

# POSITIVE PEACE IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE

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A user's guide to the Positive Peace Framework

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**Positive Peace is a solution to many of the common social and economic challenges affecting our world today. In this guide, we explain how community development projects can benefit from implementing the Positive Peace framework.**

An understanding of the attitudes, structures and institutions that help to create peace is essential for government, community and business leaders and their stakeholders. Through research of more than 25,000 datasets covering 10 years, the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP) has identified concrete strategies by which countries can invest in Positive Peace, thereby improving resilience, mitigating the risk of violence, and reducing the economic toll of conflict.

Through the delivery of workshops, project design and interventions, Positive Peace can guide governments, businesses and communities on investments in the eight Pillars of Positive Peace, strengthening the attitudes, institutions and social structures that create better developmental outcomes.

The Positive Peace framework can be applied in many settings and provides a framework to understand, and then address, the multiple and complex challenges the world faces. Not only is the framework applicable at the macro level for governments, it is also applicable and is used at the community level.

Positive Peace projects can be tailored to a variety of different stakeholders including professionals working in development, peacebuilding, policing, military, health, education and government policy. The framework is non-political, culturally sensitive and impartial, and provides a neutral baseline from which recipients can create their own practical approaches to development.

**25,000**  
Datasets

**10**  
Years

**2,000**  
IEP Ambassadors

**1M**  
Training Target



**More information**

[visionofhumanity.org/resources/](http://visionofhumanity.org/resources/)



**IEP has held Positive Peace Workshops aimed at giving people the skills to analyse and propose local projects that can build peace in their communities. IEP has run these in Uganda, Mexico, Thailand, Zimbabwe and Libya.**

**Tunis, Tunisia**

**Peace in Libya**

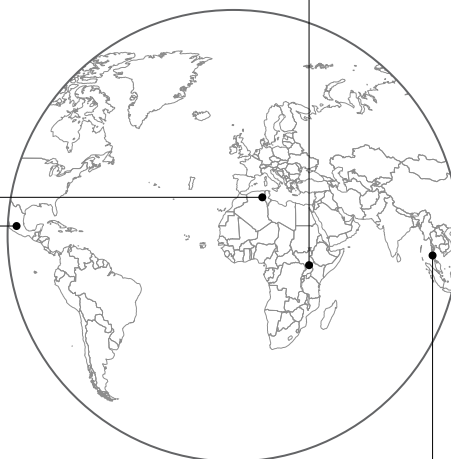
Supported by the City Mayors of Libya, 180 young Libyans participated in the course aimed at discussing how to build the attitudes, institutions and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies. Participants completed their training by carrying out projects designed to build all eight Pillars of Positive Peace.

**Karamoja, Uganda**

**120**  
attendees in this remote community



The people of the Karamoja Region are predominately pastoralists with a recent history of conflict, meaning peace is fragile. The series of workshops were designed to introduce participants to the eight Pillars of Positive Peace and the factors that create peaceful societies.



**1M**

IEP aims to train 1 million people in Positive Peace



**Mexico City, Mexico**

**97%**

continued with further peacebuilding training

Working with our strategic partner Rotary International, our program 'Building Momentum in Mexico: Strengthening the Pillars of Positive Peace' provided deeper knowledge and skills required to make change within the local system to create and sustain a systemic peace.

**Nakhon Nayok Province, Thailand**

**Peace + SDGs**

IEP carried out a series of workshops in Nakhon Nayok province in central Thailand, meeting with emerging community leaders to demonstrate how the Positive Peace model can help address sustainable development and help achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

## **Why is Positive Peace different?**

Often peace can be thought of as something that is separate to development - or as just one aspect of development - which is delivered through training, mediation or conflict resolution practices. Through the implementation of the Positive Peace framework, developmental projects automatically become peacebuilding projects. By focusing on strengths and not deficits, the Positive Peace approach differs from traditional peacebuilding approaches that often begin with conflict analysis or community analysis.

The emphasis of Positive Peace projects is on real action, led by the participants. There is limited value in participants identifying actions outside of their control. Participants also learn how to better think of their actions from a systemic perspective. This carries forward into other activities that they may do in the future. In addition, the framework is capable of communicating complex concepts and research based findings in ways that are simple, practical and yet wholly effective.



# 1

Positive Peace is defined as the *attitudes, institutions and structures* that create and sustain peaceful societies and is transformational in that it is a cross-cutting facilitator for progress.

