

**PEACE
IN OUR CITIES**

HALVING VIOLENCE AND BUILDING PEACE IN CITIES BY 2030

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AMMAN, JORDAN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OVERVIEW // EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
VIOLENCE IN CITIES	3
Case Study: Escobedo, Mexico	4
Case Study: Dayton, Ohio, USA	5
COVID-19 IMPACT AND RESPONSE	6
Case Study: Palmira, Colombia	7
ROADMAP	8
Our Vision	8
Our Commitment	9
Our Solutions	10
Case Study: Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention	12
Case Study: SafeCity India	14
Our Timeline	17
Ourselves: Who we are	18
Participating Cities and Partnerships	20
Case Study: Oakland, California, USA	21
CONCLUSION	22
ANNEXES	23
Annex 1. Year One Campaign Achievements	23

OVERVIEW // EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Peace in Our Cities (PiOC) focuses on catalyzing actions to reduce violence and build peace, leveraging the political power of Mayors, the community power of civil society, and the global imperative of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As a platform, PiOC aims to:

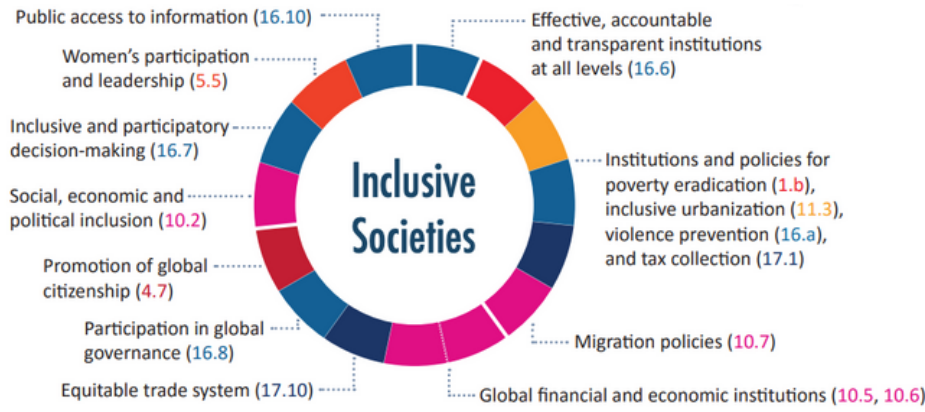
- **Amplify the scale of urban violence and the promise of evidence-based solutions to save lives and heal communities.**
- **Accompany city leaders, community, and civil society to realize ambitious targets for violence reduction.**
- **Advance evidence-based policy solutions and peacebuilding approaches to reducing violence in urban contexts.**

The year 2030 was chosen as a key benchmark as it represents the conclusion of the UN Secretary General’s Decade of Action on the 2030 Agenda. Marking 10 years from today, Peace in Our Cities is setting a “high ambition timeline” critical to achieving SDG16, SDG5, and SDG11 to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies, end all forms of violence against women and girls, and make cities safer and more inclusive. In recognition of the inherently integrated nature of both the 2030 Agenda and complementary efforts by the violence prevention and peacebuilding communities, we are also working towards the realization of the critical aspects of the SDG 16+ agenda.

