



# Annual Report FY2024

World Peace  
Foundation



## Message from The Director

Dear Board Members,

This is our twelfth annual report to the Board since the Foundation moved to the Fletcher School at Tufts and our team came together.

Much has changed over this long decade, including a darkening of the prospects for peace in the world. Around the world, hopeful trajectories in terms of reduced levels of armed conflict, violence against civilians, and hunger have been replaced with deepening polarization, growing authoritarianism, and a sense of impunity shared by those in power. Norms of humanity have been eroded as multilateral institutions and practices have become weakened. As peace has become more complex and elusive, it has also become more important.

As well as the context for our work, our constituency is also changing, along with how we communicate it.

We seek to speak to a broader audience and to engage in more creative ways, while our underlying modus operandi of asking hard questions and challenging received wisdoms remains unchanged.

We have re-envisioned our public engagement. We have completely transformed our website, reconfigured and energized our social media, and are moving into new modes of engaging our public, led with our new podcast, "Disrupting Peace", which is launching in the Fall.

The website is people's first point of contact with the WPF. In redesigning the website, making it more contemporary and less institutional-academic, we are foregrounding our vision and our values, and providing a more accessible platform for our writings and other products.

We publish widely and use all available outlets, from essays on our own blog to newspapers and journals, as well as radio, TV and podcasts. Writings, events, interviews—all reach their widest audiences through social media. We have energized, systematized and broadened our presence on social media, including Facebook, X (formerly Twitter) and LinkedIn.

We don't have a doctrine or a paradigm for peace. Rather what we do is respond to the most pressing events and trends of the day, with our own critical perspective.

We see our work as fact-based but not empirics-obsessed; driven by a desire to understand what is happening, not the effort to apply or test theories (reality drives research, not theoretical prepositions); engaged with policy, whether through outreach to policymakers or to activists; interested in changing the framework (versus tweaking the edges); and concerned with using our platform to uphold the voices of others who are directly impacted and disproportionately disadvantaged in global or local discussions.

Since the WPF was relaunched at the Fletcher School in 2011, every year has been challenging, but there has also been a notable shift with more recent years marked by an increasing number and intensity of problems that demand our at-

tention. In the last year the definitive issue has been the atrocities, war and starvation perpetrated in the conflict between the government of Israel and Hamas. Even choosing the words to define this crisis is controversial, let alone advocating what should be done.

From the moment of the October 7 attack and atrocity by Hamas onwards, much of the commentary, advocacy and policy-making around the war in Gaza treats the issues as without context or precedent—or with only a narrowly-chosen framing.

The staff of WPF called for a ceasefire in a statement. A ceasefire is an agreement between two warring parties that involves a number of actions by each, including for example the release of hostages and prisoners. In the context of a war that involved large-scale killing of civilians, mass displacement, destruction of essential infrastructure and obstruction of humanitarian assistance by an occupying power, and holding of hostages by the other belligerent, a ceasefire ought to be an immediate and uncontroversial step. Yet, astonishingly, the political leadership in Israel and the United States dismissed calls for a ceasefire in Gaza as partisan or hostile.

Our research and advocacy on Gaza has focused primarily on the issue of starvation. Alex has led the way on this.

One key point is that, according to the metric of "intensity" of food crisis, the situation has no parallels since World War Two. "Intensity" refers to the speed at which a formerly well-nourished population has been reduced to severe starvation (levels 4 and 5 of the Integrated food



## The World Peace Foundation remains resolute in its mission to confront the most pressing and intricate challenges to global peace.

The World Peace Foundation remains resolute in its mission to confront the most pressing and intricate challenges to global peace. In the coming year we will not slacken, and will consolidate our reorientation—strengthening our digital presence, expanding outreach through podcasts, linking the local and personal with the international, and addressing critical issues such as the wars in Gaza and Sudan and the weaponization of starvation. Whatever happens, we will stay committed to asking the difficult questions and advocating for just, humane responses to these global challenges.

