

MASON NOW

POWER THE POSSIBLE



JIMMY AND ROSALYNN
CARTER SCHOOL FOR PEACE
AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION
George Mason University®



carterschool.gmu.edu

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GEORGE
MASON
UNIVERSITY®

THE JIMMY AND ROSALYNN CARTER SCHOOL **FOR PEACE** **AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

Mason Now: Power the Possible. The Campaign for George Mason University.

A HISTORY OF FIRSTS.

In 1980, just eight years after George Mason became an independent university, a group of social and behavioral sciences faculty began to imagine what a postgraduate degree in conflict resolution would look like. The result of that imagination? The young university launched the nation's first Master of Conflict Analysis and Resolution program.

We've been breaking new ground ever since.

During our early years, we focused on defining the field, building a curriculum, and establishing our position as experts. Today—with nearly 500 students annually—we are recognized as the number one school in our field, with the largest cohort of undergraduate and graduate students studying peace and conflict studies in the world. Our expert faculty and 2,300+ alumni continue to further the mission we set over 40 years ago.

Why now?

Conflict is an inevitable part of human history. But we also recognize that, today, we are experiencing instability and violence at levels we haven't experienced in decades. The need to manage these relationships is clear, as is the Carter School's ability to assume a leading role in advancing the study and practice of peaceful resolution—from workplace disputes and local confrontations to international peacebuilding and reconciliation.

The Carter School Firsts

1981

First MS
in Conflict
Resolution
launched

1987

Edwin and
Helen Lynch
establish the
**first endowed
faculty chair**

1988

World's first PhD
program in conflict
resolution launched

2006

Four graduate
certificate programs
launch with the
undergraduate
programs, making
the department
the **first in the
world** with conflict
resolution degrees at
all academic levels

2020

Officially named the
Jimmy and Rosalynn
Carter School for
Peace and Conflict
Resolution, the **first
school** named for a
U.S. president and
Nobel Peace Prize
recipient

“**There's a human right
for people to live in peace.**”

Jimmy Carter

*Jimmy Carter, 39th president of the United
States; 2002 Nobel Peace Prize recipient*



FROM THE DEAN

I have devoted my career to studying conflict resolution, post-conflict and disaster reconstruction, and peacebuilding. In my three-plus decades in the field, I have come to understand and appreciate the central role that community—in all its forms—plays in shaping a more just, ethical, and caring world. That is why I am proud to serve as dean of the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution.

As learners, educators, researchers, and practitioners, we understand that the causes of conflict and social injustice are complex. To solve them will take multiple disciplines, many partners, and diverse perspectives: in short, a community. We may be housed at the Carter School, but our community and our impact is regional, national, and global. Through extensive partnerships, cutting-edge technology, and the ever-expanding numbers of Carter School alumni, we have the ability—and the passion—to strengthen peaceful societies everywhere. And because conflict will always be a part of the human condition, the Carter School will always be discovering new ways to make it better.

**We invite you to be part of our community of doers—
as supporters, partners, and fellow peacebuilders.**

Alpaslan Özerdem

Dean, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution



WE POWER

People | Place | Purpose

**130+**

nations represented
by the student body.

100%

of students are engaged
in experiential learning
opportunities.

HOW CAN ONE SCHOOL MAKE A GLOBAL IMPACT?

We focus on people at the Carter School now.

We are a community of doers. It starts with a faculty of 28 world-recognized thought leaders and 30 active practitioners—engaging in the classroom and in the field. Our students often lead their own projects, bringing their lived experiences in conflict to their academic work. Our alumni—2,300+ strong—are creating positive change as mediators, organizers, activists, educators, and more.

ENGINEERING PEACE

Keil Eggers is comfortable being a trailblazer, and that means bringing his unorthodox ideas to spaces beyond traditional academic circles. That kind of thinking made the Carter School the perfect place for his doctoral studies.

Eggers was the first recipient of the Peace Engineering Fellowship, designed to support the creation of the school's **Peace Engineering Lab**, where conflict analysis and resolution experts and engineers work together to create innovative technologies for peace building. One technology that features in Eggers research—SenseMaker—applies a quantitative framework to narrative data submitted and interpreted by the subjects themselves. As the lab manager, he was part of a team that used SenseMaker to gather data from those on both sides of the Ukraine-Russia war. By having participants map their responses to three simple prompts—for example, “The situation will improve when people...”—patterns are uncovered that can support understanding and illuminate next steps.