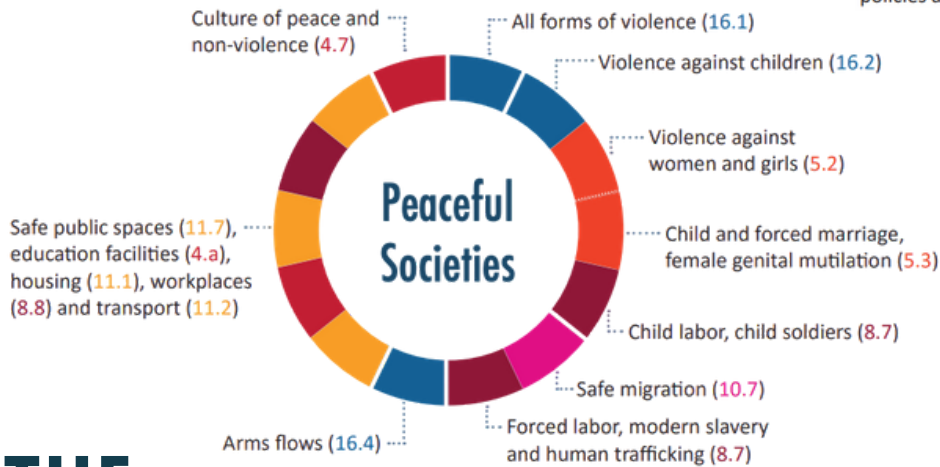
This Action Report highlights specific ways in which Peace in Our City members are already acting to build peace, and how they are leading the way on policies and approaches into best practices that are replicable and scalable across cities worldwide. It further provides a roadmap for cities to join in advancing our high ambitions, believing that violence in our cities is not inevitable, but rather preventable. To meet the 2030 deadline, steep reductions in violence must be made from 2020-2025, with transitions to resilience building, sustainable conflict resolution, and violence prevention pursued in 2026 and beyond.

We offer a high-ambition declaration, “A Decade of Action for Peace in our Cities: Mayors’ Declaration for the International Day of Peace and the Secretary General’s SDG Action Platform.” The Declaration affirms 16 Mayors and 22 civil society organizations’ commitment to acting on the approaches and pathways outlined in the Action Report.

The Report was produced in collaboration between Peace in Our Cities member cities, organizational partners, and the co-facilitating team.



SDG 16+



THE 2030 AGENDA



VIOLENCE IN CITIES

Just over 80% of global lethal violence occurs outside of conflict zones, much of it concentrated in urban settings. Cities today constitute half of the world's population, a trend 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 areas around the world.

Just over 80% of global lethal violence occurs outside of conflict zones, much of it concentrated in urban settings.

Unfortunately, urban violence often goes unaddressed, in large part because the majority of urban violence impacts those with the least political power. These are the same people who are on the losing side of growing inequality in cities around the world and those for whom access to justice and other public services remain elusive. Incidents of urban violence often reflect the structural and systemic challenges of marginalization, exclusion, and oppression of communities.

Addressing violence in this respect also means working to address the root causes of people's marginalization and exclusion.

Promisingly, there is a range of evidence and emerging best practices to address high levels of urban violence. Cities around the world are 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. Civil society organizations around the world are key to bringing attention to the imperative of reducing violence and building peace in our cities and implementing programming that saves lives and builds peace.

Escobedo, Nuevo Leon, Mexico

In Escobedo, Mexico, the city government has a wide and often intimidating goal: that all civilians should have access to justice and a life free of violence. In order to obtain these, the government has been working on social prevention via a multi-management model for women and children experiencing domestic violence. In Mexico, family violence is the top incident of violence in all 32 federations - and in Escobedo's state of Nuevo León, it is the second highest number of investigations. The team in Escobedo has been working with different government entities and civil society organizations within the city to provide free legal and psychological support to victims of violence, and also works on programs focusing on generators of violence. The program focuses on empowerment of women who have been victims of violence, and helps them to obtain support during recovery. It then moves to engagement with perpetrators of violence, and includes multi-disciplinary work with perpetrators to avoid further violence. Under COVID-19, the city has had to shift the program to include more socially-distanced engagement, and they are adapting every day.



Dayton, Ohio, United States

In Dayton, Ohio, the city recently passed the anniversary of a 2019 mass shooting, which had ripple effects throughout the city. Dayton has taken a public health approach to addressing gun violence, including working with the Ohio governor on legislation, organizing around the one year anniversary of the shooting, and centering the equity and racial justice dimensions in the Dayton community. Through the Facing Project, the city is working on a healing process around gun violence through action-oriented, transformational work rooted in the cultivation of compassion. Dayton's ethos comes from the idea that we need to work from the very beginning to address issues such as generational trauma and violence. They focus on forming relational contacts with stakeholders in both the law enforcement and community work, with an acknowledgment of the racial inequities that are rooted in US public safety.



