




PEACE & JUSTICE COMPASS

LEARNING. TO END VIOLENCE.



“As we begin 2017, I could not be more excited about setting off in this direction — even though the exact path may not be clear.”

ANDREW BLUM
Executive Director

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LEARNING. TO END VIOLENCE.

By Andrew Blum, PhD
Executive Director

In my year-end article for the *Kroc Peace Magazine*, I said the questions I am always asking myself regarding the Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ) are: How can we do better? How can we do more? These are the right questions, but what are the answers? In other words, what will the IPJ actually do in 2017? Where are we headed?

I have only been leading the IPJ for a matter of months, so it would be foolish to say we have clear answers yet. But we have a strong set of starting points. First, we know what is needed to end violence in communities and broader societies. We know that peaceful societies are inclusive with a strong, healthy relationship between society and government. We know that peaceful societies have dense social networks and a strong sense of social cohesion, bonding all groups together and allowing them to work toward a common purpose.

Second, as a university-based institute, we know that a core part of our mission must be generating a deeper understanding of how to foster inclusion and strengthen social cohesion. And there is a pressing need for this right now. The peacebuilding field as a whole is at a moment where we know what needs to be done, but we're struggling to understand how to do it. This gap creates an enormous opportunity for the IPJ. Right now, peace requires applied knowledge — and generating applied knowledge is a core function of the institute.

Third, we know this applied knowledge cannot be generated just by us at the IPJ. It must be co-created with the peacemakers we work with around the world and in San Diego. Each year as we work with our Women PeaceMakers, we gain a deep, nuanced understanding of the work they do and how they do it. And they gain a deeper understanding of their own work, their challenges and their societies by placing themselves in the context of global efforts to build peace. It is only through this kind of collaborative process that applied knowledge — knowledge that truly creates more effective peacemaking — can be created.

It is even more exciting when we are able to bring our own University of San Diego student “changemakers” into this process. What better way for our students to learn than from peacemakers working on some of the most difficult problems in the most difficult places?

Finally, we know the purpose of the knowledge we create must always be to support the efforts of the peacemakers with whom we work. It is the peacemakers who apply the applied knowledge. What do they need to know? What relationships do they need? What resources could help them create more impact? How can we support them more effectively? We know it is only local peacemakers who can truly create more inclusive, more cohesive, more peaceful societies. Everything we do must be designed to make those peacemakers more effective, more powerful.

As we begin 2017, I could not be more excited about setting off in this direction — even though the exact path may not be clear. The IPJ has a strong portfolio of current programming, a rich history to build on, a committed group of amazing supporters, and all the resources of the Kroc School of Peace Studies and the University of San Diego supporting us. With all this to draw on, there is no doubt that in 2017, we will do better and do more. We hope that you will join us in this journey. Please feel free to contact me directly at any time (andrewblum@sandiego.edu) to hear more about what we are doing or to learn how to become more involved.

WISHING EVERYONE
A MORE PEACEFUL 2017,

Andy



IPJ and Woman PeaceMaker Help Launch Policy Exchange At U.N. Meeting On Extremism

In September 2016, Woman PeaceMaker Hamsatu Allamin of Nigeria spoke at an event alongside the opening of the U.N. General Assembly in New York, on a panel moderated by *New York Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof.

The event was to launch the Global Solutions Exchange, a mechanism for more robust dialogue between women-led civil society organizations and governments on issues related to preventing extremism. The IPJ and Allamin are part of the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership, which developed the Exchange.

As a peacebuilder, one of the approaches I started is to address the negative perception that Western secular education is a system of disbelief. ... Out of this perception emerged the narrative and ideology of Boko Haram — that Western education is forbidden.

To address this, I designed a counter-narrative and engaged with Islamic scholars, both male and female, through a live radio phone-in program where Islamic scholars could sit down and address this issue. In addition to that, I designed a peace manual with the Islamic scholars for teaching peace in Islamic schools. Both these interventions clearly brought out that Western secular education and Western peacebuilding concepts are indeed compatible with Islamic principles.