Eggers plans to continue his work through a postdoctoral fellowship. He also has a dream of organizing a music festival at Point of View, the Carter School's retreat and research center. Once again, he's in the right place, at the right time, to fulfill his passion.



“In all of the crazy ideas I’ve had about research, I’ve found people to support me, believe in me, and provide me mentorship. That’s one of the biggest strengths of the Carter School: how it allows people to explore unique combinations of scholarship, ideas, and disciplines.”

Keil Eggers

BA Conflict Analysis and Resolution '15; PhD Conflict Analysis and Resolution '24



ENGAGING ACTIVELY

Celine Apenteng, awarded the 2024 Senior of the Year by the George Mason Alumni Association, knows how to make the most of her opportunities. As her academic advisors noted in nominating her for the award, “From her academic to her professional success, Celine has shown she is leaving the university as an ambassador of the best George Mason has to offer.”

Apenteng is a member of the Honors College and served as student body vice president and speaker of the student senate. She also was a member of President Gregory Washington’s Student Advisory Board and co-chair of the Student Advisory Council for the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

Apenteng was equally active off campus, completing internships at the White House Office of Public Engagement and in the U.S. Department of State. Her on-campus internship at the Carter School’s John Mitchell Jr. Program for History, Justice, and Race led to work as a program fellow, documenting the impact of lynching incidents on African American communities—more evidence that Celine Apenteng is a George Mason and Carter School ambassador of the best kind.

“George Mason has helped me create a life of collaborative relationships instead of competitive ones.”

Celine Apenteng

BA Conflict Analysis and Resolution '24

INVESTING IN OPPORTUNITY

Scholarships enable the Carter School to attract the best students and provide them with the most robust experiences, free of financial barriers. Every scholarship fuels a student's passion—passion that powers real change in the world. That's why scholarships are our top priority: they are a heartfelt investment in a better collective future.

We attribute much of our success to gifts of endowment, these permanent, self-sustaining funds empower the Carter School to fully deliver on our mission. Our endowed faculty chairs are leaders in excellence, synergizing learning, and action to create community within the school and beyond.

- *The Vernon M. Lynch and Minnie I. Lynch Endowed Chair for Conflict Resolution* leads public dialogue and conversation around societal conflicts.
- *The Druscilla French Endowed Chair for Conflict Resolution* empowers graduate students with professional mentorship.
- *The Henry Hart Rice Endowed Chair for Conflict Resolution* connects Point of View with the world through research and practice.
- *The James H. Laue Endowed Chair in World Religions, Diplomacy, and Conflict Resolution* builds pathways to peace through faith-based and spiritual touchstones.

Donors who fund scholarships and endowments, are shaping the world they want to see.



ALUMNI PRACTITIONERS IN THE CLASSROOM.

Telling the Untold Stories

Terri A. Dickerson, Civil Rights director for the U.S. Coast Guard, serves as an adjunct faculty member at the Carter School. Her expertise, experience, and actions embody our dedication to peace and conflict resolution.

Her research is focused on the untold, lost, distorted, and co-opted stories of marginalized individuals and communities. One of the first students to integrate New Orleans, Louisiana, Catholic schools, her work and lived experience provide a platform for those who need it.

A recipient of many esteemed awards—including the *NAACP Benjamin L. Hooks Distinguished Service Award*—Dr. Dickerson continues to help the Carter School make an impact.

Focusing on Reconciliation

Alma Abdul Hadi Jadallah is an internationally recognized scholar and practitioner in conflict prevention and mitigation with a personal and professional commitment to global peace and the peaceful reconciliation of conflict. A highly sought-after educator, she teaches graduate-level courses in conflict analysis.

Jadallah's research centers on themes such as political and organized violence, the involvement of third-party actors, gender dynamics, and cultural factors. With a significant focus on North African and regional Middle Eastern affairs, she presently holds the position of President at Kommon Denominator, Inc., where she offers technical support to the UN, EU, ASEAN, and numerous academic and civil society entities.

Building Peacemaking Capacity

David Smith, previously a senior program officer and manager of national outreach at the U.S. Institute of Peace, is an educator, consultant, and career coach focused on conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and humanitarian action.

His published work continues to fuel the Carter School's dedication to interrupting cycles of violence. His works include *Peace Jobs: A Student's Guide to Starting a Career Working for Peace* (Information Age Publishing 2016); *Legal Research and Writing* (Cengage 1995); and *Peacebuilding in Community Colleges: A Teaching Resource* (USIP Press 2013).

