

Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies

Building Peace



Center for Women, Peace and Security: \$2 million

Background

The Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies is seeking \$2 million to establish a **Center for Women, Peace and Security**. In an increasingly globalized world, instability and violence in societies affects financial markets, commodity prices, foreign and domestic policy, flows of economic migrants and refugees, and it can be a motivating factor in terrorist activity.

Just as research has shown the positive impact of including women fully in economic development, research is increasingly demonstrating that women also need to be integrally included in the global security framework for conflict to be prevented and resolved. When women are insecure, countries are insecure. Where gender discrimination thrives, societies are economically weak and more prone to conflict.

A Center for Women, Peace and Security at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ) would prioritize the full inclusion of women in community decision-making, the national policymaking around peace negotiations and the implementation of peace accords, in order to achieve sustainable peace and stable societies.

Objectives

Currently, full participation of women in peace processes remains far too rare. A United Nations analysis of 31 major peace processes between 1992 and 2011 reveals that only 4 percent of signatories, 2.4 percent of chief mediators, 3.7 percent of witnesses and 9 percent of negotiators are women. Yet peace agreements last longer when women meaningfully participate and give voice to factors that are often overlooked when negotiations are limited to representatives of warring factions.

- In Guatemala, a small number of women on the negotiating teams (one of whom was the IPJ's

Woman PeaceMaker Luz Mendez) ensured protections for labor and indigenous rights as well as guarantees of a balance in civilian and military power. (White House, *United States National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security*, 2011)

- Women politicians in Northern Ireland (one of whom was the IPJ's Distinguished Lecturer and Women PeaceMakers Conference keynote speaker Monica McWilliams) ensured young people and victims of violence would be involved in reconciliation efforts and that there would be an integrated education system and integrated housing. (White House, *United States National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security*, 2011)
- In South Africa, the women's coalition not only fought for the protection of women's equal rights, but also for key rights that apply to all members of society — the right to education, the freedoms of religion and expression, and the right to security of person. (White House, *United States National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security*, 2011)

Impact

A Center for Women, Peace and Security would be poised to mine a treasure trove of documentation and activate the Women PeaceMakers global network to apply gendered peacebuilding solutions to a variety of urgent global challenges.

New Approaches to Countering Violent Extremism: Violent extremism — especially extremism in the guise of religion — is on the rise and further destabilizing societies around the world. Often, the rights of women and girls are among the first to be targeted when these violent ideologies gain power.

Drawing on the Kroc School's and USD's faculty expertise in religion and peacebuilding, partnering with

recognized global experts and organizations, building on the Women PeaceMakers' frontline work and confronting violent religious extremism, the IPJ is launching an ambitious program to convene religious leaders, women's rights activists, the security sector, policymakers and donors to explore unconventional alliances and successful ways to undermine violent ideologies.

Peacebuilding Education for the Changemakers of Tomorrow:

With global understanding and compassionate service at the heart of USD's mission, students at the University of San Diego will become the strategic peacebuilders of tomorrow. Whether they orient these approaches to international conflicts or to work in their own communities, they need to understand theories of change and inclusive "whole community" approaches to problem solving.

Working together with the Women PeaceMakers in residence, USD students will examine the complexities and nuance of conflict and peace processes. They will learn first-hand how to apply conflict management and social justice innovation in their communities. The emphasis will be on the often absent, but crucial, foundation of local ownership of any peacebuilding, development or justice endeavor of which they seek to be part.

Lessons for Business and Social Entrepreneurship: Over the last two years, the Women PeaceMakers program has been solicited by *Fortune* 100 and 500 companies to share their inspiring models of adaptive leadership to benefit the growth and development of the companies' top executives. Through these partnerships and the Kroc School's engagement with the Center for Peace and Commerce, and as convener of the newly formed group of business and social leaders, Women for Social Impact, a Center for Women, Peace and Security would demonstrate how women's peace efforts can influence and intersect with businesses and corporations that share common values of equality in rights, security and prosperity.

For More Information

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