

# Civil Society Coalition Welcomes Global Fragility Act

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 8, 2019

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WASHINGTON, DC – Over 50 Alliance for Peacebuilding (AfP) members and partners applaud the introduction of H.R. 1580 and S. 727, the Global Fragility Act of 2019, by Representatives Eliot Engel (D-NY), Mike McCaul (R-TX), Adam Smith (D-WA), Ann Wagner (R-MO), Bill Keating (D-MA), and Francis Rooney (R-FL) in the United States House of Representatives, and Senators Christopher Coons (D-DE), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Marco Rubio (R-FL), and Todd Young (R-IN) in the Senate, on March 7<sup>th</sup>.

The bipartisan Global Fragility Act (GFA) would require the U.S. government, in coordination with civil society, to develop an innovative 10-year Global Fragility Initiative or Strategy. This whole-of-government approach will improve the capacity of the United States government to identify and address threats to civilians in fragile, conflict-prone regions around the world.

The legislation would give U.S. federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Department of Defense, and others, the tools they need to work effectively and in coordination to identify security threats in at-risk communities and to mitigate them through diplomatic action and development programs.

H.R. 1580 and S. 727 build upon the progress of previous versions, including H.R. 5273, which passed the House of Representatives in 2018 with the broad bipartisan support of 376 representatives. The new versions are markedly stronger, as they will authorize the use of existing foreign assistance funds. Such investment is critical to ensuring the strategy and country plans will be implemented effectively.

This timely legislation comes at a moment when violent conflict has forcibly displaced a record [68.5 million people](#) and costs the world an estimated [\\$14.76 trillion](#) annually. There is an urgent need to improve the U.S. government's ability to reverse these trends and prevent future conflict.

The following list of leading international humanitarian, peacebuilding, development, human rights, and faith-based organizations endorse this legislation, under the co-leadership of AfP and Mercy Corps. We look forward to working with Congress to pass a revised Global Fragility Act as quickly as possible, with an emphasis on strengthening civil society-led good governance, conflict resolution, and violence reduction capacity over the long-term.

1. Alliance for Peacebuilding
2. American Friends Service Committee
3. American Jewish World Service
4. Carl Wilkens Fellows

5. Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)
6. Center on Conscience & War
7. Charity & Security Network
8. Chemonics
9. Church of the Brethren, Office of Public Witness
10. Conciliation Resources
11. Conference of Major Superiors of Men
12. Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces
13. Cure Violence
14. Educators' Institute for Human Rights
15. Foreign Policy 4 America
16. Franciscan Action Network
17. Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)
18. Futures Without Violence
19. Global Communities
20. Global Water 2020
21. Humanity United Action
22. i-ACT
23. In Defense of Christians
24. Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy
25. InterAction
26. International Alert
27. International Civil Society Action Network
28. International Crisis Group (ICG)
29. International Rescue Committee
30. Jewish World Watch
31. Karuna Center for Peacebuilding
32. Leadership Conference of Women Religious
33. Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
34. Mercy Corps
35. National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
36. National Latino Evangelical Coalition
37. Never Again Coalition
38. Nuru International
39. ONE Campaign
40. Pax Christi International
41. Pax Christi USA
42. Peace Direct
43. Presbyterian Church (USA)
44. PRBB Foundation
45. Saferworld
46. Search for Common Ground
47. STAND
48. Stop Genocide Now
49. United Church of Christ
50. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
51. Women for Afghan Women



- 52. World Relief
- 53. World Vision

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### **About the Alliance for Peacebuilding**

The Alliance for Peacebuilding (AFP) is the leading global network for organizations working to end conflict and build sustainable peace worldwide. Our 100-plus members include some of the world's largest development organizations, most innovative academic institutions, and the most powerful peacebuilding groups. We bring together coalitions in key areas of strategy and policy to elevate the entire peacebuilding field, tackling issues too large for any one organization to address alone.

You can find out more about the Alliance for Peacebuilding on their website: [allianceforpeacebuilding.org](http://allianceforpeacebuilding.org).