We deeply appreciate your continued support as we strive to advance peace and justice in these challenging times.

*Alex de Waal, Executive Director, September 2024*

security Phase Classification (IPC) system, “emergency” and “catastrophe”). Since the creation of the IPC twenty years ago, there has been no comparable trajectory to the threshold of famine. In our worldwide historic dataset on famines (the updated version of which will be published imminently) there is no example of comparably rapid mass starvation for more than 75 years.

Information about the scale and nature of the calamity in Gaza have been available, with authoritative and unambiguous warnings given by the IPC and others in December 2023 and March and June 2024. Debate over whether Israel’s intention is to starve the people of Gaza, or whether starvation is the unfortunate byproduct of other war aims (i.e. degrading Hamas) becomes moot when the outcome of certain military actions is so clear, and those actions are carried out nonetheless. The occasions on which Israel has acted to prevent further starvation indicate how much more it could have done. For example, the fact that Israel responded to the March famine warning by increasing aid deliveries to northern Gaza, just enough to keep the population shy of the IPC’s

famine threshold, but not to prevent the severe distress of the IPC’s “emergency” level, is an ironic vindication of this, showing how Israel can readily act to ameliorate human suffering should it wish to do so, even while conducting its war.

The killing of humanitarian workers in Gaza cannot be dismissed as regrettable accidents that occur in all wars. In the months January to August 2024, of the 187 aid workers killed in the line of duty worldwide, 121 were in Gaza. The next most dangerous places to be an aid worker was Sudan (16 killed), followed by Nigeria and South Sudan (8 each). These figures speak for themselves.

Among humanitarians, one of the worries arising from Gaza is that rather than holding Israel to international standards, the US and other western countries will lower those standards to legitimize Israeli conduct. The implications for a host of other countries where starvation is used as a weapon, from starvation sieges in Ethiopia, Sudan and Syria, to forced displacement in Myanmar and Russian attacks on food and water systems in Ukraine, are deeply concerning.



Photo: [Hands off Gaza](#), Claudia Gabriela Marques, (CC BY-ND 2.0)



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# MISSION & Values

## → Our Mission

The World Peace Foundation was established by Edwin Ginn, a Boston-based publisher of educational texts and an advocate for international peace. Initially created as the International School of Peace on July 12, 1910, the WPF was tasked with educating a global audience on **"the waste and destructiveness of war and of preparation for war, its evil effects on present social conditions and on the well-being of future generations."**

In the language of its time, the mandate also included promoting "international justice and the brotherhood of man... peace and goodwill among all mankind."

Today, WPF remains committed to the vision of collective action and nonviolence. It also seeks to learn from the limitations of the past by fostering more inclusive approaches to achieving and sustaining peace. Through justice-informed research, we aim to change public conversations on pressing issues related to envisioning, creating and sustaining nonviolent futures.

## → Our Values

### Independent

As an operating foundation, we have independent and secure funding. This allows us to determine our agenda and take bold positions on policy issues.

### Justice-Informed

This means accountability, above all, to the individuals and communities who are directly impacted by the issues we address. This approach guides our collaborations.

### Inquisitive

We critically engage with imagined solutions. Our research is grounded in the productive friction where ideas meet lived realities.

### Collaborative

We are small, so we join forces with like-minded individuals and organizations to enhance our research capabilities, amplify impact, and foster community.

### Policy Relevant

We combine research rigor with active engagement. We advocate for an inclusive approach to policymaking that extends beyond traditional decision-makers.

# WHO WE Are

## → Our Staff



**Alex  
de Waal**

Executive Director



**Bridget  
Conley**

Research Director



**Lisa  
Avery**

Associate Director



**B  
Arneson**

Program Director  
Arms Trade & Corruption



**Kelsey  
Henquinet**

Communications Assistant

## → Our Board

Peter Blum, Chairman

Anat Biletzki, Vice Chair

Andy Evans, Treasurer

Elizabeth Adelman

Eileen Babbitt

Jacqueline Bhabha

Matthew Henshon

Melissa Nobles

Andy Shennan

Jeffrey Summit



Thank you to World Peace Foundation Trustees, Deborah Chasman, Bryan Hehir, Monik Jimenez and Nawal Nour who retired from the Board in FY2024. Your thoughtful guidance has been invaluable.