With these little interventions, within a period of 15 weeks, a woman-led initiative has transformed the narrative and ideology of Boko Haram to Boko Halal — that is,

'WESTERN EDUCATION IS FORBIDDEN' TO 'WESTERN EDUCATION IS ACCEPTABLE.'





Dialogue in Kenya Seeks Ways to Defy Extremism

In July, the IPJ convened the third in a series of dialogues on “Defying Extremism”, this time in Kenya for the Africa region. “One of the most invisible, and thus challenging, barriers we seek to challenge over this week is that of the silos we consciously or unconsciously adhere to,” remarked Jennifer Freeman, IPJ senior program officer for women, peace and security, at the opening session.

She articulated the unique approach the IPJ models in the regional dialogues: involving multiple sectors in strategies for preventing violent extremism. “We come with our own vernaculars and viewpoints — religious, secular, academic, government, civil society, counter-terrorism, human rights and peacebuilding — with agendas that at times directly conflict. We ask you to leave those agendas at the door and instead try to find points of commonality.”

The group of 60 met first in Nairobi, with half the group then going to Garissa, the other half to Mombasa to learn more about issues of extremism in areas particularly affected by an upsurge in violence in the name of religion. Freeman and Program Officer Katie Zanoni were in Mombasa, where the rise of al-Shabab has increased fear in the Christian community while, at the same time, heightened security measures and political and economic marginalization has increased frustration and anger in the Muslim community.

They met with heads of city and county government, survivors of a church bombing, sheikhs and families of returnees, each offering diverse perspectives on extremism. Mombasa is part of the global Strong Cities network, so dialogue participants heard an ambitious plan to address the root causes which motivate young women and men to join violent movements. Lewa Tendai, executive secretary of education for the Mombasa County Government, said that the core objective is to build an inclusive identity as Mombasans and ensure everyone — regardless of religion, ethnicity or background — feels a sense of belonging.

The Africa Regional Dialogue was co-convened by the IPJ and ACT! Kenya, and supported by the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, Gem Foundation, Tony Blair Faith Foundation, Raskob Foundation and The Carter Center.



**“ WE ASK YOU TO LEAVE
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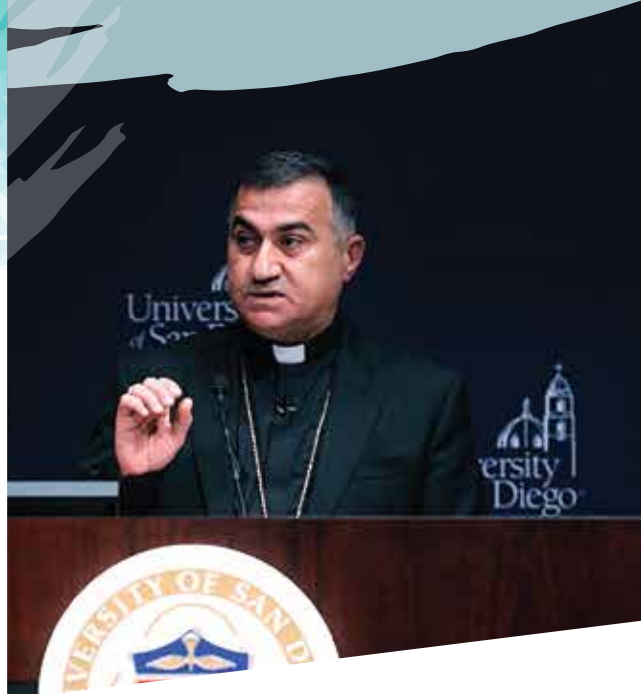
— JENNIFER FREEMAN



What is the Role of Christians in Combating Extremism in Iraq?