# 2

The Positive Peace framework has been derived empirically through statistical analysis and mathematical models by the Institute for Economics & Peace, and as such stands unique in the world of peace studies.

# 3

Better economic outcomes, measures of well-being, development outcomes, levels of inclusiveness and environmental performance are all associated with Positive Peace.



## Sound Business Environment

The strength of economic conditions as well as the formal institutions that support the operation of the private sector. Business competitiveness and economic productivity are both associated with the most peaceful countries.

## Well-functioning Government

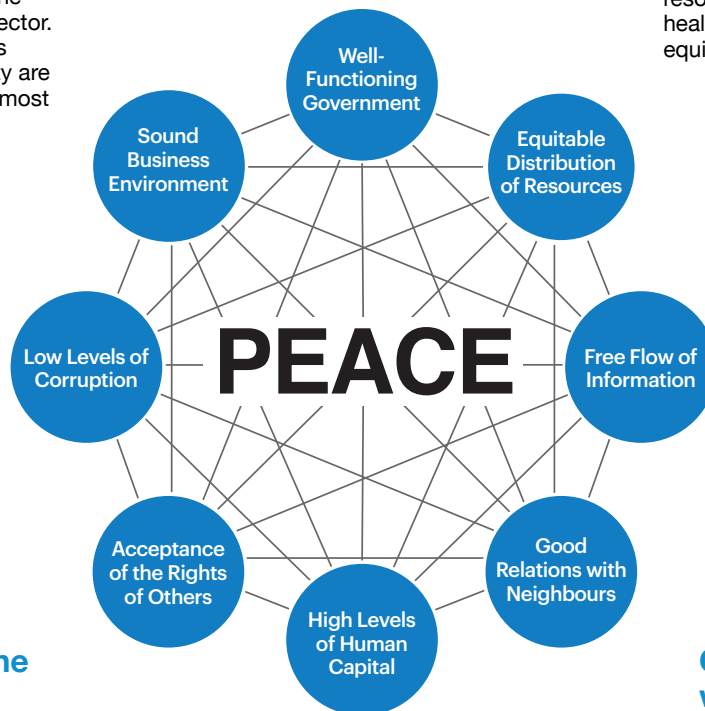
A well-functioning government delivers high-quality public and civil services, engenders trust and participation, demonstrates political stability and upholds the rule of law.

## Equitable Distribution of Resources

Peaceful countries tend to ensure equity in access to resources such as education, health, and to a lesser extent, equity in income distribution.

## Low Levels of Corruption

In societies with high levels of corruption, resources are inefficiently allocated, often leading to a lack of funding for essential services and civil unrest. Low corruption can enhance confidence and trust in institutions.



## Free Flow of Information

Free and independent media disseminates information in a way that leads to greater knowledge and helps individuals, businesses and civil society make better decisions. This leads to better outcomes and more rational responses in times of crisis.

## Acceptance of the Rights of Others

Peaceful countries often have formal laws that guarantee basic human rights and freedoms, and the informal social and cultural norms that relate to behaviours of citizens.

## High Levels of Human Capital

A skilled human capital base reflects the extent to which societies educate citizens and promote the development of knowledge, thereby improving economic productivity, care for the young, political participation and social capital.

## Good Relations with Neighbours

Peaceful relations with other countries are as important as good relations between groups within a country. Countries with positive external relations are more peaceful and tend to be more politically stable, have better functioning governments, are regionally integrated and have lower levels of organised internal conflict.

# 1. Application

Essential to Positive Peace implementation is the use of a strength based approach, using local facilitators, ensuring cultural understanding and allowing for long-term, sustainable relationships and continued programming.





The Positive Peace approach is unique, guiding project design by engaging the community to consider the whole social system. To begin, a new project is designed or an existing project reimagined using the Positive Peace framework. Project stakeholders, inclusive of project leads and community participants, undertake the design by developing project actions relevant to all eight Positive Peace Pillars. The actions should be realistic and achievable by all participants.

This approach ensures that the project design and subsequent actions are strength based, community led and designed to incrementally shift toward sustainable outcomes. A Positive Peace workshop will ensure the project design considers the whole social system, and avoids giving issues a narrow focus.

## Identifying community strengths

Essential to a Positive Peace project is the use of the strength based approach, using local facilitators, ensuring cultural understanding and allowing for long-term, sustainable relationships and continued programming. IEP works with partner organisations to develop projects based on their needs. IEP has developed projects for peace leadership development, preventing violent extremism, improving community cohesion, community development and resilience building. The empirically derived Positive Peace framework is always at the core of our programme development.