## → Ginn Trustees

Thomas Appleton

Katherine Babson

Quinn Sloan

## → African Politics & Peace



Sudan's current slide into famine has no precedent in recent history. It threatens to become a mass mortality episode without parallel worldwide for forty years or longer. But the famine of 2024 is neither anomalous nor unforeseeable.

Alex de Waal, "Famine that Kills, Sudan 2024,"  
Blog May 16, 2024



The research team on this project includes Executive Director, **Alex de Waal**, **Chepkorir Sambu**, **Aditya Sarkar**, **Jared Miller**, **Eliab Taye** (Fletcher School students) and **Mulugeta Gebrehiwot** (WPF-affiliated researcher), and **Willow Berridge** (Senior Lecturer in History, Newcastle University). Some activities were produced in partnership with the **London School of Economics** and the **University of Edinburgh** under the umbrella of the **Peace and Conflict Resolution Evidence Platform** (PeaceRep).

Our activities concerning peace and conflict in Africa have been focused on Sudan, the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea, along with related work on violence and the political marketplace in countries including Nigeria.

Our direct policy-related work has been focused on Sudan and the Horn, in partnership with the US Institute of Peace and the Thabo Mbeki Foundation. With support from Chepkorir, we co-convened an "informal gathering" of Sudanese civilian leaders and civil society actors to formulate responses to the war in Sudan. This was important in forging a consensus among Sudanese on the basic diagnosis of the crisis in their country. This culminated in a three-day workshop in Nairobi, which took steps towards a common analysis of the nature of the conflict, but which did not succeed in setting a shared agenda among the international mediation initiatives, which remained (and still remain) mired in a mutually-negating competition for leadership. Alex has provided extensive advice to the UN Secretary General's envoy for Sudan, Ramtane Lamamra, and his team, and other diplomats and envoys.

We have remained engaged on Ethiopia, focusing on constructive critique of the peace agreement that brought to an end active hostilities in Tigray, examining how humanitarian and reconstruction efforts can be supported and supporting the efforts of Ethiopian journalists, human rights activists and local peacemakers. Our long-time colleague and research associate Mulugeta has published several influential articles on the precarious state of the peace agreement that ended the extraordinarily bloody war in Tigray in 2022.

Our analysis of the regional politics of the Red Sea Arena, as a zone of middle-power and world power contestation, in which the weaker countries of the arena (Yemen and the countries of the Horn of Africa) have been subjected to calamitous external engagement by rival middle eastern states, has sadly been vindicated. Alex and project research team have published on the significance of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) group expansion into the Red Sea. We are updating our dataset on transnational conflicts to include recent years, and will be publishing more on this issue in 2024/25.

The detailed history of the African Union's engagement with Sudan, entitled "*Negotiating the Sudans*", jointly authored by Alex and Willow is complete and will be published by Cornell University Press in 2025. A shorter paper summarizing the book and a "lessons learned" memo will be published in the Fall.



- 9 occasional papers and policy memos for WPF and PeaceRep
- 1 final manuscript of *Negotiating the Sudans* book with summary paper and lessons learned article
- 9 newspaper/journal articles
- 9 blogs
- 2 podcast interviews
- 3 panel discussions
- 2 high-level workshops
- 4 policy workshops(closed door)
- Series of 'informal gatherings' of Sudanese
- Development of updated dataset of transnational conflicts in the Horn of Africa



Photo: Family goes for food and water (Adobe Stock images)