On October 27, the leader of the Chaldean Catholic Church in Erbil, Iraq, Archbishop Bashar Matti Warda, CSsP, gave a Distinguished Lecture about the dire persecution, murder and forced displacement of Christians in Mosul and the Nineveh Plain of Iraq. Much of the area has been under the control of ISIS until recent weeks; the Archbishop estimated there are 200,000 Christians left in the country.

HE HIGHLIGHTED TWO SECTORS IN WHICH CHRISTIANS CAN PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN BUILDING A “CARING AND FUNCTIONING SOCIETY”:
EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE.



“By showing our belief in the importance of critical and open inquiry, we can begin to break down the walls of intolerance and rigid thinking which so plagues our country,” the Archbishop remarked, calling for a strong partnership between institutions like the University of San Diego and the newly founded Catholic University of Erbil.

In regard to healthcare, he affirmed, “In a region where respect for life has been so often a victim of senseless violence, we Christians can show another way, a way that values all life, that shows compassion to the sick and injured regardless of faith or ethnicity.”

STUDYING EFFECTIVENESS OF COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN SOMALIA

The IPJ and Kroc School — together with Mercy Corps — recently received a grant from the U.S. Institute of Peace to study the effectiveness of community-based programs on countering violent extremism in Somalia.

INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANTS SUPPORT WORK IN KENYA

The IPJ has received International Opportunity Grants from the University of San Diego to return to Kenya to continue the work started during the regional dialogue (p.2). Senior Program Officer Jennifer Freeman and Daniel Orth, program officer for strategic peacebuilding, who has been working with local partner organization Chemchemi Ya Ukweli, will travel to the country this spring.

56 PEACEMAKERS, 38 COUNTRIES & GROWING

— Celebrating 14 Years Of Women PeaceMakers

The Women PeaceMakers program documents the stories and best practices of women leaders from conflict-affected regions around the world. The 2016 Women PeaceMakers were in residence last fall and their stories will be available on the IPJ website in February 2017.



HAMSATU ALLAMIN of Nigeria is the regional manager of the North East section of the Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme, and a national executive member of the Federation of Muslim Women's Associations in Nigeria. She is a trusted negotiator and peacemaker between militant, state actors and non-state actors, including Boko Haram, in her country's conflict-ridden North East region. Allamin was partnered with Peace Writer Sue Diaz.



JANE ANYANGO of Kenya is a grassroots peacebuilder who mobilized hundreds of women to reduce Kenya's post-election violence in 2007/8 and prevent further bloodshed in the 2013 elections. She is also founding director of the Polycom Development Project, based in Nairobi's informal settlement of Kibera, which works to advance the rights and dignity of adolescent girls. Peace Writer Maggie Thach Morshed recorded Anyango's story.

KHURSHID BANO of Pakistan is the founder of the women-led organization Da Hawwa Lur (Daughter of Eve) in the conflict-affected region of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. She challenges religious intolerance and violent extremist groups by promoting interfaith peacebuilding and women's rights. The founder of the first women's union in KP, Bano champions women's rights to live and work free from sexual and gender-based harassment, violence and discrimination. Bano worked with Peace Writer Alicia Wright.



FATMA MEHDI HASSAM of Western Sahara — who has been a refugee in Algeria for nearly 40 years — is the president of the National Union of Saharawi Women and chair of the Women and Gender Cluster of the African Union's Economic, Social and Cultural Council. Within the refugee community and beyond she has advanced women's political leadership and peace activism for over three decades. Peace Writer Serena Pelka wrote Hassam's story.

WORLDLINK SURPASSES 10,000-STUDENT MARK, FROM SAN DIEGO TO TIJUANA

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the WorldLink program, which connects youth to global affairs. More than 10,000 students have participated from San Diego and Baja California, through activities like the annual Youth Town Meeting (YTM). The YTM is a student-led conference that allows hundreds of local youth the opportunity to interact with experts on topics of global concern. In 2016, the topic was “Youth’s Influence on the World: For Better or Worse”. This year’s YTM, January 18, was “The Impact of Gender Inequality”.