A common way to identify community strengths is by undertaking a Positive Peace Pillar mapping exercise. This is achieved by engaging community participants in identifying the existing strengths within a community. The participants undertake this process using the project, plan, or vision to frame the discussion for each Pillar. An illustration of a simple template to guide this discussion is seen below. It is critical that this thinking occurs for all the Pillars to identify existing strengths within a community.

## Project design using the Positive Peace framework

Positive Peace workshops have been used to design projects in countries including Zimbabwe, The Philippines, Uganda, Kenya, Mexico, Colombia, Tunisia, Libya, Thailand, Cambodia and Australia. Participants have included high-level governmental and diplomatic representatives, business leaders and entrepreneurs, pastoral communities, youth and community leaders, and NGO practitioners.

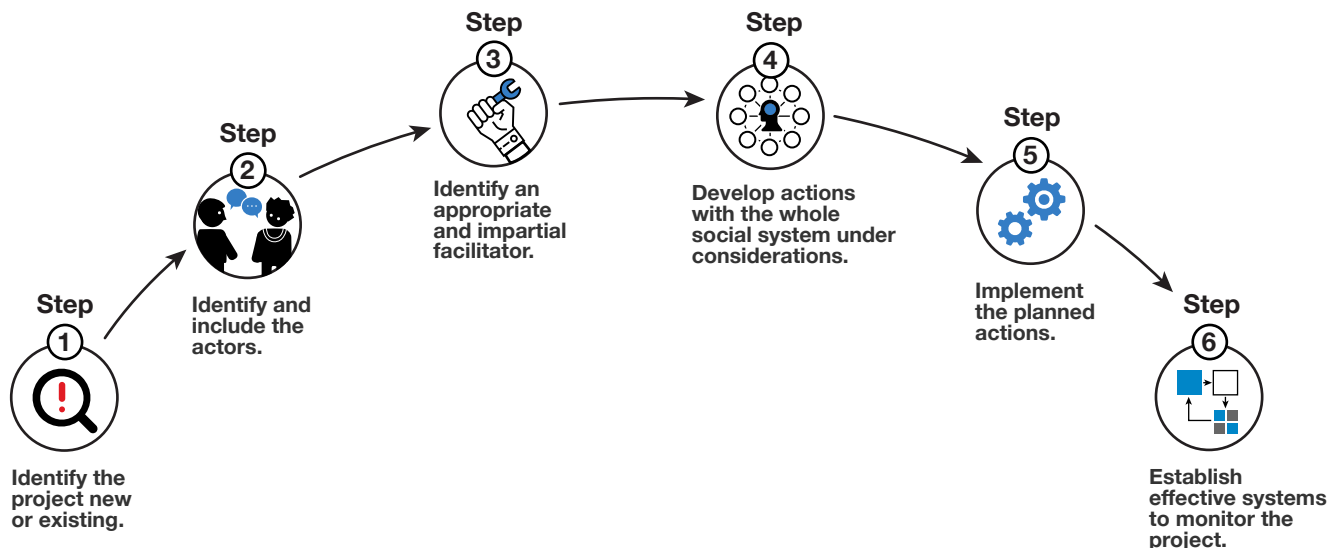
The Positive Peace framework is grounded in systems thinking. Critical to the project design process is directing thinking away from a linear understanding of cause and effect, which often results in projects that have a stop/start emphasis.

The intent of a Positive Peace project is to shift social systems incrementally - or invoke subtle changes to the social system - that shift it towards broader objectives or a broader longer term vision, and encourage more holistic development of the project. This is achieved by thinking through each Positive Peace Pillar and identifying a way to influence or nudge that Pillar in a direction favourable to the outcome.

In Positive Peace project design, it is critical to not only consider how to incrementally shift all the Pillars at once, but also to consider the impact of shifting a single Pillar across the whole system. The approach is to consider the intervention for a particular Pillar, then also consider the impact of that intervention on other Pillars. Therefore, designing nudges with many of these interacting together to shift the social system. Positive Peace Pillars cannot be isolated. When focus is directed to a singular Pillar of Positive Peace, the success rates of the project is often much lower. This is because the project is developed in isolation to the system as a whole.

Project actions are always focussed on what the community can do and what can be achieved within the existing system. This design is effective at nudging social systems to sustainable outcomes.

