Guidelines for Peace Insight contributors

Peace Insight is the leading resource on local peacebuilding. Alongside our database of peacebuilding organisations, Peace Insight articles share the latest updates, analyses and stories of local peacebuilding from around the world.

Thank you for your interest in writing for us!

We publish articles by local peacebuilders and journalists, showcasing the people and projects saving lives around the world. We focus on stories that highlight the untapped potential of local peacebuilding, exploring effective initiatives and the challenges local people are overcoming to transform their futures. We amplify peacebuilders' voices and enable vital first-hand reporting from those directly affected by new outbreaks of violence.

Many of our articles are written by a group of regular contributors and correspondents from around the world, as well as other contributing writers. All of our writers have experience of local peacebuilding through their own work, projects, or networks. Many have a background in writing or are trained journalists.

This document outlines the editorial standards our content needs to meet, as well as offering guidance and examples to support you in developing your contribution to Peace Insight.

- Strategic benefit
- Content
    - Relevant: all articles for Peace Insight should be about local peacebuilding.
        - Articles profiling local peacebuilding efforts should highlight the impact of these efforts.
    - Accessible: articles should be in simple, accessible language.
    - Humanising: all articles should respect the dignity and humanity of all people.
    - Authentic: sharing real local peacebuilders' voices and initiatives.
- Style options
- Formatting
- Example articles

Strategic benefit

Articles should support our editorial strategy:

- Peace Insight content will showcase local peacebuilding efforts around the world and the impact of this work, in order to increase the visibility of local peacebuilding and to demonstrate the effectiveness of this approach.
- Peace Insight content will support the strengthening of local peacebuilding ecosystems and expertise through knowledge-sharing.
- Peace Insight content will amplify local peacebuilders' voices at the international level, providing opportunities to advocate to Global North audiences and shape narratives about peace and peacebuilding with their own perspectives.

Content standards

All articles for Peace Insight should be relevant, accessible, humanising and authentic.

1. Relevant: all articles for Peace Insight should be about local peacebuilding.

For us, local peacebuilding refers to peacebuilding initiatives **owned and led by people** in their own context. It includes small-scale grassroots initiatives, as well as activities undertaken on a wider scale, by either individuals or organisations. It does not include government-led work, or efforts by international organisations with country offices.

As a general rule, we will not profile the work of peacebuilding initiatives based outside of the country the projects are directed at or are not founded/led by local people. We recognise that there can be good reasons to make exception to this rule. For example, initiatives that must operate from abroad because of security concerns, or groups that have been founded in partnership with international NGOs and have since evolved to be truly locally led.

We cover the full spectrum of efforts to end conflict and building lasting peace. This includes:

- Stopping violence and ending cycles of conflict. For example: violence monitoring systems; mediation; getting fighters to disarm and reintegrate; bringing communities in conflict together to find common ground or resolve disagreements peacefully.
- Addressing the root causes of conflict and creating the conditions for sustainable peace. For example: peace education; addressing political, economic or social grievances that may be driving conflict; educating communities about their rights, or doing work to support human rights, women's rights; general education for children or adults to expand opportunities, end cycles of poverty, and keep children out of armed conflict; vocational workshops to support peaceful work opportunities; and much more.

Our 850-word articles about local peacebuilding efforts should showcase local peacebuilding efforts in action. These **articles should highlight the impact* of the peacebuilding efforts on the community/region, and peace outcomes.** This is particularly important for positive peace initiatives (creating the conditions for peace), as the reader may not be aware of how access to education, for example, supports peace outcomes. The best stories introduce readers to the conflict challenges, highlight the local peacebuilders' response, articulate the impact of the initiatives, and share any lessons learned.

Our features, opinion articles and conflict analysis updates may cover global issues, conflict events, or thematic topics, but they should always be referencing locally led peacebuilding or sharing the perspective of local peacebuilders.

We do not cover national peace processes led by national and international entities. We would only cover international dynamics where we can share local peacebuilder perspectives on them, for example in the context of decolonisation and shifting power dynamics. Wherever possible, whatever international dynamics we cover should have direct bearings

on local peacebuilding – eg how does the WPS agenda apply in this particular local peacebuilding context.

*Showcasing impact in local peacebuilding stories

What is impact? Impact is not how many people participated. It's 'so what'? What changed during or after the activity? Here are some prompts for you to consider:

- Can you demonstrate change? Who or what has changed as a result of the local peacebuilding work? Is there a clear "before" and "after", for individuals communities?
- Who has been affected and how? Whose lives or situations were impacted?
- *Why* was this impactful? For example, if you organised a workshop, why was it impactful? is it unusual for the participants to even be in the same room – and why? What changed inside the room? What happened after the workshop?
- Is the change significant and/or lasting? Is the impact long-term or systemic, or is it mostly activity-based (e.g. an event happened)? Does the story reflect **transformation, not just participation**?
- What happened afterwards? Have community dynamics changed?
- Is there a link to the bigger picture? Does the story connect individual change to wider program goals, values, or social issues? Did this prompt any broader changes or start any other processes? (e.g. led to policy changes, new best practices, a different way of doing things..)
- Does the story reflect learning or insight? What did you or the peacebuilders learn from the experience? Could others replicate or learn from what happened?

What does impact look like in an article? Showcasing impact could include:

- Participant anecdotes/quotes about how the initiative made them feel, or their perspective on the outcomes after the initiative.
- Organiser perspectives on what happened, how participant's attitudes may have shifted, or anything they learned from organising the initiative(s).
- Examples of the outcomes of the initiative for certain individuals or groups.