TESTIMONIALS

“Last year’s [YTM] seemed to be a favorite among those who have attended in the past. I think it was the empowering message and that the speakers were young when they began their efforts or still are incredibly young. The students came back extremely eager to do something.”

- TED CUEVAS
TEACHER, HIGH TECH HIGH CHULA VISTA

“We are always looking forward to the next WorldLink as it is an incredible experience and an eye-opener to our students and all of us to the complex problems the world — our world — faces.”

- TERESA MARTINEZ
LANGUAGE COORDINATOR, IBERO TIJUANA SCHOOL

“Working with the WorldLink program has allowed me to truly appreciate the power of young people to change the world. Through WorldLink, I had the immense privilege of meeting accomplished and talented individuals who are experts in their fields, but also other young people who are agents of change in their communities and countries in order to make the world a better place. Certainly, the individuals that I have encountered ... have given me an entirely new perspective on global affairs and further inspired me to venture out and be engaged with the world around me.”

- ELIAS JINICH
2015 WORLDLINK SUMMER INTERN
YTM JOURNALIST AND MODERATOR

OF 499 RESPONDENTS FROM 48 SCHOOLS AT THE 2016 YTM:

95% stated that the YTM supports their development as a world citizen.

94% stated that participating in the YTM increased their desire to get more involved in student leadership opportunities.

92% stated they were regarded as a competent, capable participant throughout the day.

86% stated they felt their views and opinions were heard.

MARKING A DECADE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PEACE ACCORD IN NEPAL

On the occasion of the 10-year anniversary of the end of the civil war in Nepal and the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Accord, the Kroc School's advisor for strategic peacebuilding, Dee Aker, chaired a panel, "Peacebuilding in Nepal: Comparative and Global Perspectives", at an international peace conference in November in Kathmandu. The event was organized by the Nepal Transition to Peace Institute.

The IPJ has been working in Nepal for more than a decade, including during key moments of the country's transition from civil war, to the end of the monarchy, to the beginnings of a multiparty democracy with a nascent and still controversial constitution.



Aker met with Pushpa Kamal Dahal, formerly the Maoist leader known as Prachanda, in August 2016



The IPJ was in Nepal in 2006 during Jana Andolan II, the second people's movement which led to the end of the monarchy



शांति



THE INNOVATIVE CLASSROOM

In the Kroc School's "War, Gender and Peacebuilding" class, students meet individuals doing peacebuilding in the conflict scenarios they are reading about, and the academic theories they are studying become more real.

JENNIFER FREEMAN — IPJ senior program officer for women, peace and security — teaches the unique course which includes the Women PeaceMakers joining her in the classroom.

SOFIA CARDENAS is a student in the course, a USD senior majoring in sociology, and an IPJ intern last fall.

Cardenas and Freeman interviewed one another about their experiences in the class and with the Women PeaceMakers.

JF: Why did you choose to take a course like this? Did you know about the Women PeaceMakers program before?

SC: I am interested in a master's program in peacebuilding, so I wanted to see what that might look like before I jumped into the process. My first class at USD was in the IPJ building, and I saw the pictures on the wall and the newsletters and became interested in the kinds of things the IPJ was doing.

JF: What has it been like having the peacemakers in the classroom?

SC: It's been an incredible experience. Jane [Anyango from Kenya] was the first in the classroom with us. The insight she brought — seeing where she lives and what that's like and trying to meet her in her reality — has been really interesting.

Bridging Theory and Practice in Peacebuilding

JF: What are your plans after graduation?

SC: I will be applying here, looking to pursue a master's degree in peace and justice. I want a career in policy. Taking from what Jane has said, I want to look at resource-mapping and what kind of organizations already exist that are doing a version of what I want to do — and then support that and provide infrastructure. I don't want to come up with my own program and say, "Oh, this is how we should solve this problem." I want to empower local community leaders to be able to do that. They know best what their communities need.