## Project Design Process



# 2. Design

Through workshops, practical projects and interventions, Positive Peace can guide governments, businesses and communities on investments in the eight Pillars of Positive Peace.





# Step 1

## Identify Project

Identify the project new or existing. The project objective could have a social, economic or governance outcome.

Some examples of projects where the Positive Peace framework could be used are:

- Literacy
- Leadership
- Economic development
- Effective and fair community governance
- Available and reliable information sources
- Food security
- Community cohesion
- Sustainable water and sanitation
- Improved childhood and maternal health
- Efficient land usage
- Preventing violent extremism.



# Step 2

## Identify Actors

Identify and include the actors to plan and deliver the project inclusive of:

- Formal and informal community leaders
- Peer influencers
- Representation from members of the community who will be affected
- Representatives from across vocational sectors affected by the project.



# Step 3

## Community Analysis

Identify an appropriate and impartial facilitator.

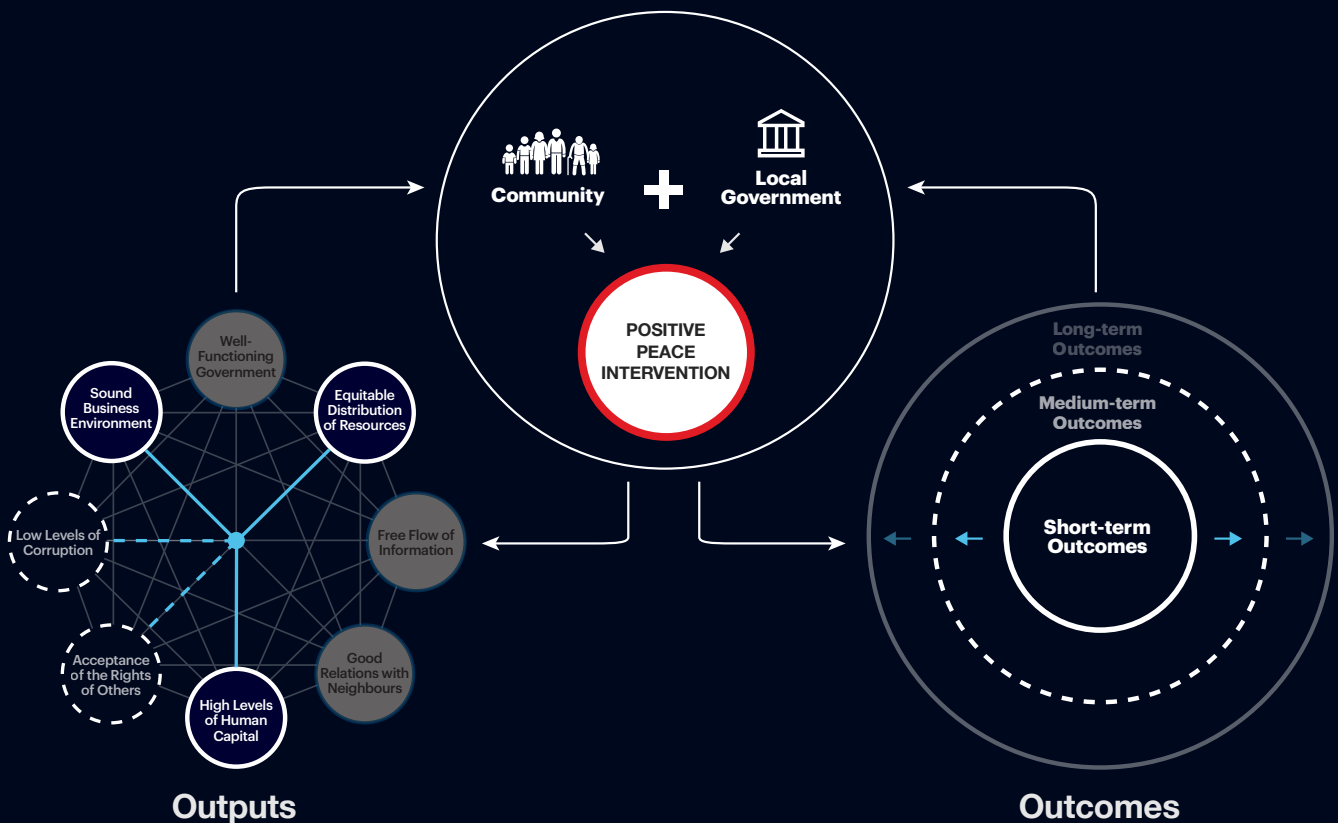
The community benefitting from the project should be involved in the development process. As they are the ones closest to the problem, they have the best understanding of what is needed. They hold knowledge around interactions that may happen through the community and between the community and the local government administration.