COVID-19 IMPACT AND RESPONSE

Cities and urban areas have been epicenters of the COVID-19 crisis. Already, we are witnessing knock-on effects from the pandemic. Economic downturn, shifting patterns of violence - including startling increases in violence in the home - increased risk of insecurity, and strains on social services and law enforcement capacities all pose a significant challenge to fostering peaceful, just, and inclusive communities. The virus impacted each city uniquely, but with a degree of consistency that those already least advantaged within society are those most impacted by and dying in highest numbers of COVID-19. Before COVID-19, these individuals and communities already bore the brunt of urban violence. Hence, the current public health crisis is overlapping in many cities with pre-existing public safety crises, the very thing PiOC was created to help address.

Cities will be the pioneers of innovation and adaptation to our new realities. The early months of the pandemic forced individuals, institutions, and international bodies, Peace in Our Cities included, to abruptly shift their learning and practitioner methods. WhatsApp groups quickly expanded to share information and communications tools rapidly, webinars allowed for more regular interaction than in-person meetings, and news of the pandemic connected communities in new ways. These positive changes have come with costs as well, starting with people's mental and physical health, but including internet connectivity disparities, efficiencies lost to new ways of communicating, and high competition for time and attention.

At the beginning of the pandemic, PiOC issued a *Statement of Solidarity: Advancing Health, Reinforcing Peace*, calling on cities and urban areas to become leaders in the efforts to reduce violence amidst COVID-19. Moving forward, PiOC will strive to provide space for exchange of knowledge and innovation between cities and partners. We will initiate new research relevant to the dynamics imposed by COVID-19, we will continue to advocate for investments in safety and health simultaneously, seeing the two as intrinsically linked, and we will remain steadfast in our focus on preventing serious violence both throughout and beyond the current crisis.

Palmira, Colombia

In Palmira, Colombia, the newly elected mayor has had to incorporate social measures taken during COVID-19 into his wider plan for violence reduction and safety promotion. Palmira, which has the second-highest rate of homicides in Colombia, finds that youth populations in the city are those most affected. Young men are both perpetrators and victims of violence, and the municipality is taking a four-pronged approach in order to reduce youth homicide rates from 80 to 66 percent. The first step, Interruption, focuses on delivering actions that contain criminal activity when it occurs. The second step, Intervention, aims to provide a way out of criminal life by creating legal life-projects; the local government is working on increasing opportunities for job-training. The third step, Prevention, looks to provide wide institutional offers, and the municipality is developing social policies that can incentivize citizens to use their free time pursuing other activities. The fourth and final step, Situational Prevention, takes a specific focus at building safe environments and improving access to justice for victims of violence, particularly through restorative justice initiatives.

The COVID-19 pandemic is both an opportunity and a risk for Palmira: in the first three months of the lockdown in 2020, the homicide rate was 35 percent, the lowest in 15 years. However, the loss of employment might increase rates of homicide and violence. In order to maintain this low rate, the city is developing a four-year Municipal Development Plan to keep violence low after social distancing is finished.



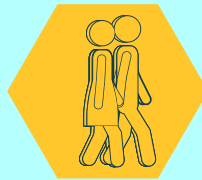
Our Vision

We are a growing group of mayors and civil society organizations committed to significantly reducing levels of violence globally and building peaceful, just, and inclusive cities, in line with the commitments made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. On the 2020 International Day of Peace, the one-year anniversary of the establishment of PiOC, and as the United Nations celebrates its 75th anniversary, we formally mobilized to halve and transform urban violence by 2030.