## Traumatic Decarbonization

This project team includes **Aditya Sarkar** and **Alex**, with **Shahla al-Kli** (non-resident Scholar, Middle East Institute), **Katrina Burgess** (Assistant Professor of International Political Economy at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy), **Javier Corrales** (Professor of Political Science, Amherst College), **Joshua Craze** (independent researcher), **Tarun Gopalakrishnan** (Fletcher PhD candidate), **Bernard Harborne** (World Bank), **Jared Miller** (Fletcher PhD candidate), **Luke Patey** (Senior Fellow, Danish Institute for International Studies), **Jan Pospisil** (University of Coventry and Peace and PeaceRep), and **Benjamin Spatz** (recent Fletcher PhD now with the University of Cape Town).

The project focuses on the political impacts of loss of carbon revenues in fragile fossil fuel producing states, including cross-cutting analysis and case studies of Ecuador, Indonesia, Iraq, Nigeria, South Sudan, Sudan and Venezuela. Substantive findings have been outlined in last year's annual report, including the ways in which political elites seek to sustain their hold on power by seeking alternative sources of rents, allocating political budgets to key powerbrokers, and turning to violent coercion. Hopes that the transition away from dependence on oil rents would provide openings for democracy have been raised but then shattered.

Our main activities this year have been completing the papers for a special edition of *Environment and Security*, publishing a special report with USIP (our funding partner) and presenting the findings at conferences.

### Activities and Outputs

- 2 presentations (International Studies Association, San Francisco, and Italian academy, Rome)
- 1 newspaper article
- 1 blog
- Special issue of journal including 7 peer-reviewed papers plus introduction and practitioner's commentary
- Special report jointly with USIP panel
- Alex wrote 7 blog posts on wider peace issues during the course of the year.



→ Arms Trade & Militarization

We are currently running two major projects on the arms trade. First, is the Carnegie Corporation-funded research project “Re-vitalizing the Debate on the Arms Trade” (RDAT), which aims to invigorate debate and policy about the arms trade by integrating it into other areas of policy, research, and activism, and re-energizing discussions through the engagement of a younger generation.

The research team includes **B. Arneson** (WPF Director of the Arms Trade Program), **Bridget Conley** (WPF Research Director), **Sam Perlo-Freeman** (Campaign Against the Arms Trade), **Nico Edwards** (Univ. of Sussex), **Anna Stavrianakis** (Univ. of Sussex), and **Emma Soubrier** (Pathways to Renewed and Inclusive Security in the Middle East [PRISME]). Second, is our collaboration with the **Corruption Tracker** (CT), a women and youth-led project in partnership with **Shadow World Investigations** that seeks to delegitimise and dismantle the arms trade using the lens of corruption. The CT aims to collate, document, and expose information on corruption in the arms trade. The CT is supported by funds from WPF, Carnegie (via the RDAT grant), and other donors.



Photo: [Green plastic toy soldiers in the middle of a war](#), ThisDesign (Adobe Stock images)

” Addressing ecological crises requires intersectional forms of both social critique and holistic thinking ... the very antithesis to mono-directional military approaches.

Nico Edwards, “Resisting Green Militarism: Building Movements for Peace and Eco-Social Justice” (WPF 2023)



Highlights include:

- Nico Edwards, Phd student at Sussex University, (supervised by Anna Stavrianakis) has been instrumental in shaping discourse on militarism and ecojustice, advocating for substantive change in these critical areas;
- Emma Soubrier’s project, “Pathways to Renewed and Inclusive Security in the Middle East” (PRISME),” has achieved widespread recognition and acclaim within the field through its blogs and synthesis paper, establishing itself as a leading source for concise and innovative pieces on the reconceptualization of security in the MENA region;
- The Corruption Tracker’s “Risks and Red Flags for Corruption in the Arms Trade” training session for The Left in the European Parliament in Brussels has enabled MPs’ staff to conduct their own independent research on arms companies involved in the illicit trade; and
- Sam Perlo-Freeman’s research will provide valuable insights for scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and activists, offering a fresh perspective on the traditional “revolving door” metaphor in the United Kingdom. His work proposes a novel alternative: the “open-plan” office metaphor, aimed at stimulating new thinking and approaches in this area.