A selection process should determine who within the community will be involved in the project design. There are numerous ways of selecting the individuals, however it is important to choose a method supported by the local community. We recommended a group size between ten to 25 participants.

When reviewing the project, it is important to analyse it through each of the Pillars of Positive Peace and ask what would be an intervention for each Pillar that is appropriate for the project. Some Pillars may appear more relevant than others, however at times, Pillars that appear less relevant can have the most impact.

### Pillars of Positive Peace:

- Well-Functioning Government
- Equitable Distribution of Resources
- Free Flow of Information
- Good Relations with Neighbours
- High Levels of Human Capital
- Acceptance of the Rights of Others
- Low Levels of Corruption
- Sound Business Environment





# Step 4

## Project Development

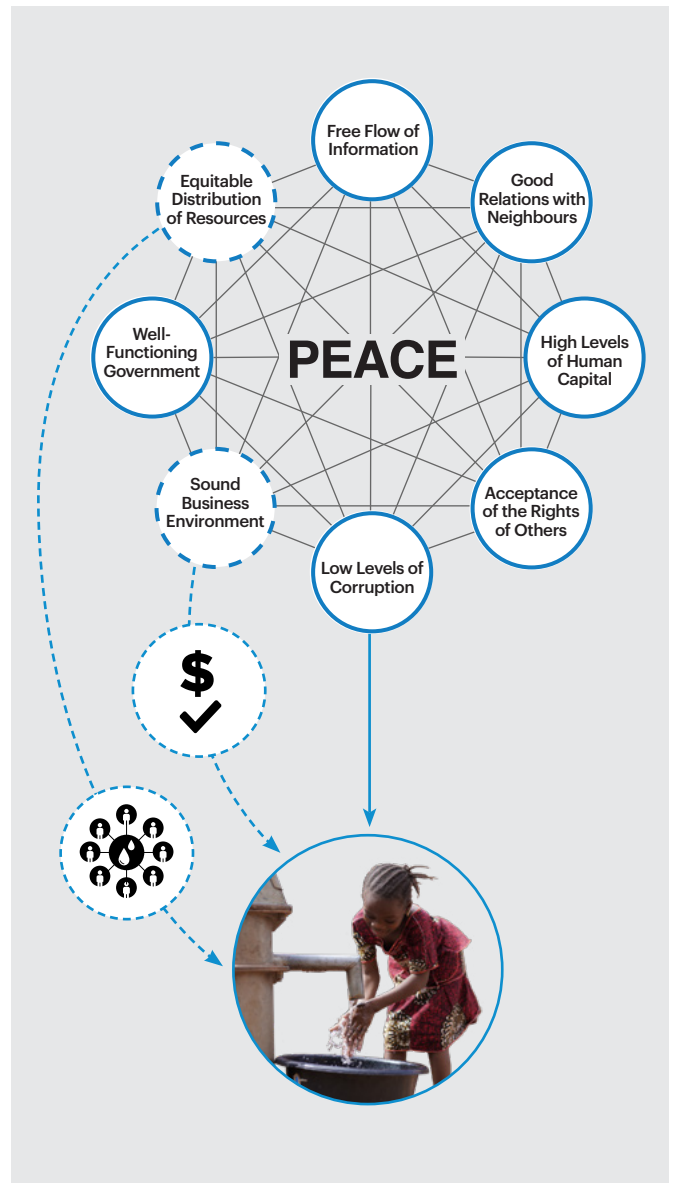
Develop actions to build on strengths, considering actions for each individual Positive Peace Pillar. While developing actions for an individual Pillar, consider the dependency or impact of the action on the other Pillars and adjust the action accordingly. This approach will build a set of actions designed with the whole social system under consideration.

It is important that the actions are:

- Significant
- Achievable within the current political constraints
- Impactful within a reasonable period of time.

It is critical to emphasise that each of the Pillars are to be analysed in connection with the project. For example, if it is a water project, then Low Levels of Corruption apply to the use of the water or money collected for maintenance of the water system. It does not mean that broader forms of corruption in government, schools or police should be tackled as part of a water project.

It is important to note that the project actions need to be achievable within the budget of the project and the capacity of the community and partners. Creating a wish list of unachievable actions is ineffective.