2. Accessible: articles should be in simple, accessible language.

While many of our readers are experts in peacebuilding, we look for articles that are readable and accessible to all. Language should not be overly complex, and all acronyms or 'sector' terms should be explained.

We highly recommend using the Hemingway App to improve readability.

We can publish articles in French, Spanish and Arabic. Of these, we will always publish in the author's language *and* English. If writing in a language other than English, it is particularly important to keep your language clear and simple so that your voice is not lost in translation.

3. Humanising: all articles should respect the dignity and humanity of all people.

- We do not accept articles that 'other' one side of a conflict, or depict individuals as lacking agency.
- Writers should have the full and informed consent of anyone interviewed or photographed to share their words and image on Peace Insight. We may ask you to share the contact details of the people you mention (if safe) in order to verify aspects of the story.

4. Authentic: sharing real local peacebuilders' voices and initiatives.

All articles for Peace Insight should be authentic.

- Peace Insight is all about uplifting local peacebuilding and the voices of local peacebuilders. It's therefore vital that our articles are written by local peacebuilders, or *local* journalists connected to peacebuilding organisations/initiatives in that context. We may consider strong articles from Peace Direct staff or authors outside the local context *if* they are elevating the voice of a peacebuilder from a local context in a conflict-affected country.
- Articles can be written in the first or third person. We welcome expertise that draws from lived experience, and do not expect writers to try to write from an objective or academic perspective that detaches them from their reality.
- Peace Insight does not accept articles written by, or with the support of artificial intelligence (AI), such as ChatGPT. We are looking for authentic articles about peacebuilding work from real, human voices. We do not expect your writing to be 'perfect' – authenticity is more valuable to us. We have a team of editors who will help prepare your article for publication. You may use spellcheckers, or AI-based transcription software, but not generative AI. There is no need to use AI to translate your article into English - we work with translators.
- All articles should be honest. We trust in our writers to tell true stories of local peacebuilding resisting conflict.

Style options

We welcome articles in a variety of styles. Within our article formats (stories of peacebuilding in action, features, context analysis or opinion), we accept different styles of writing. For example, classic journalistic style, profile interviews, first person perspectives, and more. We believe the strongest articles have a clear narrative or argument for the reader to follow.

We also welcome photo essays.

We only ask writers to avoid:

- Overly descriptive that don't add much value – ie, not a lot of learnings/insights for practitioners to draw from.

- Over-emphasis on statistics and figures, especially without analysis from the local peacebuilding lens.
- Directly transcribing interviews in a question-then-answer format. We prefer narrative profiles with the interviewee's voice embedded, like this piece.

Formatting

We aim to keep posts accessible and engaging by following these guidelines:

- **Clear structure:** all articles should have a clear introduction, as well as a concluding paragraph. The best articles have a clear narrative or argument that the reader can follow.
- **Sub-headings**: where appropriate articles will be broken up into headed sections.
- **Bulleted lists**: bulleted lists are preferred over lists of items in a paragraph.
- **Dates**: all dates should appear in the following format, 25 August 2021.
- **References:** where relevant, please add references and sources as hyperlinks and not footers.

Images: If possible, please provide images to include with your article. Please ensure your images are:

- As high resolution as possible, at least 1,500 × 740 pixels.
- If images are not taken by you, please include any credit or copyright information to ensure Peace Insight can use all images legally and with the correct attribution. Please also ensure that any individuals depicted in photographs have given informed consent to be featured in your article.
- Photos to be used as article headers should be landscape in orientation
- If you don't have access to any suitable images, we can support with sourcing stock images, for example on Unsplash

Example articles

Local peacebuilding in action:

These articles highlight the peacebuilding activities – whether it's one initiative, the work of one organisation, different initiatives grouped by theme or by region – and their impact on peace outcomes in the local community, and reference the context/the reason the peacebuilding work is needed.

- From vulnerability to resilience: women artisans in Jammu and Kashmir crafting a new story, by Ashima Kaul
- The Social Service for the Peace we dream of: An alternative to militarism in Colombia, by Andrés Aponte
- Striking the right chord: music and football uniting communities for peace, Dr Prince Charles Dickson
- El Safina: A safe haven in the midst of chaos, by Sylvia Khela

Peacebuilder profiles zoom in on one peacebuilder's story, often exploring their journey into peacebuilding, the kind of initiatives they have worked on (impact included if possible) and any lessons learned that would be of interest to other peacebuilders.

- Beyond tokenism: an interview on women's leadership in local peacebuilding with Florence Mpaayei, by Salma Yusuf
- Noor Ghazi: Helping bring peace to her fellow Iraqis, by Anna Romandash

Features:

Feature articles dive deeper into a subject, theme or peacebuilding approach.

- Combatting gender apartheid through networked and community-based peacebuilding initiatives, by an anonymous organisation from Afghanistan
- Congelados: A call for collective action in response to aid cuts, by Lina María Jaramillo
- How communities shape their own peace: Everyday Peace Indicators in practice, by Maha Usman and Mariyum Areeb Amjad

Comment and opinion:

These articles share local peacebuilders' perspectives on local and international issues.

- Lost in Syria: time for an international body to find the disappeared, by Yasmen Almashan
- Rethinking 'local' peacebuilding amid atrocities in Gaza, by Sawssan Abou-Zahr
- Peacebuilder perspectives: Is the war the only way to end Myanmar's internal conflict?, by Minn Nhu

Context analysis:

These articles provide 500-word updates on changes in a conflict and the response of or impact on local peacebuilding efforts.

- No peace yet in South Lebanon but devastation and insecurities, by Sawssan Abou-Zahr

Photo essays:

- Painting peace: Street art in Kyiv, by Olga Dolinina

Video:

- Portraits from the War in Ukraine, by Olga Dolinina