Peace in Our Cities will:



Amplify: the scale of urban violence and the promise of evidence-based solutions to save lives and heal communities



Accompany: city leaders, community, and civil society partners through peer exchanges and information access to realize ambitious targets for violence reduction



Advance: evidence-based policy solutions and peacebuilding approaches to reducing violence in urban contexts

Our Commitment

As we enter a Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, Peace in Our Cities is transitioning from a ***campaign*** into a ***platform***. As such, we represent a dedicated community of practice committing to:

- Implement a collective roadmap for halving violence, with each city promoting peace and tackling the forms of violence that pose the greatest risks to its inhabitants.
- Share our experiences with other cities so that we can learn from both successes and failures.
- Support the curation and sharing of best practice approaches, policies, and frameworks for reducing urban violence priorities between global cities and partners.
- Convene Peace in Our Cities partners to increase and maintain connections between frontline city officials and civil society organizations leading efforts to halve urban violence by 2030. Webinars, a dedicated communications channel, and other infrastructure will be used proactively to exchange knowledge.
- Advocate for members' interests at the United Nations, among major global donors, and in relevant international events.
- Establish a new Peace in Our Cities Decade of Action Challenge Fund, to give cities and partners the funding to act on the evidence, models, and programs already curated and known as state-of-the-field best practice.

By joining PiOC, city members are committing to:

- **Developing 10-year strategies to meet 50% reduction goals by 2030**
- **Defining baseline and evaluation criteria for accountability**
- **Sharing of best practices to support sister cities in achieving their goals**
- **Continuing to be champions and leaders for peace**

Our Solutions

We have seen cities reduce violence by remarkable amounts, over 50% in many cases, with the right policies, programs, partnerships, and investments. We have also seen the manipulation of evidence to advance heavy handed use of force, often backed up by foreign assistance funding. Confronting competing claims of evidence will form a core aspect of our operational and advocacy support, reinforcing the centrality of human-centered responses that reduce violence in the short term and prevent it in the long term.



The Mayors' Declaration: A Decade of Action for Peace in Our Cities solidifies the network's commitment to building peaceful, just and inclusive cities over the next 10 years. It supports the Peace in Our Cities call to halve and transform urban violence by 2030.



Allowing violence to persist while we have many of the solutions to limit its spread makes us complicit in the deaths, injuries, psychological harms, and social and economic damage that the epidemic of violence causes. We will act urgently to save lives by breaking cycles of violence, while also sustaining prevention over the time needed to transform institutions, regain the trust of people and communities, empower women and tackle harmful gender stereotypes, fight discrimination, and enable all people to benefit from sustainable development. We will:

***Amplify* the scale of urban violence and the promise of solutions to save lives**

The Platform is committed to building a surge of global momentum behind the imperative to significantly reduce violence. We are particularly mindful that unless violence is steeply reduced from 2020-2025, it is unlikely that other Sustainable Development Goals will be met. We are therefore working to:

- Position SDG16, SDG5 and SDG11 as top priorities within the United Nations system;
- Place local leadership and action on urban violence reduction at the heart of a global movement to halve violence which brings together a coalition of governments, national, and international organizations, and foundations and private sector partners;
- Link PiOC members with other global urban/city-to-city peer networks working on issues of urban violence, and urban governance more broadly.

Global Financing

The Platform will work diligently to increase global resourcing for city-led violence reduction and prevention efforts. While some cities are able to allocate funds for violence reduction programs, global funding will be necessary to support a high ambition timeline to halve violence by 2030. We are already working to increase financial support to city-led violence reduction and prevention among many of the world's financial institutions.

Consistent policy and frameworks

The Platform will support cities and partners in order to allow them to share best practices in terms of violence reduction frameworks, policies, and legislation. This will include innovative best practices developed by member cities and civil society partners that can be shared amongst them, inclusive of restorative justice. Concretely, PiOC will support interested cities with the development of:

- Model policies
- Model legislation
- Platform support within the global policy arena



Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention

The Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention (CMNCP) works across Canada on a variety of issues, and during the COVID-19 pandemic has doubled down on their efforts to prevent violence against women and children across the country. During COVID-19 and the spike of violence within the home, there has been an increase in 'upstream prevention' methods taken by the CMNCP, including an increase of shelters and services provided to victims of violence. CMNCP is also looking at the long term effects of this increase, acknowledging that prevention experts need to be prepared for the ways in which COVID-19 will continue to impact the personal, economic, and violence issues within urban centers. Through programs like SNAP, life skills training, multisystemic therapy, and ongoing training around masculinities and what it means to be a man, CMNCP is adapting and shifting amidst the pandemic.