SC: I'm interested in how you got started in the field of peacebuilding.

JF: When I first went overseas to work on issues of peace and security, it was to northern Ghana with the Canadian version of the U.S. Peace Corps. I was placed with a local nongovernmental organization that advocated for women's and children's rights, and it was led by Margaret Mary Issaka. She was the first person who gave me a strong gender perspective. She was the first person who showed me that — what you were hearing from Jane — the initiatives need to be locally designed in order to be effective.

SC: How do we measure the effectiveness of peacebuilding strategies?

JF: That's such a valid question. How do you measure a war that didn't happen? It's difficult to anticipate violence and then show that your peacebuilding interventions got a community away from that trajectory. But I think we're coming up with better tools to measure attitudes and behaviors, and how behaviors are changing as a result of building different structures, having people relate to one another, reducing hate speech, promoting shared values and ideas of human security.

SC: How does the interdisciplinary nature of peace studies contribute to your class?

JF: I think it makes it so rich. I see myself in a facilitation role: I have expertise in gender and peacebuilding, but I think that the class becomes much richer by having the Women PeaceMakers and their context and experience — and then the perspective of the students, with the backgrounds and academic disciplines they might come from.

We have students like you from sociology. We have folks from the military, we have folks who have spent their careers in the United Nations or come from human rights perspectives. I don't think that there is any single answer to complex challenges like peacebuilding and societal change, so to have a class that is representative of the diversity of our human societies, that is where the conversation needs to happen.



SC: In the class we spend a lot of time emphasizing reflection — on what we are learning and how it makes us feel. How does reflection impact your work?

JF: When I was a new professional going overseas for the first time, I was far away from everything that was familiar to me. It was my first time in a conflict-affected community. It was my first time working for a local civil society organization. I had previously been a peer counselor in issues of sexual and gender-based violence, but never as a professional in that role. It felt

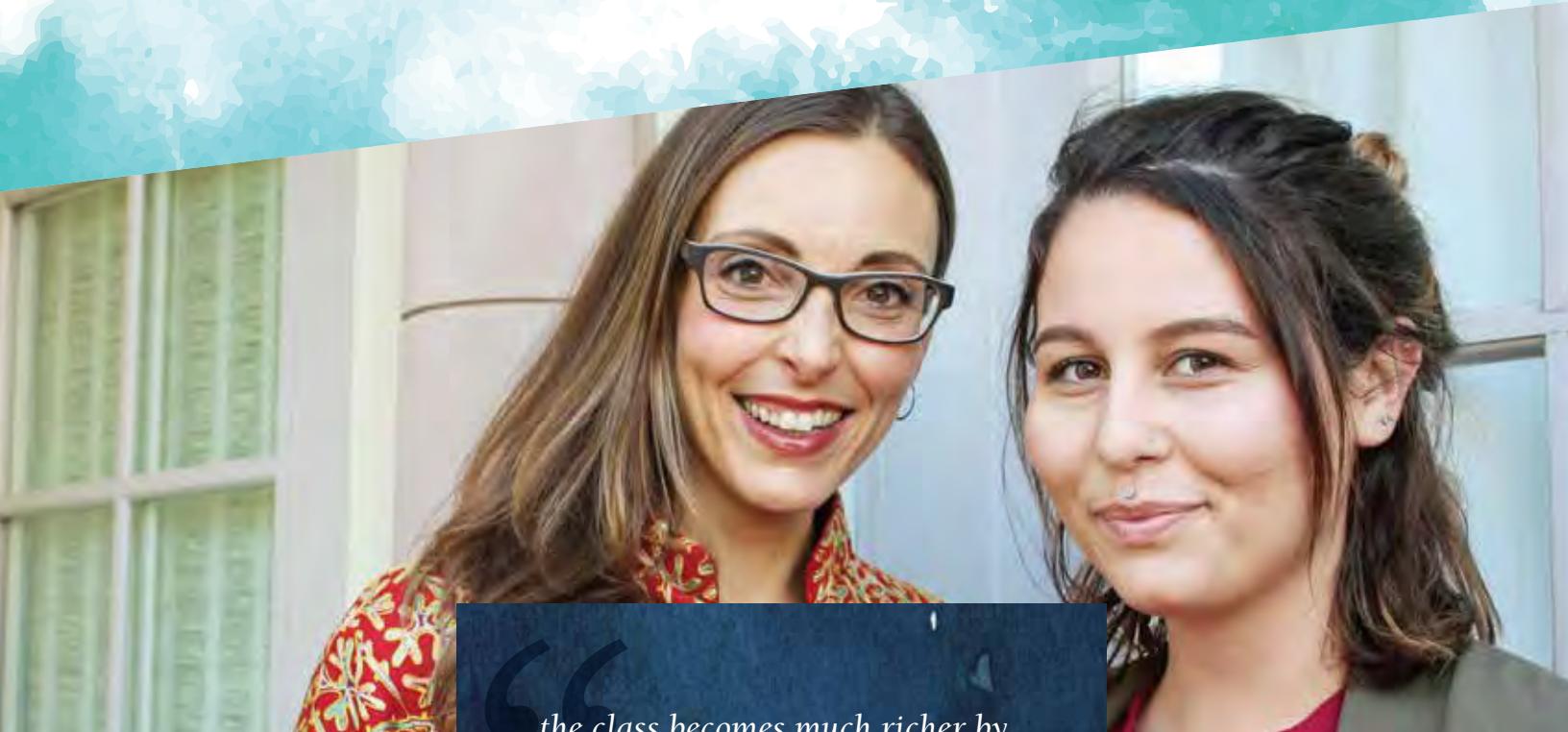
like I was being thrown in the deep end, and I was going through culture shock.