Our social media campaigns in relation to this program have been highly effective. Our “What’s your take on the global arms trade?” graphic received 24,290 impressions, and “What’s missing from COP28?” graphic reached 14,481 impressions.

The current round of Carnegie funding ends in October 2024. However, in July, we were invited to submit a proposal for a new two year grant which would begin January 2025. Our proposal includes funding to continue support for PRISME, which seeks to redefine the conception of “security” in the Middle East and North Africa, as the starting point for improving strategic relations between MENA countries and their European and North American partners. It does so in pursuit of effective, collaborative approaches to ensuring a more peaceful and stable future. The grant will also support two projects related to starvation. We further introduce these cases under the starvation program updates.

Activities & Outputs

- 9 workshops
- 33 blog essays
- 1 research report
- 10 published cases of arms trade corruption
- 3 synthesis papers & an occasional paper
- 13 scholarly and practitioner panels
- Coverage in 24 news outlets



Our final research outputs will be launched during an in-person event on 18 September 2024 in London. This event will be moderated by B. Our concluding in-person meeting “Decentering Arms in Middle East Security”, is scheduled for 26-28 September 2024.

→ Mass Incarceration

The research team for this project includes **Bridget** and **B.** Bridget completed her book, *COVID Diagnosed the System*, which will be published by Rutgers University Press. In a narrative that closely tracks the pandemic inside Massachusetts’ prisons, the book argues that COVID exposed long-standing inequalities and injustices of the carceral system – while also presenting examples of creativity, care and activism that have begun to alter the carceral system. The book centralizes the voices and expertise of directly impacted people. It further asserts that abolitionist activism led by directly impacted people provides an example of how to envision and enact transformative social change, innovating policy responses once deemed too big to challenge.

As our focus on COVID and incarceration winds down, we have begun to increase our work addressing restorative justice (RJ) and the intersection of domestic and international uses of carceral power (that is, the state’s capacity to surveil, arrest, prosecute and incarcerate).

We note that Massachusetts has begun making RJ available within both the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems. However, RJ is relatively new to US carceral systems, and there is limited research on its impacts in the contexts of diversion from prosecution, as practiced within prisons or as part of re-entry. Over this past fiscal year, B. and Bridget prepared to help address this research gap. They underwent Phase 1 training in restorative justice with the Transformational Prison Project (TPP). World Peace Foundation was awarded a grant through Tufts University’s Tisch College Community Research Center Seed Grant, supporting a project that launches in FY25 analyzing TPP’s adoption of restorative justice and peer mentoring as part of re-entry programming. In support of this program, we are working with **Shaheed Abdullah**, a former student from the program inside MCI-Concord, who earned his degree from Tufts in January 2024 and released a few months later. We also have begun to explore conceptual and practical linkages with restorative justice in other contexts, notably Rwanda.

Activities & Outputs

- Restorative Justice training
- Final drafts of book manuscript and one journal essay
- Co-hosted one event, Listening and Dialogue for Peace and Justice
- A Roundtable Conversation (June 5, 2024), with Tufts University’s Generous Listening and Dialogue Center

- 7 blog essays



As human beings, we’re hardwired for connectivity in every aspect of the word. The worst prison, the worst that a human being could suffer is being alone.



Supreme Hassan, “Listening and Dialogue for Peace and Justice,” (Reinventing Peace, 2024).



## → Mass Starvation

The research team for this work includes, **Alex de Waal**, and the database re-search team of current and former Fletcher students **Yael Krifcher**, **Jennifer Hatton** and **Kelsey Henquinet**. The year 2023-24 has seen two terrible milestones in the modern history of mass starvation, namely the largest potential famine for decades (in Sudan) and the most intense reduction of a population to starvation for decades (in Gaza). In addition, we are witnessing the immediate aftermath of one of the most egregious mass starvation crimes in recent times (in Tigray region of Ethiopia) and continuing shocks to the global food system (in the wake of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, climate crisis and other factors).