EDMONTON, CANADA

Accompany city leaders, community, and civil society partners

The Platform will support cities and partners with movement messaging that elevates their efforts within the international community to drive increased resourcing and creates space for improved local-to-global campaigning on violence prevention. Concretely, Peace in Our Cities will support interested cities with:

- Narrative frameworks and guidelines
- Coordinated media and visibility issue campaigns across cities
- Telling the story of what works to reduce urban violence and build peace
- Tailored visibility raising opportunities, such as op-ed writing and placement support

Local mobilization

The Platform is uniquely designed to connect cities with local civil society organizations to form city teams, united to halve violence and build peace by 2030. Unlike many other city-to-city platforms, Peace in Our Cities recognizes that government and citizens work hand in hand to reduce violence, and therefore has designed a platform that will share best practices within and between cities and civil society locally and globally. Civil society partners provide mechanisms for accountability in cities, especially as city administrations come and go. CSOs also have unique peacebuilding perspectives that inform and complement evidence-based policies. Our platform will have the ability to support partners in identifying key issues and co-create narrative campaigns that galvanize and mobilize local committees in support of building urban peace.



CALI, COLOMBIA

Advance evidence-informed solutions and peacebuilding approaches

Peace in Our Cities has already produced one evidence brief on effective strategies to address group violence. This first installment summarizes the most relevant evidence of what works to address community violence in cities, and aims to contribute to the debate on how we can do better to save lives and build more socially productive and peaceful cities.

Going forward, PiOC will produce additional briefs focused on forms of violence prioritized by PiOC members, namely:

- Gender based violence & Violence Against Women
- Group violence (primarily involving youth, often referenced as group or gang violence)
- Political, Economic, and Social Violence

These briefs will discuss violence dynamics both prior to, and after the onset of, COVID-19. These briefs will be shared with all city partners through both co-creation of research findings and through presentation and discussion of findings. Further, cities asked for more information on the interdependencies and linkages across forms of violence - this is an evolving area of research exploration. Beyond COVID-19, providing technical support and knowledge dissemination is a core priority of Peace in Our Cities in such a way that is actionably relevant to city partners.

Safecity, Red Dot Foundation

Safecity, which is a platform run by the Red Dot Foundation based in Mumbai, India, documents sexual harassment and abuse in public spaces. Not limited to India, Safecity has become the largest crowd map on the issue of sexual violence in India, Kenya, Cameroon, Nigeria, and Nepal. The platform includes an app and a map that helps users report and map sexual violence in these places, particularly in urban spaces. Crowd mapping sexual violence in India is used by Red Dot to engage with communities to create safe and inclusive spaces, work with local police and transport authorities for data-informed policies, and implement 'quick fixes' for violence reduction, such as fixing lighting on streets and making emergency phones more prominent. Since COVID-19, while public space violence has gone down, it has been replaced by an increase in domestic violence and violence in the private space. Safecity has adapted by adding domestic violence reporting to the crowd mapping platform at the city level to protect privacy, amplifying counseling and mental health resources, launching safe online discussion spaces, and more.

Some of the approaches around which we will collect and share evidence include the following:

- Creating a centralized office of violence prevention to coordinate across silos
- Focusing on the highest risk population
- Balancing criminal deterrence with restorative transformation
- Implementing programs that incorporate psycho-social and socio-economic support
- Encouraging disarmament and disengagement from violent groups

Further areas of interest for exploration include evidence on restorative justice and alternatives to punitive enforcement practices. Where possible, evidence briefs will be accompanied by toolkits that describe less the “what” and more the “how.” All briefs will be done in such way as to be gender sensitive.

Evidence briefs will be focused on specific interventions or structures that have been deployed to respond to the above listed presentations of violence. As these briefs are drafted, PiOC will formalize the key reduction strategies demonstrating evidence of effectiveness together with key resilience building approaches with similar evidence of effectiveness. To be put into practice, they will require concrete contextualization and localization

Support Data Collection and Benchmarking

We act on what we know. Many cities face major data gaps in understanding not only the scope of their violence challenges, but also the right information to be collected and monitored to advance effective response strategies. This includes data on both incident-level violence as well as perceptions of violence and perceptions regarding public sector responses to such violence.

