


# PEACE IN OUR CITIES CAMPAIGN



 peace

**PATHFINDERS**  
FOR PEACEFUL, JUST AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

 **IMPACT  
PEACE**





## OVERVIEW

The Peace in Our Cities campaign seeks to galvanize a movement of people, mayors, and city governments to halve and transform urban violence by 2030.



The Peace in Our Cities campaign seeks to create concrete, participatory, and evidence-based platforms for progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 16, with an initial focus on SDG16.1 (to significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere). To launch the campaign, we are building a coalition of early adopters – including cities, sub-national authorities and targeted thematic partners – inviting them to sign the **Peace in Our Cities SDG16 Action Pledge** this September.

SDG16 is widely recognized as critical to the achievement of all other SDGs, yet it lags behind most other global goals in terms of momentum, investment, and support worldwide. The Peace in Our Cities campaign has the potential to become a preeminent organizing initiative in support of addressing one of the most pressing challenges of our time, namely the concentrations of violence that threaten individual lives and undermine the growth and prosperity of our increasingly urban world. We hope you will join us.



**SDG16.1 and Related SDG Targets**





# THE NEED

**Globally, 82% of lethal violence occurs outside of conflict zones, with much of this violence concentrated in urban settings.**

Cities today constitute half of the world's population, a trend that is projected to increase as cities are expected to absorb nearly all new population growth over the coming two decades. The combination of rapid urbanization and high levels of concentrated urban violence will continue to impede growth, development, and prosperity for cities and urban dwellers around the world.

Unfortunately, a lot of urban violence goes unaddressed, in large part because the majority of urban violence impacts those with the least political influence. These are the same people who are on the losing side of the increasing inequality in cities globally and those for whom access to justice and other priorities remains elusive. Addressing violence in this respect also means working to address the core reasons for their marginalization and exclusion. Moreover, incidents of urban violence often reflect the structural and systemic challenges of marginalization, exclusion, and oppression of communities.

Promisingly, there is a range of evidence and emerging good practice to address high levels of urban violence. There are examples from Medellin to Oakland of cities achieving significant reductions in their violence rates, typically through integrated approaches that involve a cross-section of actors hyper-focused on the goal of saving lives and increasing peace and safety. Organizations around the world are increasingly lining up to bring attention to the imperative of reducing violence and increasing peace in our cities.





## OBJECTIVES AND APPROACH

The Peace in Our Cities campaign will launch in September 2019 on the International Day of Peace (Sept 21) and during the Sustainable Development Summit taking place at United Nations Headquarters in New York the following week.

The launch will include mayors and partners signing a Peace in Our Cities SDG16 Action Pledge, committing to participate in a 12-month initiative that will provide city leadership and partners with the latest state of the field evidence regarding effective methods for reducing and transforming urban violence in ways that advance equity and justice.

## **By signing the Peace in Our Cities SDG16 Action Pledge, mayors and partners commit to**

- ❖ Communicating the imperative of global investment, political attention, and action focused on reducing and sustainably transforming urban violence.
- ❖ Sharing best practices and accelerated actions towards achieving SDG16.1 and SDG16+ over the course of the 12-month initiative.
- ❖ Ensuring appropriate representation and participation in the Peace in Our Cities Action Committee over a 12-month period, including:
  - Launch events, September 2019
  - Optional retreats, October 2019 (USA) and November 2019 (Switzerland)
  - Virtual Action Committee calls, every 2 months
  - A 2-day Action Committee Retreat, early 2020
- ❖ Supporting the development and dissemination of a final Peace in Our Cities Action Committee Report.

## **By signing the Peace in Our Cities SDG16 Action Pledge, mayors and partners will be**

- ❖ Leading global momentum towards reducing global violence – one of the most critical crises of our time.
- ❖ Shaping a city-to-city collaboration framework to develop and drive global best practice for SDG16.1 and SDG16+.









# COORDINATING INFRASTRUCTURE

Peace in Our Cities will bring committed partners together to discuss best practice pathways for cities to adopt the necessary policy, funding, and staffing changes to achieve a 50% reduction in urban violence by 2030. In this way the campaign is harnessing the power of evidence and the power of solidarity to pursue a common imperative.

**The Peace in Our Cities campaign will be coordinated by**



**+Peace**, a global coalition of peacebuilding organizations mobilizing people, governments, and the private sector to reduce global levels of violence and division.

## PATHFINDERS

FOR PEACEFUL, JUST AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

**The Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies**, a multi-stakeholder partnership that brings together UN member states, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector to accelerate action for the SDG targets for peace, justice and inclusion (SDG16+). The Pathfinders is hosted by the NYU Center on International Cooperation.



**Impact:Peace** leverages evidence to accelerate the most important change processes in the peacebuilding and violence prevention fields. We collaborate with partners to synthesize the most rigorous research available, produce original research and strategically connect evidence with those driving positive change. Impact:Peace is a program of the Kroc School's Institute for Peace and Justice at the University of San Diego.





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# FAQS

## **What is the goal of the Peace in Our Cities campaign?**

The Peace in Our Cities campaign seeks to galvanize momentum towards reducing global violence – one of the most critical crises of our time. Specifically, it seeks to mobilize a movement of people, mayors, and city governments to halve urban violence by 2030. In so doing, the Peace in Our Cities campaign will create concrete, participatory, and evidence-based platforms for progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 16, with an initial focus on SDG16.1.

## **What are you asking cities and violence experts to do?**

By September 15, 2019, we are inviting mayors or relevant sub-national authorities and partners to sign the Peace in Our Cities SDG16 Action Pledge, committing to participate in a 12-month initiative dedicated to providing cities and communities with evidence based and citizen-supported violence reduction and transformation strategies, and outlining pathways forward for cities to adopt necessary policy, funding, and staffing changes to achieve a 50% reduction in urban violence by 2030.

## **What do I get out of joining the Peace in Our Cities SDG16 Action Pledge?**

By signing the Peace in Our Cities SDG16 Action Pledge, mayors and endorsing entities will be leading global momentum towards reducing global violence – one of the most critical crises of our time – as well as working to shape a city-to-city collaboration framework to develop and drive global best practice for SDG16.1 and SDG16+.

# Contact Information

If your city or organization is interested in joining the Peace in Our Cities campaign at any time, please contact or for more information, please contact:

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