



## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

### **Peace by Piece: Disrupting Dualities in Peacebuilding**

April 12–13, 2024

The 2024 Notre Dame Student Peace Conference committee announces this year’s conference, **Peace by Piece: Disrupting Dualities in Peacebuilding**. The conference is sponsored by the [Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies](#), part of the Keough School of Global Affairs.

How do we define peace in an era of increased polarization? Over the past few years, we have witnessed a distressing rise in dualistic patterns of thinking and acting that challenge our work as peacebuilders. From deeply-entrenched views of "the other" to the traditional binary of "war and peace," and even the useful terminology of "global and local," these dualisms frequently obscure the complexity of violence and fracture efforts to build sustainable peace, reducing it to overly simple absolutes or outright idealism.

As current and future architects of peace, we must affirm our commitment to peacebuilding as a dynamic and co-constructive process. We have chosen our theme to highlight the importance of embracing the discomfort of the gray and resisting the temptation to view people, parties, and events through black-and-white, all-or-nothing lenses. We want this conference to explore the many parts and pieces necessary for a multifaceted understanding of peace, one that is capable of bridging divides. Each piece of the peacebuilding puzzle moves us towards a more complete picture of the barriers to justpeace and the multiplicity of ways we can overcome them.

We invite undergraduate and graduate students from all different fields of study and practice to propose presentations that engage the nuances of peacebuilding and highlight efforts to disrupt dualities and establish intersectional lenses. Strong proposals might engage with, but are not limited to, topics such as:

#### **Peacebuilding in Other Fields**

• Digital Peacebuilding	• Environmental Peacebuilding	• Arts & Peacebuilding
• Business & Peace	• Peace Economics	• Peace Science
• Peacebuilding & Health	• Peace Architecture & Design	• Literature & Narrative

### Thematic Areas of Focus

• Gender-Based Violence	• Nonviolent Resistance	• Political Polarization
• Democratic Backsliding	• Racial & Ethnic Conflict	• Restorative Justice
• Diplomacy & Sovereignty	• Sustainable Development	• Natural Resource Conflict

### Peace Studies Lenses

• Conflict Transformation	• Local Turn in Peacebuilding	• Transformative Justice
• Decoloniality	• Slow Violence	• Intersectionality
• Structural Violence	• Religion & Peacebuilding	• Strategic Peacebuilding

### Specific Ongoing Conflicts

• Israel–Palestine Conflict	• War in Ukraine	• Instability in Afghanistan
• Unrest in Pakistan	• Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict	• Civil War in Myanmar
• Conflicts in the D.R.C.	• Political Instability in Haiti	• Power Struggle in Sudan

We welcome a variety of different session types: **research papers or posters; presentations on experiential learning; panel discussions; artwork, performance, or media projects; or other innovative project formats.** We accept proposals that highlight **practice** as well as those based on **research**. Interested students should [visit our website](#) to review the submission guidelines and accepted presentation formats.

All proposals must be submitted through our [2024 Proposal Submission Form](#). **The deadline to submit is Friday, January 26, 2024.**

The Notre Dame Student Peace Conference is an annual student academic conference organized by undergraduate students at Notre Dame as a space to engage in academic and professional dialogue on important issues related to peacebuilding, justice, and conflict transformation. Please direct all questions to the conference organizers at [peacecon@nd.edu](mailto:peacecon@nd.edu).