As an adjunct faculty member, David guides students who want to make an impact in local and international peacebuilding. David has appeared on *The Today Show*, *TEDxFulbright*, and has been featured in the *Washington Post*.

PUTTING THE FUTURE IN REACH

Ilana Shapiro and Robert Harris are undeniably experts in their fields. Ilana serves as a researcher and conflict resolution consultant spanning the areas of intervention, capacity building, and diversity, equity, and inclusion. As a conflict management professional, Robert designs and implements organizational change and employee engagement initiatives.

Beyond their professional contributions to the field, Ilana and Robert prove instrumental in their support of the Carter School as donors, teachers, mentors, and volunteers. In 2020, they received the Alumni Service Award from George Mason University in recognition of their longtime and impactful dedication to the school.

"We are the enthusiastic cheerleaders for the preeminent school in the world that teaches the nonviolent resolution of conflict."

Ilana Shapiro

PhD '03

"The world, and the United States in particular, needs more peacekeepers and peacebuilders."

Robert Harris

MS Conflict Analysis and Resolution '96, PhD '03



2K+

alumni, with
graduates working
on every continent.

4

endowed
faculty chairs.



WHERE DO WE BEGIN?

We focus on place at the Carter School now.

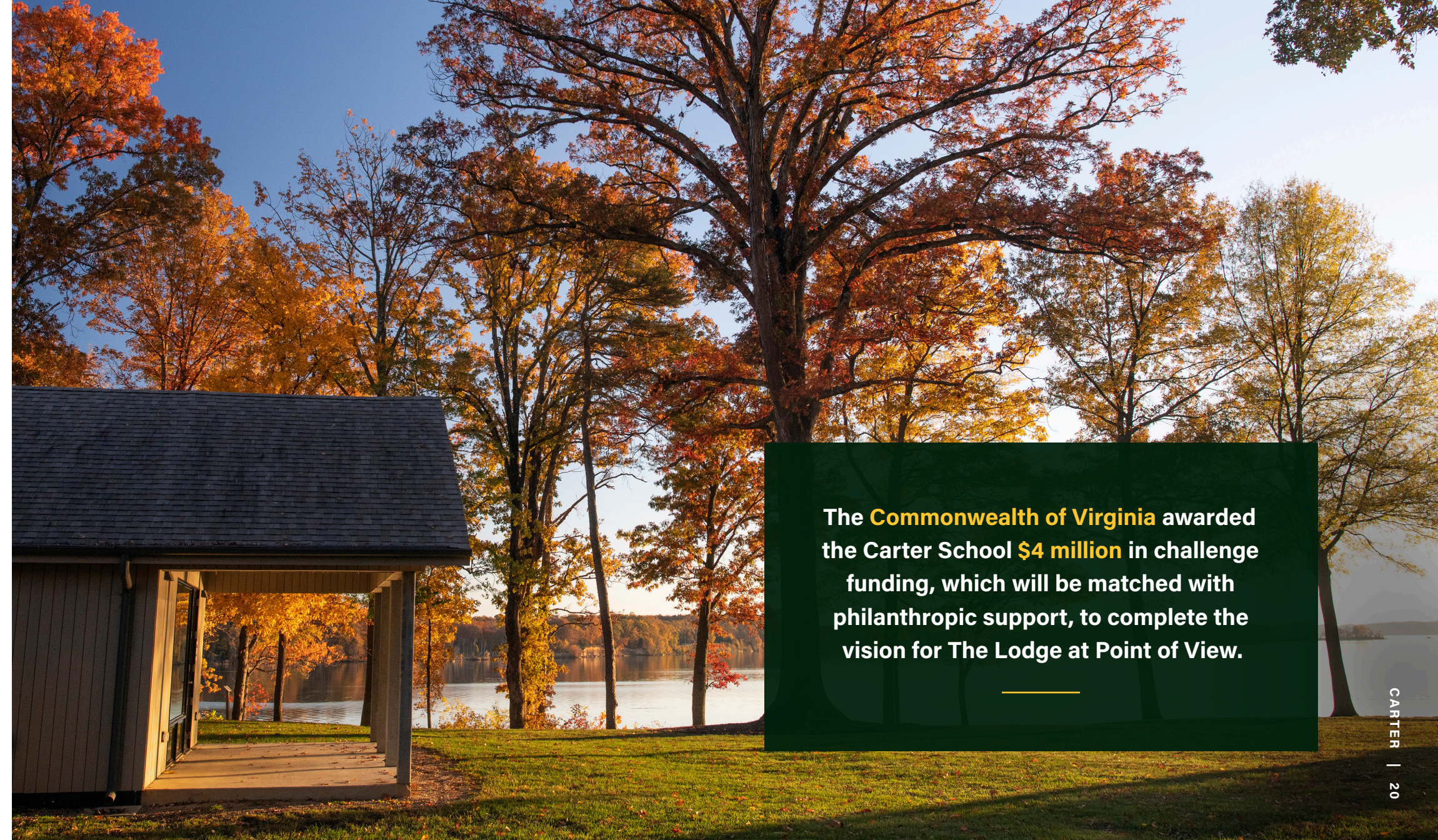
Peace and conflict resolution start at home. As the nation's only standalone school for peace and conflict resolution, it's important for us to foster an environment for learning, growing, and challenging ideas. We then extend that environment to everywhere our students, faculty, and alumni engage in the world.