I started writing. I had never written much before, but I started journaling — a way to get things down, a way to own them and analyze them. I didn't have a community around me that I could go through a reflective process with. I did it very individually, through writing, and it grounded me.

It got me to a safe distance where I was still connected to the day-to-day of what was

happening in the communities where I was working, and it allowed me to be more effective in my role. Writing gave me a framework, some perspective, and a venue for analysis.

Now, working with the peace writers and watching the Women PeaceMakers go through a process of reflection, I know how valuable it is. They've been doing their work for 10, 20, 30, 40 years, and yet they haven't given themselves time or an opportunity to reflect. To watch the insights that come from that is so rewarding.



... the class becomes much richer by having the Women PeaceMakers and their context and experience – and then the perspective of the students, with the backgrounds and academic disciplines they might come from.



Builders of Peace and Justice: M.A. Student Brittany Keegan's Story

Brittany Keegan, a Southern California native, found herself on a stage in the middle of a peace rally in Davao, the capital city of the island of Mindanao in the Philippines, in 2012. She was 19. She had only been in Mindanao for a couple of months, and was only beginning to understand the conflict.

But her colleagues shoved a microphone in her hand and asked her to share her experiences as an American working alongside Filipino Muslims, indigenous peoples and Christians.

"It took me out of my comfort zone," Keegan recently remarked about that day, one of her most memorable experiences working for the Mindanao Peoples Caucus (MPC), an organization led at the time by IPJ Woman PeaceMaker Mary Ann Arnado. "It really helped my education about what it means to do this work."

After stints as an IPJ WorldLink intern, helping to connect youth to global affairs; working with MPC for six months during a particularly violent period in Mindanao; earning her undergraduate degree; and interning with the institute again on her return to San Diego, Keegan is now fulfilling one of her dreams.



A peace march in Mindanao is monitored by the Armed Forces of the Philippines

WORLDLINK

She recalls her interview to become a WorldLink intern and the question, “What would you like to do after this internship?”

“Get a master’s degree in peace and justice studies at USD.”