Our main activity has been responding to these unfolding events and related media, public and policy interest in famine. Alex been widely cited and called upon for expert commentaries in leading news outlets including the **New York Times**, **BBC**, **NPR** and **The Guardian**. Commentary on Gaza has focused on understanding the nature of the deprivation, the multidimensional nature of starvation, and culpabilities for it. This also includes putting starvation in Gaza in comparative context. We have sought to explain the definitions of “famine” and what they entail. Alex developed the concept of “famine denialism” to explain reluctance to confront mass starvation and responsibilities for it. The overall aim is to set an agenda that brings political and criminal culpabilities for mass starvation into clear focus. Subsidiary agendas are to highlight the links between famine and social and psychological trauma, to introduce and debate the concept of famine denialism, to challenge and expose those who minimize or deny starvation, to give a voice to victims and survivors, to explain and protect those mechanisms for famine early warning that are working and to push for more effective international action.



The experience of mass starvation is so terrible, so traumatic, that the people going through it demand the strongest possible word for it—‘famine’. We shouldn’t deny them the right to own their own suffering.



Alex de Waal, “Famine: What’s in a name?”  
Keynote lecture, Médecins Sans Frontières, Scientific Day, June 7, 2024

Photo: Empty bowl, Stanislaw V (Adobe Stock Images)



The dataset of modern famines (1870 onwards) that we compiled and published eight years ago is under revision, to include new data on old famines along with data on new famines. This will be launched in the Fall of 2024. The new dataset shows that the century-long decline in the incidence and lethality of famines across the world stalled in the first 15 years of this century, and has been reversed; the geographical pattern of famines is showing an increasing concentration on the intense conflict zones of north-east Africa, the Sahel and the Middle East; and the causes of contemporary famines are overwhelmingly the use of starvation as a weapon.

Alex’s research into recent and historical famines, alongside close engagement with current debates and policy, positions us to make additional important contributions in 2024-25. This begins with a paper in the leading journal **Disasters** analyzing the decline and return of famines using the lens of “war economies” and public lectures on “anthropology in the humanitarian encounter”, famine denialism from the Holodomor to today, and why the Red Sea Arena is the epicenter of mass starvation today.

### Activities and Outputs

- 1 peer-reviewed paper in an academic journal
- 1 commentary in an academic journal
- 6 newspaper/journal articles
- 12 blogs
- 2 conference keynote addresses
- 1 interview/podcast
- 7 panel discussions
- 2 workshops
- More than 30 media appearances or quotations
- Development of updated historic famines dataset to be launched in early Fall

## → WPF at the Fletcher School

### Teaching and Student support

### Fletcher Student groups supported:

**Alex** is supervising three capstone theses and is on the committee for five PhD students, two of whom are scheduled to complete during the calendar year 2024.

**Bridget** is the faculty advisor for the Decolonizing IR student-led conference, supervised three capstone theses and is on the committee for one PhD student.

**B.** taught a Senior Capstone course for students in the Tufts University Prison Education program, and Alex and Bridget each supervised one senior thesis.



The WPF continued to provide funding for a Fletcher doctoral student through a grant administered by the Henry J. Leir Institute for Migration and Human Security. The recipient in FY24 was **Aditya Sarkar**.