A POINT OF VIEW UNLIKE ANY OTHER

The Lodge at Point of View is a realized dream that has become a true place for peace—a 120-acre property overlooking Belmont Bay in Mason Neck, Virginia. Here, we bring research and theory to the practice of conflict resolution—and conflict resolution to the world.

The Lodge at Point of View is a smartly designed space, giving peacebuilders overnight accommodations to work towards shared goals and implement solutions in a picturesque setting with space for individual reflection.

The property, donated to the Carter School in 2000 by Edwin and Helen Lynch and their family, is a lasting tribute to how philanthropic investments in physical infrastructure can transform programs. At Point of View, the Carter School reaches beyond these property lines to connect with communities across the world. They come here to work for peace.



The **Commonwealth of Virginia** awarded the Carter School **\$4 million** in challenge funding, which will be matched with philanthropic support, to complete the vision for The Lodge at Point of View.

A HUB FOR POLICY

With four centers, five peace labs, and online courses, the Carter School has successfully fostered an environment for experiential learning and informed action. Our globally recognized faculty are committed to innovative teaching and cutting-edge research, moving the educational experience beyond the classroom.

Carter School classes are purposely intimate, which translates into dialogue-led discussions and personalized attention. Our diverse concentrations allow students to tailor their education to match personal and professional interests.

Located just 20 miles outside of Washington D.C., our proximity to the capital has proven beneficial to the next generation of peacebuilders. It's no wonder why George Mason is seventh in the nation in placing graduates in the U.S. State Department's Foreign Service. Over 500 of our alumni are working in foreign service posts around the world.



ENGAGING LOCALLY, REGIONALLY, AND GLOBALLY

With the support of generous donors, the Carter School is collaborating with Rotary International to help the 1.4 million Rotarians around the world achieve their peacebuilding potential. Clubs, districts, and individual Rotarians will incubate new peacebuilding ideas and accelerate existing projects to make them more effective. The Carter School will also assist in developing peacebuilding strategies that can be scaled up to address the needs of different conflicts.

The collaboration will draw on the Carter School's Better Evidence Project (BEP), which hosts an open access resource center of peacebuilding research, best practices, and applied successes. Rotary's peacebuilding efforts will be integrated into the BEP database to make their organization's work accessible to other peacebuilders. Plans include an online forum to plug Rotary into a global community of researchers and practitioners to strategize and co-create knowledge.

Together, the Carter School and Rotarians will host "Peace Salons" with people of influence to inspire action, deepen relationships, and empower community connection.

"Through our partnership with the George Mason University's Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution, we will help empower, educate, and increase the capacity of our members and participants to become even more effective catalysts for peace."

Gordon McNally
President, Rotary International



ENSURING JUSTICE

The brutal civil conflict that has ravaged the East African nation of Sudan has resulted in the largest population displacement crisis in the world. A team of researchers across George Mason led a detailed investigation of the human rights violations being perpetrated by the conflict.

Carter School faculty joined researchers from the College of Science's Department of Geography and Geoinformation (GGS) to document, preserve, and analyze evidence of war crimes. Funded by the U.S. Department of State and under the guidance of the MITRE Conflict Observatory, the research team accessed first-hand witness accounts as well as satellite imagery of the violence and its aftermath—underscoring the power of partnership to achieve peace. The findings will be used to bring perpetrators to justice, contribute to delivery of humanitarian assistance, and counter disinformation.

