USIP has been active on the ground in diverse conflict zones around the world, among them the Balkans, Afghanistan, Colombia, Iraq, Kashmir, Liberia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Palestinian Territories, Nigeria, Sudan, Uganda, and the Philippines. It played an active role following the Dayton Accords of 1995 in the peace-making process in Bosnia. USIP's current programs abroad include the following:

- Operating full-time offices in Baghdad and Kabul, whose staff works with government officials, religious groups, women's organizations, universities, and schools to promote reconciliation neighborhood by neighborhood;
- Working with Sudanese educators, officials, and both civil and traditional leaders in support of peace-making in Sudan;
- Helping to establish the rule of law—a fundamental building block to peace—in conflict areas such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, Nepal, and Liberia; and
- Facilitating negotiations, empowering international nonprofit groups, and providing professional training and support for international peacemaking and peacekeeping missions.

TEACH

USIP educates today's students so they can become tomorrow's peacebuilders. The Institute conducts education programs from high school to graduate school, developing teaching materials and resources for both young people and adults so they can learn more about peacemaking and what they can do to support and participate in conflict resolution activities. USIP's education activities include:

- Online courses on conflict management issues that more than 15,000 people have completed;
- SENSE training, a computer-supported simulation to build negotiation and decision-making skills for post-conflict transitions;
- Cross-cultural negotiations;
- Onsite courses at USIP's Academy for International Conflict Management and Peacebuilding for practitioners from multiple fields across the range of stakeholders; and
- An annual National Peace Essay Contest for U.S. high school students.

TRAIN

USIP trains future leaders in the field of peacebuilding, professionalizing the field of conflict management. Recent initiatives have included the following:

- Training community leaders and local officials in countries around the world on conflict management, mediation and negotiation, and mediating and facilitating dialogue;
- Working with religious leaders, women, and youth around the world to be peacemakers; and
- Providing courses through the Academy for International Conflict Management and Peacebuilding.

BUILDING THE FUTURE

With the support of Congress and the public, the Institute of Peace has built a new, permanent facility at the northwest corner of the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The building will serve as a dynamic symbol of America's commitment to peacebuilding and enable USIP to significantly increase its public programming and work on behalf of the American people. It will include a Global Peacebuilding Center for public education and an Academy for International Conflict Management and Peacebuilding, with expanded space to meet the growing demand for our work.

Designed by Moshe Safdie Architects, the building is designed to serve the critical mission of international peacebuilding. USIP staff will begin working in the building in March 2011, with a public opening scheduled for fall 2011.