Upon request from partners, PiOC will circulate data collection strategies, narrative on good practice and support to analytic efforts. We will foster exchange of knowledge on new ways to collect data, including crowdsourcing, with a focus on building relationships between communities and their public safety institutions and ensuring community voice is central to institutional priorities.

Further, cities seek local academic partners to help in data exploration; PiOC will contribute knowledge on how best to spark and formalize these types of relationships. ing community voice is central to institutional priorities.

Share Information on How to Work

Evidence is only one part of the challenge. City partners - both governmental and non-governmental - require inspiration on how to best put strategies to practice. Through peer exchanges and deep-dive discussions into concrete operational aspects of violence prevention and peacebuilding work. PiOC partners will motivate the actions that can activate meaningful short- and long-term change. Further, changes in administrations require that incoming personnel be updated and briefed. Anticipating these changes and creating "cheat sheets" for new city leadership will be explored over time as will engaging religious and traditional leaders as co-creators and messengers of knowledge. ing community voice is central to institutional priorities.

Our Timeline

To work on a high ambition timeline, we are committed to:



In all that we do, PiOC will be honest about challenges.

There are real impediments to progress. Among these include structural issues, such as high levels of inequality, poverty and a lack of services. But also degraded or lack of trust among civil society, communities and local governments. In many cities, coordination is woefully inadequate, including within the city government, as well as between government, civil society, and communities. There is very often limited capacity to monitor and evaluate initiative coupled with an absence of reliable data. We will also be Open to Change. Our world is dynamic - a fact made all the more relevant in the era of COVID-19. The early months of the pandemic forced individuals, institutions, and international bodies to abruptly shift their learning and practitioner methods, Peace in Our Cities has been able to carry its network online through virtual meetings and learning sessions.

As people, institutions, and our global interfaces shift, we are adaptive and open to change. We will never detour from our goals of less violence and more peace, but as new and emerging data and evidence becomes available, we will question pre-existing assumptions, ask the hard questions, and seek creativity in pursuit of our aims.

Ourselves: Who We Are

Peace in Our Cities is diverse in terms of global representation, experiences of violence, and experiences of peace. They have also experienced the COVID-19 pandemic differently and seen it reflected uniquely in local violence trends. Some cities are affected by conflict and instability, or by violent extremism. Others are confronted by organized crime or high levels of gang violence that can be more lethal than a warzone. Illicit arms and financial flows threaten many cities, as do new and emerging threats such as the insecurity that results from climate change. But Peace in Our Cities' members have much in common.

All cities experience some form of violence. Typically, violence concentrates among the poorest and most vulnerable people, with women, children, young people, and excluded groups facing the highest levels of risk. The 2030 Agenda can only tackle inequality and reach the furthest behind first if levels of violence are rapidly reduced. Violence in our cities feeds further violence. It spreads from person to person, from one form of violence to another, and from generation to generation. The Peace in Our Cities' cities and partners are determined to act now.



HARGEISA, SOMALIA

Peace in Our Cities is co-facilitated by Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, Impact:Peace, and +Peace



Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies is 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. To learn more, visit sdg16.plus.



Impact:Peace is a program of the Kroc School's Institute for Peace and Justice at the University of San Diego. Impact:Peace leverages evidence to accelerate the most important change processes in the peacebuilding and violence prevention fields. To accomplish this, it collaborates with partners to synthesize the most rigorous research available, produces original research and strategically connects evidence with those driving positive change. To learn more, visit impactpeace.org.