**50**

nations in which
alumni are
working

500+

alumni working in foreign
service posts

EXPANDING HORIZONS, ENLARGING PERSPECTIVES

Developing world skills and experience through internships and professional learning opportunities with the United Nations, the World Bank, and the Department of State is key to preparing Carter School students to take on our grand challenges. Through facilitation, dialogue, and negotiation, students practice and fine tune transferrable skills for most professional settings.

More than half of our students choose to study abroad. Taking advantage of faculty-led opportunities, our students travel the world studying conflict resolution in Malta—where students can earn a dual Master's in Conflict Resolution and Mediterranean Security through the school's joint program with the University of Malta—Colombia, Eritrea, Hungary, Liberia, Jordan, Indonesia, London, South Korea, and more. Students can apply their foundational knowledge and training to international contexts.



WHY DEDICATE AN ENTIRE SCHOOL TO **CONFLICT RESOLUTION**?

We power purpose at the Carter School now.

At the Carter School, the challenge of human conflict is a daily focus. And the reality is, resolving conflict is daunting. But we believe, as our namesake does, that bringing people together is the first step towards discovering common ground.



RECONCILIATION IN RESEARCH

The Mary Hoch Center for Reconciliation (MHCR) examines the role of the “insider” in reconciliation and building resiliency in conflict resolution. It is student-led, prioritizing professional development and career placement, and exemplifies our commitment to experiential learning for all Carter School students.

MHCR supports communities in conflict, working to resolve past traumas by connecting them with national and international efforts. We focus on insider reconciliation, further empowering local leaders who are embedded in cultural contexts and retain trust within those communities.

Together, we’re creating collaborations that transcend borders, striving for transformative reconciliation on a global scale.

“There is a unique healing power in the human mind that’s been elaborated by local and faith traditions, and state-level reconciliation actors often ignore this power.”

Antti Pentikäinen

MHCR Executive Director

CONNECTING PEACEMAKERS WITH CRITICAL EVIDENCE

The **Better Evidence Project** curates useful, impactful evidence to inform peacemaking practices. By connecting the right people with the right information, we can address gaps in conflict resolution and bring existing evidence to those working to prevent war. Housed in the Center for Peacemaking Practice, we aim to decrease the cost of war across the globe.

We recognize that the world is constantly changing, and as it does, we need to adapt. The Better Evidence Project prioritizes and continually updates materials to enable practitioners, donors, and policymakers to do what they do best—help prevent and end armed conflicts.



The Annual Cost of Violent Conflict

100 Million people forcibly displaced

48.9 Million people facing starvation

\$14.4 Trillion in total economic impact



Five Carter School Peace Labs:

Peace Engineering

Reconciling Conflicts and Intergroup Divisions

Transitioning Justice

Transforming the Mind for Peace

The Narrative Transformation Lab

COMBINING THEORY AND PRACTICE

The Carter School Peace Labs open engagement across our academic community. Faculty, students in all degree programs, affiliated practitioners, and partners experiment, innovate, test, and advance social technologies related to resolving conflict and sustaining peace.

Peace Labs are dedicated to forming alliances and partnerships to design and implement new programs, models, and best practices in:

- **Innovation**—incorporating unconventional and cutting edge methods to help reduce violence, build sustainable peace, and restore relations among social groups.
- **Analysis**—providing tools to assess and assist conflict situations, conditions, resources, and programs.
- **Advancement**—identifying, testing, and improving existing practices, and models in peacebuilding and reconciliation.

SUPPORTING CITIES

The Program on Urban Peacebuilding supports efforts to prevent and respond to violence in urban areas and advances innovative approaches to city-wide peacebuilding.

According to the United Nations, 55 percent of the world's population lives in urban areas and that is projected to grow to 68 percent by 2050. While cities can be places of connection, collaboration, and exchange, they can also be deeply divided along economic, racial, ethnic, and religious lines. This program provides training and technical assistance to help urban communities enhance their knowledge and creative potential to more effectively influence social change. The program's interdisciplinary research brings together a wide range of partners to develop models that link theory and practice.

The program's overarching goal is to develop integrated peacebuilding models that are widely accessible to urban community leaders, academics, policymakers, and practitioners.



HOW CAN WE EMPOWER THE NEXT GENERATION OF GLOBAL PEACE LEADERS?

With your support.

In four short decades, we have transformed into an esteemed institution, the world's leading school of our kind. Now is our opportunity to expand our impact even further. Peace needs imagination and determination. Now is the moment to educate the next generation of thought leaders and changemakers. Now is the moment to take the next step. It's time to look ahead.

We invite you to look ahead with us.