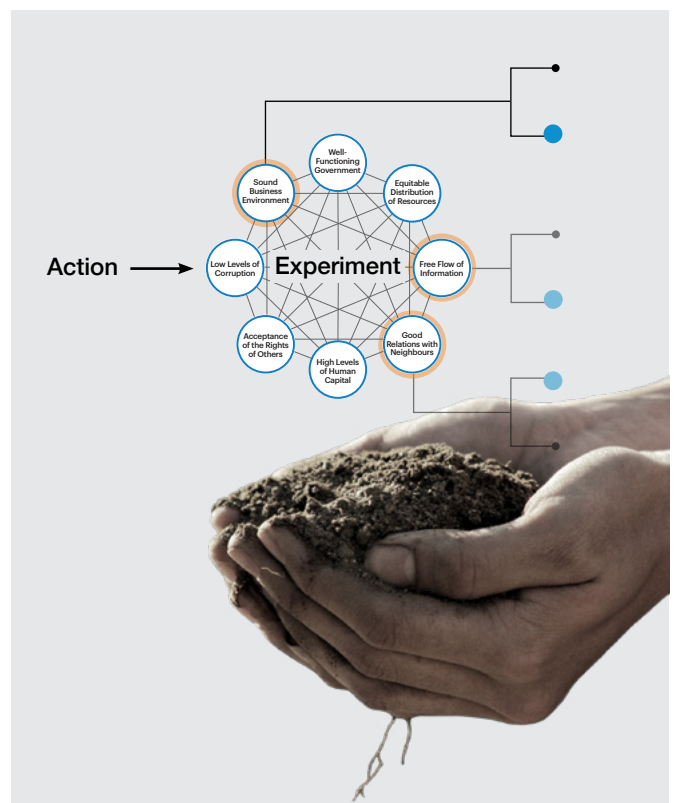


# Step 5

## Project Implementation

Implement the planned actions in the knowledge that this is about nudging a social system to be more peaceful. Systems thinking accepts that an action does not necessarily create a linear reaction and it is difficult to predict the impact of changed inputs on a social system.

Project teams need to be experimental in their approach observing and responding to observed shifts in social systems.



# Step 6

## Monitoring Progress and Impact

This step is critical.

Establish effective systems to monitor the project such as:

- Observations
- Interviews
- Media
- Available economic, social, and environmental indicators
- Surveys.

Add, adjust and readjust actions based on monitoring.

### Monitoring progress and/or impact

There are countless established evaluation approaches to choose from in the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) field. It is important to adapt the M&E approach based on the context of the initiative being evaluated. If you are not sure where to start, IEP's recommended approach is outcome mapping, which is centred on a theory of change (TOC) model.

Throughout the evaluation process — particularly during the planning phase — it is important for the community or organisation in charge of M&E to communicate and collaborate with the implementing organisations as much as possible. All parties benefit from one another's perspectives when building an evaluation framework.





# About

The Institute for Economics & Peace is the world's leading think tank dedicated to developing metrics to analyse peace and quantify its economic value. We do this by developing global and national indices, calculating the economic cost of violence, analysing country risk and understanding Positive Peace. IEP is best known for its annual publications the Global Peace Index, the Global Terrorism Index and the Positive Peace Report.

Founded in 2008, IEP has developed into a global operation. Its research regularly features in leading international media publications including the Guardian, the Economist, Huffington Post, Washington Post, CNN, and the BBC. Headquartered in Sydney, IEP maintains offices in New York, Mexico City, Brussels, The Hague and Harare. It is an independent, not-for-profit charitable organisation with 501(c)(3) status in the US.

## Contact

Sign up for the Positive Peace Academy:

<https://www.positivepeace.academy/>

Support the work of IEP:

<https://www.visionofhumanity.org/donate/>

Register for the IEP Ambassador Program:

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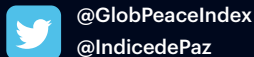


More information

[visionofhumanity.org/resources/](http://visionofhumanity.org/resources/)



**If your organisation would like to work with IEP to build evidence, inform and create action, please contact us on [info@economicsandpeace.org](mailto:info@economicsandpeace.org).**



IEP is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit think tank dedicated to shifting the world's focus to peace as a positive, achievable, and tangible measure of human wellbeing and progress.

IEP is headquartered in Sydney, with offices in New York, Mexico City, Brussels, The Hague and Harare. It works with a wide range of partners internationally and collaborates with intergovernmental organisations on measuring and communicating the economic value of peace.

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