

## Overwhelming majority of American public agree that peacebuilding plays a vital role in ending conflicts and support greater investment in peace.

A new survey sponsored by the Alliance for Peacebuilding and Conciliation Resources has found that Americans across the political spectrum consider peace an important national and global security objective and demonstrate a sophisticated and nuanced understanding of what peacebuilding involves. Furthermore, the majority of Americans surveyed affirm the need for the US to support greater investment in peacebuilding. The results stand in contrast to the current Administration's emphasis on "America First" policies and increased reliance on military approaches to complex global security challenges. These data demonstrate that Americans want to invest in peace across the world and understand that securitized responses are insufficient to resolve conflict. The full report can be found [here](#).

85 percent of Democrats and 72 percent of Republicans surveyed agreed that peacebuilding is necessary to resolve conflicts and that the U.S. should dedicate more resources to peacebuilding endeavors. The same holds for differences across age and gender lines. 75 percent of women support American involvement in peacebuilding efforts, but so do 73 percent of men. Similarly, 78 percent of people under 25 supported peacebuilding efforts, but so did 72 percent of those over 65.

The survey highlighted that the vast majority of Americans feel positively about the U.S. conducting peacebuilding activities across the globe. The survey asked how participants would "feel if you knew that USG had played a key role in negotiating between armed groups elsewhere in the world" and gave them a list of eight choices. The five most commonly cited ones were hopeful, proud, happy, confident, and safe in that order. Terms like uneasy, afraid, angry, and disgusted trailed far behind.

Americans feel that peacebuilding is the right thing to do. 81 percent of Republicans and 92 percent of Democrats believed that the primary justification for peacebuilding is that "human beings have the right to live in peace: free from conflict." Americans also indicated a shared notion of what peacebuilding entails. Respondents affirmed that peacebuilding is a long-term process that should take a whole-of-society approach to address the root causes of conflict.

The survey offers hope for greater unity in a time of growing political polarization. A recent reader poll from The Wall Street Journal showed widening political divisions over economic and social issues in America.<sup>1</sup> Yet these results indicate that we are more united than we may think on at least one issue: peacebuilding. The US Congress has agreed, pushing back against potential cuts of over 30 percent to the State Department and USAID.

Surveys commissioned in the UK and Germany showed comparable results. In the UK, 71 percent of respondents believe that peacebuilding plays a vital role in ending violent conflict and 60 percent supported that the UK should be investing more in peacebuilding, in Germany these figures were 82 percent and 70 percent respectively.

The survey was commissioned in the US by the Alliance for Peacebuilding and designed and commissioned in the UK and Germany by Conciliation Resources, a UK-based peacebuilding

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<sup>1</sup> Hook, Janet. "Political Divisions in U.S. Are Widening, Long-Lasting, Poll Shows" Wall Street Journal.

international non-governmental organization. Financial support was provided from Dr. Charles Hauss, the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and the Social Change Initiative.

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## Notes

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### Available to comment:

- **Melanie Greenberg, President and CEO, Alliance for Peacebuilding**

### Background:

- **The survey** was designed and commissioned in the UK and Germany by Conciliation Resources and commissioned in the US by the Alliance for Peacebuilding. It was carried out by leading consumer research agency, Populus. Populus is a founder member of the British Polling Council. For the full report of the survey results, please visit:
- **Methodology:** the survey was conducted in the UK, Germany and the US. In the UK, Populus interviewed a random sample of 2,214 adults aged 18+ from an online panel between 23-25 June. Within the UK sample, a slightly higher number of adults were interviewed in Northern Ireland (205) in relation to other geographic areas in order to test the views of those with direct experience of violent conflict. In the US, Populus interviewed a random sample of 1,052 adults aged 18+ between 7-16 July. For Germany, Populus interviewed a random sample of 1,041 adults aged 18+ between 19-21 July. Surveys were conducted across the country and the results have been weighted to the profile of all adults. Further information on the methodology can be found at [www.populus.co.uk](http://www.populus.co.uk)
- **The Alliance for Peacebuilding** is the institutional home for the peacebuilding community representing a network of over 100 organizations working to resolve conflict and create sustainable peace in 153 countries.