WPF also provided funding administered through the Fletcher School to support **summer internships** for current Fletcher students, these included:

- **Emily Le Ray**, with MWI
- **Lian Hnin**, with the Burmese American Community Institute
- **Melat Habtu**, with Women's Earth Alliance
- **Aleyna Uludag**, with the International Rescue Committee

### Fletcher Students employed by the WPF in FY 24:

**Elizabeth Smith** (Communications, & Sudan Archive)  
**Kelsey Henquinet** (Communications & Mass Starvation)  
**Tarun Gopalakrishnan** (Traumatic Decarbonization)  
**Jennifer Hatton** (Mass Starvation)  
**Yael Krifcher** (Mass Starvation)  
**Jared D. Miller** (Traumatic Decarbonization & PeaceRep)  
**Chepkorir Sambu** (African Politics & Peace; recent graduate)  
**Aditya Sarkar** (Traumatic Decarbonization & PeaceRep)  
**Eliab Tsegaye Teye** (African Politics & Peace)



2024 Africana Conference  
 April 12, 2024



Ralph Bunche Society  
**Inclusive Leadership in Foreign Affairs**  
 April 5, 2024

Fletcher Students for Palestine  
**Discussion with Dr. Hassan Jabareen**  
 April 4, 2024



9th Annual Conference on Gender & International Affairs  
**Power, Policy, Progress: Redefining authority, reshaping influence**  
 November 17 & 18, 2023

Fletcher European Conference  
**Can Europe reinvent itself on the global stage?**  
 November 14, 2023



# Outreach & Communication

## → Podcast

### New podcast: **Disrupting Peace**

The project team includes **Bridget, Emily Shaw** (independent podcast producer) and **Kelsey Henquinet** (outreach director), with contributions from across the WPF staff. In FY24, Bridget led the process of conceptualizing a new WPF podcast and began production. The show is called, “**Disrupting Peace**,” and is hosted by Bridget.

Created for an audience that is skeptical, but hasn’t lost hope, **Disrupting Peace**, explores why peace hasn’t worked, and how it still could. In each episode, Bridget speaks with a researcher specializing in one obstacle to peace, and an activist who’s changing systems from the ground up. Together they explore what worked, what didn’t, and why we shouldn’t give up. Season One launches September 24<sup>th</sup> and publishes weekly.

#### The season includes six episodes:

- 1 **What went wrong in the era of peacebuilding?**, with **Sam Moyn** (Yale Law School) and **Mamello** (Open Secrets, a South African anti-corruption organization);
- 2 **How can we control the arms trade?**, with **William Hartung** (Quincy Institute) and **Ray Acheson** (WILPF and Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons);
- 3 **How are AI and autonomous weapons changing warfare?**, with **Laura Bruun** (SIPRI) and **Sai Bouruthu** (Stop Killer Weapons);
- 4 **Will climate change mean more conflicts?**, with **Gustavo Garcia-Lopez** (University of Coimbra) and **Tatiana Garavito** (Tipping Point UK);
- 5 **What can the prison abolition movement teach us about peace?**, with **Catherine Besteman** (Colby College) and **Kentel Weaver** (Transformational Prison Project);
- 6 **What might change and what might stay the same in immigration policy as a result of the U.S. Presidential Election?**, with **Jason De León** (UCLA) and **Felipe Sousa-Lazaballet** (Hope CommUnity Center).

Societies were imagined rather than actually created and built; and peace takes more work than just saying that we are now in peace.

Mamello, “We Thought We Solved World Peace” (**Disrupting Peace**, 2024).



## → Website

### Research for non-violent futures



#### New website – **Research for nonviolent futures**

Our new website launched on April 22, 2024 at [worldpeacefoundation.org](https://worldpeacefoundation.org). Associate Director, **Lisa Avery** and **Bridget** led the project, with design firm, **Room for Magic**. The process began in summer 2023, in a series of meetings with Tufts content strategist, **Chris Walton**, who helped us reflect on our work and refine how we present our research to the public.

Our primary goals with the new design were to: create stronger search capacity for our publications and programs; improve integration of programs, publications and blogs; and infuse an organizational identity across our work. In short, the re-design offered opportunities to improve site functionality and to re-articulate what distinguishes WPF’s work.

We integrated the blog, **Reinventing Peace**, into the website (previously a separate site), a process that included migrating **600+ blog essays** published since 2016 (we did not migrate blogs from 2011 – 2015). The areas for on-going work include: search engine optimization (SEO) – to increase the ability of search engines to find us and our content, reviewing the blog essays to ensure they fit the new layout, and fine-tooth review of all publications. We note that the change has disrupted our site analytics, reflected in the statistics at the end of this report.