+Peace is a global coalition of peacebuilding organizations building collective power and lifting the voice of peacebuilders in the public square by making the case for peace. We do this by catalyzing long term narrative change, building strategic communications capacity, and leading campaigns that harness collective action to influence policymakers and the public to build peace. Learn more at pluspeace.org

Participating Cities

Our city partners cover thirteen countries, over twenty million people and feature cities with violence priorities ranging from homicide levels to violence against women, from group violence to economic violence. As of September 2020, our city partners include:

Amman, Jordan

Bangui, Central African Republic

Cali, Colombia

Chaguanas, Trinidad & Tobago

Colombo, Sri Lanka

Dayton, Ohio, USA

Durban, South Africa

Edmonton, Canada

Escobedo, Mexico

Guadalajara, Mexico

Hargeisa, Somalia

Kumanovo, North

Macedonia

Nairobi Municipality, Kenya

Oakland, California, USA

Palmira, Colombia

Tripoli, Lebanon

Partnerships

Our organizing partners include civil society active at the city level as well as international organizations committed to the idea of reducing violence and building peace. As of September 2020, our organizing partners include:

- **American Friends Service Committee**
- **California Violence Prevention Network**
- **Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention**
- **Conciliation Resources**
- **Creative Associates**
- **Dayton Peace Museum**
- **Generations for Peace**
- **Global Parliament of Mayors**
- **Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict**
- **International Alert**
- **Life & Peace Institute**
- **PartnersGlobal**
- **Peace Direct**
- **Peace Initiative Network**
- **Red Dot Foundation Global**
- **Search for Common Ground**
- **Somaliland SDG16+ Coalition**
- **Stanley Center for Peace and Security**
- **Strong Cities**
- **UN Habitat**
- **UN Office on Drugs & Crime**
- **University of Dayton**

In addition, we work closely in collaboration with other urban networks such as the Brookings Cities Network, DevLog, EFUS, and the UN Foundation.

Oakland, California, United States

Long considered one of the most dangerous cities in the United States, from 2012 to today, homicides and non-fatal shootings have been cut nearly in half in the city of Oakland, CA. In 2012 the city launched Oakland Ceasefire. One of the first steps was to conduct an analysis of violent incidents and trends, which demonstrated that—contrary to narratives of a city lost to violence—it was just 400 individuals, or 0.1 percent of the total city population, at highest risk for engaging in serious violence. These same individuals came from long under-served communities, representing minority populations that have borne the costs associated with intergenerational poverty, segregation and a negative history with law enforcement. By getting specific with the individuals driving violence and better understanding the context within which violence was occurring, Oakland was able to direct specific, targeted interventions that addressed immediate incidents of violence and began to seriously tackle embedded structures of discrimination and inequality.



CONCLUSION

The Peace in Our Cities Roadmap prioritizes a focus on cities, proven approaches and advocacy pathways for meeting the high ambition of more peaceful cities with significantly less violence. We welcome cities and partners worldwide to join us as we embark on this task. If the Decade of Action for Sustainable Development Goals sets the bar, the Roadmap sets the direction.

City governments have the opportunity to lead the way on violence reduction efforts that are grounded in evidence and real-life application. With the goal of achieving significant reductions in all forms of violence globally by 2030, cities will have to be agile and innovative leaders in the field with the ability to scale down violence prevention efforts from the national to the local level.

PiOC acknowledges that the reductions and goals outlined in this report are ambitious, but its members believe that they hold the tools and knowledge to make them a reality. Already we see specific ways in which our early adoption cities are leading violence reduction efforts around gun violence and domestic violence in ways that are replicable and scalable across the globe. We know that these approaches are rigorously tested and rooted in evidence, and that they represent a new frontier for violence prevention.

Moving forward, PiOC will provide space for exchange of knowledge and innovation between cities and partners. We will initiate new research relevant to the dynamics imposed by COVID-19, continue to advocate for investments in safety and health simultaneously, and will remain steadfast in our focus on preventing serious violence both throughout and beyond the current crisis.

We welcome cities and organizational partners to join us as we work to halve urban violence by 2030.

ANNEXES

Annex 1. Year One Achievements

Peace in Our Cities was designed to find, understand, support, and scale best practice efforts taking place to reduce and prevent urban violence in cities worldwide. The Campaign launched in September 2019 on the International Day of Peace and during the Sustainable Development Summit that took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The launch included mayors and partners signing a Peace in Our Cities SDG16+ Action Pledge.