“I WAS ATTRACTED TO THIS PARTICULAR PROGRAM BECAUSE IT WAS PEACE AND JUSTICE NOT PEACE AND CONFLICT.”

That first interview for WorldLink was in 2010. Keegan recently completed her first semester as a master’s student at the Kroc School.

“I was attracted to this particular program because it was peace and justice, not peace and conflict, like so many other programs,” Keegan reflects when asked about why she chose the Kroc School.

A few months into her graduate study, she is already looking to how she can use her learning after the program to a career in education. “Being involved at the IPJ and studying at the Kroc School has been a profoundly transformative experience. I can’t wait to share what I have learned in the classroom — to guide the next generation toward a more peaceful world.”

Keegan is a student in the master of arts in peace and justice program, which attracts a diverse population of students from over 30 countries. The program, which can be completed full-time in two years or part-time in up to five years, prepares students for careers ranging from conflict resolution and mediation, to human rights, environmental justice, education, development and advocacy.

» For more information, visit www.sandiego.edu/peace/mapj

Brittany Keegan addressing a peace rally in Mindanao in 2012



Keegan worked with Woman PeaceMaker Mary Ann Arnado, pictured here in 2011 with volunteers of Bantay Ceasefire, an MPC initiative that monitored the ceasefire between the Philippine army and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.



MORE IPJ NEWS

DIRECTOR PUBLISHES POLICY BRIEF ON ADDRESSING GLOBAL FRAGILITY

Executive Director Andrew Blum wrote the eighth in a series of policy briefs from the high-level Fragility Study Group, an independent, non-partisan initiative to improve the government's approach to reducing global fragility. "Addressing Fragility — A New Learning Agenda" was published in October and is part of the series of recommendations on the topic to the next U.S. administration and Congress.

MARTINEZ HONORED BY CITY OF SAN DIEGO

In November, Debbie Martinez, former IPJ senior program officer for youth and peacebuilding, was honored by the City of San Diego Human Relations Commission for her years of service in the WorldLink program and promoting diversity, equality and inclusion.

KROC SCHOOL LAUNCHES "DIRECTOR'S NOTE"

IPJ Executive Director Andrew Blum, along with Everard Meade of the Trans-Border Institute, will be writing blog posts on a regular basis on pressing topics in peacebuilding and human rights. Bookmark www.sandiego.edu/peace/directorsnote to stay updated every Friday.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2-5

Human Rights Watch Film Festival

Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego

FEBRUARY 6

Book Launch - *Peacemakers in Action:* An In-depth Discussion on Religious Peacebuilding

By Tanenbaum: Center for Interreligious Understanding
Peace & Justice Theatre, University of San Diego

FEBRUARY 15

Listen, Connect, Rethink

Part of a USD Series on "Veterans and Arts: Re-imagining the Veteran Experience"
Peace & Justice Theatre, University of San Diego

MARCH 13-17

U.N. Commission on the Status of Women

U.N. Headquarters, New York

APRIL 27-28

NATO: Gender Awareness in the Security and Defense Field

Peace & Justice Theatre, University of San Diego

MAY 28-29

The Power of Women to Effect Social Change: Stories of Diverse Approaches to Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution

NAFSA: Association of International Educators — Annual Conference and Expo — *Los Angeles*

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ANDREW BLUM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ROBIN DEICHLER
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

JENNIFER FREEMAN
SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER
FOR WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

TINA MEDINA
PROGRAM OFFICER FOR WORLDBLINK

IVETA NIEDERLE
LECTURE SERIES MANAGER

EMIKO NOMA
SENIOR EDITOR AND WRITER

DANIEL ORTH
PROGRAM OFFICER FOR
STRATEGIC PEACEBUILDING

KATIE ZANONI
PROGRAM OFFICER FOR
WOMEN PEACEMAKERS

EDITORIAL ASSISTANCE
EMILEE CUTRIGHT

PHOTO CREDITS
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