With the goal of producing “research for nonviolent futures,” we see WPF as providing informed issue analysis that has a point of view. We aim to position WPF as a source for deeply researched and provocative insights on issues related to peace, conflict and social justice that is activist/advocacy- and policy-relevant. Our key audience is people who are engaged and unsatisfied with existing narratives about pressing social and political issues and are looking to dig deeper and be challenged.

# Finance

## → Social Media

WPF's work has contributed to global conversations on the war in Gaza, the famine in Sudan, the crisis in Tigray, and the militarization of environmental causes. Our FY24 strategy was to highlight our three primary active programmatic areas, with dedicated days for Militarization and the Arms Trade (**#DisarMonday**), a general category (**#WorldPeaceWednesday**), and Mass Incarceration (**#FreeThemFriday**). Alex's content on the Horn of Africa and Starvation is promoted throughout the week.

Though the social media landscape is fluctuating as X and Facebook have rapidly lost users across the platforms and quantitative analytic data is no longer available to users, WPF's page has continued to reach new audiences and maintain consistent engagement on both platforms. In January, the WPF launched a LinkedIn page to engage a wider audience. Additionally, we have created a LinkTree— a digital platform that highlights the most recent publication from each WPF program on a singular webpage which is now featured on both Facebook and X.

To amplify WPF's work in the uncertain social media environment, the team has focused on engaging partner organizations and sharing relevant content from peer experts and scholars across the space. At the end of 2023, we received an influx of engagement with Nico Edward's report, "Resisting Green Militarism: Build-

ing Movements for Peace and Eco-Social Justice," and an accompanying blog by Nico published by **Inkstick Media**. Additionally, the WPF partnered with peer organizations to promote report launch with their unique audiences. Similarly, WPF has routinely amplified the work of partners within our mass incarceration portfolio to expand our audience among peers' networks.

WPF's dedicated response to global events dominated the organization's social media presence for past year. Alex's engagement with the media on the wars in Gaza and South Sudan, as well as the continuing crisis in Tigray, drove engagement across WPF's social media platforms. His publications and expert commentary in several large media outlets including the **BBC**, **New York Times**, **CNN**, and **Democracy Now**, expanded our reach and audience across social media platforms.

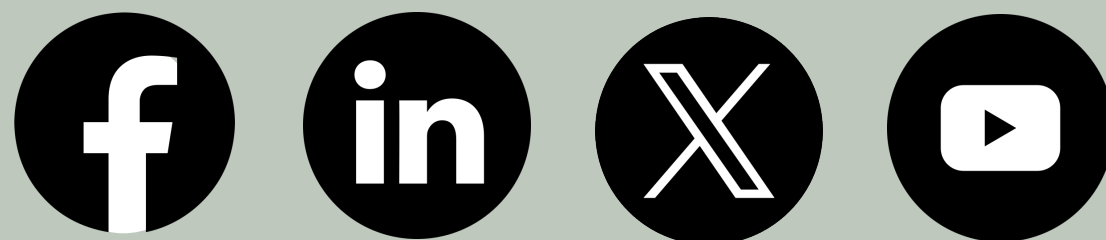


### Our funding partners for FY2024 include:

**The Carnegie Corporation of New York** is funding our work on the Global Arms Trade and Corruption project "Revitalizing the Debate on the Arms Trade" (RDAT). This grant is due to end October 2024.

**United States Institute of Peace** (USIP) has been supporting our work on "Traumatic decarbonization" and on "Lessons Learned Sudan".

The UK **Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office** (FCDO) is funding the "Peace and Conflict Research and Evidence Platform (PeaceRep)", based at Edinburgh University. PeaceRep is a multiyear grant with each year's budget approved individually. This grant is due to end March 2025.



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