By signing the Peace in Our Cities SDG16+ Action Pledge, mayors and civil society partners formed Peace in Our Cities and committed to:

1. Leading global momentum towards reducing urban violence – one of the most critical imperatives of our time.
2. Shaping a city-to-city collaboration framework to develop and drive global best practice for SDG16.1 and SDG16+.
3. Communicating the imperative of global investment, political attention, and action focused on reducing and sustainably transforming urban violence.
4. Sharing best practices and accelerated actions towards achieving SDG16.1 and SDG16+ over the course of the 12-month initiative.
5. Participating in Peace in Our Cities events over a 12-month period.
6. Supporting the development and dissemination of the final Peace in Our Cities Report.

First Year Key Milestones

September 2019

- PioC launches on International Day of Peace with 12 early adopter cities and a dozen civil society partners committing to the Peace in our Cities SDG16+ Action Pledge.

October 2019

- Campaign expands to include additional cities and civil society partners.
- Strategy for Peace Conference, hosted by the Stanley Center, brings together city representatives and partners to discuss ways for narrative change on violence in cities.

November 2019

- PiOC sponsors discussion on data and urban violence at Geneva Peace Week in Geneva, Switzerland
- PiOC Webinar 1: Welcome & Framing to Peace in Our Cities

December 2019

- Discussion of PiOC during Expert Group Meeting and with City of Guadalajara as part of launch of their Calm and Orderly City program

January 2020

- Publication of blog by Impact:Peace and partners at Brookings Institution on how cities are using the SDGs to reduce urban violence
- PiOC Webinar 2: Preparation for Amman Senior Strategy Retreat

February 2020

- PiOC members and partners gather in Amman, Jordan for a Senior Staff Planning and Strategy Retreat
- PiOC secretariat and representatives from Oakland and UN Habitat take active part in the discussions at the World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi, UAE

March 2020

- Celebration of International Women's Day with publication of op-ed by three PiOC female Mayors, "Women Mayors Know that Peace in our Cities is Possible"
- PiOC Webinar 3: Creating the emerging PiOC Research Agenda and recap of Amman Retreat

April 2020

- PiOC members issue a Solidarity Statement on COVID-19, "Statement of Solidarity: Advancing Health, Reinforcing Peace"
- PiOC Webinar 4: Impact of coronavirus on violence against women, and group violence interruption in the online space

May 2020

- Completion of research agenda to fill key knowledge gaps identified by city partners
- UN Habitat and Global Parliament of Mayors webinar on Strengthening the Safer Cities Strategy while Responding to COVID-19 featuring partners from Colombia, South Africa, Canada, India, Pathfinders and Impact:Peace
- DeLog and VNG International Webinar on Local Authorities and Urban Violence featuring UN Habitat, Palmira, Colombia and others
- PiOC Webinar 5: Secondary prevention of violence against women and children during coronavirus

June 2020

- Dissemination to PiOC partners of draft Action Report
- Launch of research together with Stanley Center for Peace and Security on mass violence and cities
- PiOC Webinar 6: Dissemination and discussion of draft Action Report with partners

July 2020

- High Level Political Forum – UN event on Reducing Urban Violence and Investing in Peaceful Cities featuring Strong Cities Network and Impact:Peace organized by Pathfinders
- World Bank Fragility Forum panel, “A Mayor’s Call to Action: Making the Case for Peace in Our Cities” featuring Mayors from Dayton, OH, Palmira, Colombia, Bangui, Central African Republic and Escobedo, Mexico. Partners from Life and Peace Institute, Nairobi, the World Bank and facilitated by Impact:Peace
- Op-ed by Secretariat and Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention on Flattening the Domestic Violence Curve
- PiOC Webinar 7: SafeCity App by ElsaMarie d’Silva on monitoring gender-based violence across different city municipalities

August 2020

- Presentation of PiOC to Coalition of Faith Based Organizations and discussion on how the faith community can contribute towards building peace and reducing violence in cities