

World Peace Foundation

Research for
non-violent futures

FY2025

Annual Report



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*The graduate school
of global affairs
at Tufts University*

World Peace Foundation is solely affiliated with The Fletcher School of Global Affairs at Tufts University.

Message from the Director

This has been a tumultuous year. It is difficult to think of any period in our lifetimes when the issues on which we work have been so grave, when the pace of events has been so rapid, and the norms, principles and institutions that we rely upon have been so challenged.

Our work has never been so relevant, especially here in the United States. I believe that our founders, and all subsequent members of the board and staff, would have been shocked at the extent to which the United States today is abandoning democracy, justice and—ultimately—of world peace.

With the privileges of a supportive board and university, and an endowment that insulates us from the concerns of donors, we have the freedom to respond to events as they unfold in line with our mission. We deeply appreciate those privileges, which, we believe, allows us to have an impact out of proportion to our small size.

Our work on starvation—Alex’s long record of research on famine and the more recent program on accountability for mass starvation jointly run by Alex and Bridget—has been exceptionally, and regrettably, relevant to events.

Our work on mass incarceration, led by Bridget and B., is at once informed by compelling research—to which it also contributes—and immediately practical.

African conflict and peacemaking is out of the headlines, but the Horn of Africa has never been in such turmoil, and Alex and our network of colleagues continue to provide up-to-date analyses.

The world is in an escalating global arms race—a shared delusion that spending on weapons brings greater security rather than deepening corruption, militarism and repression. The work led by Bridget and B. with our partners to keep alive a debate on the arms trade is needed more than ever.

And we need to talk about peace—what it is, and how it can be achieved, and by whom. With our new ‘Disrupting Peace’ podcast, led by Bridget, we are sparking new debates. With our new website and logo, projects led and maintained by Lisa and Bridget, and our expanded social media channels, managed by research assistants Kelsey Henquinet and Emily Ruhm, our reach continues to expand.

The WPF rests upon solid administration and finance. Under Lisa’s careful and rigorous management the Foundation’s foundations remain truly firm.

In the year ahead, we expect an assault on academic freedom, human rights and civil liberties, and on peace. We are bracing ourselves for another challenging year.



Alex de Waal, Executive Director, World Peace Foundation

Mission & Values

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 2023, we updated this mission to better capture our current work: **“The WPF redefines peace through research, advocacy and engagement that creates pathways for non-violent futures.”**

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.

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.

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.

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

Staff



ALEX DE WAAL
Executive Director



BRIDGET CONLEY
Research Director



LISA AVERY
Associate Director



B. ARNESON
Program Director



EMILY RUHM
Communications Assistant

Board

- Peter Blum, Chair
- Anat Biletzki, Vice Chair
- Andy Evans, Treasurer
- Elizabeth Adelman
- Eileen Babbitt
- Jacqueline Bhabha
- Matthew Henshon
- Zoe Marks
- Tom O'Reilly
- Sarrah Shahawy
- Andy Shennan
- Jeffrey Summit

In FY2025, we welcomed new Trustees, **Sarrah Shahawy** and **Tom O'Reilly**.
"Thank you" to Trustee **Melissa Nobles** who stepped off the Board this year.

Ginn Trustees

- Thomas Appleton
- Katherine Babson
- Quinn Sloan

Our Research

Mass Starvation



“Mass starvation unfolds in the dark. As famine becomes more frequent and more intense, data and debate are being actively suppressed.”

Alex de Waal, [Famine in the Dark: Data for how censorship contributes to starvation](#), Reinventing Peace, April 30, 2025



History and Future of Famine

This project was the centerpiece of Alex de Waal’s work in FY25, including research, convening, writing and public advocacy.

Like humanity itself, liberal humanitarianism was built from crooked timber. But, for all its flaws, the international humanitarian system achieved two things. One: it saved millions of lives. Two: it pushed a global debate on how to improve the lots of the poorest and most vulnerable people. Today, the worldwide liberal humanitarian order is being destroyed before our eyes, and famine is resurgent. Ten years ago, we could look forward to the potential ending of famines as a global phenomenon. Today, the institutions and funds, the information systems and the norms and principles of humanitarian action, are all under sustained attack.

The WPF is at the forefront of articulating the practical and ethical challenges, drawing on rigorous data, original research, and analysis that synthesizes work across a spectrum of disciplines. In the last year, Alex has given three high-profile lectures, spoken at many other events and published widely on this topic. He received the annual **Huxley Award from the Royal Anthropological Institute** in London for work on this topic. Particularly important lectures include: **'Anthropology and the Humanitarian Encounter'**, Huxley Award Memorial Lecture, London, Royal Anthropological Institute, October 24, 2024; **'A Million Deaths is a Statistic: A history of famine denialism'**, Toronto Annual Holodomor Famine Memorial Lecture, November 4, 2024; and **'The Return of Famines? The end of liberal humanitarianism and the perils of mass starvation'**, Landmark Lecture, University of Manchester, Humanitarian and Conflict Research Institute, February 18, 2025.

Alex has also continued to focus on the need for accountability for starvation crimes in Ethiopia and Sudan. But it is Israel's use of mass starvation as a weapon in Gaza that is the most consequential case in the contemporary world. Since the immediate aftermath of the Hamas atrocities on October 7, 2023, Israel has waged a war in Gaza that involves sustained and widespread destruction of objects indispensable to survival for the civilian population, siege and the blockade and obstruction of humanitarian activities, outright attacks on medical facilities and humanitarian operations and staff, and suppression and manipulation of information about the scale of the crisis. We have closely followed and reviewed events and data and published widely-respected analyses.

ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS:

12
blog essays (7 on the dataset, 5 others)

6
lectures/presentations

1
academic book chapter (on famine memorialization)

8
newspaper/journal articles (three in London Review of Books, two in the Guardian, one each in Boston Review, Haaretz, Unherd)

4
panel discussions

1
podcast

2
peer-reviewed papers in academic journals

More than 30
media appearances or quotations

Famine Data Project

It’s an intuitively obvious link: world food crises cause famines. Look closer and it’s not so clear.

Alex de Waal, [World Food Crisis and Famines: What’s the link?](#), Reinventing Peace, June 18, 2025

RESEARCH TEAM AND PARTNERS:

Alex de Waal, plus Yael Krifcher, Jennifer Hatton, Kelsey Henquinet and Matt Day, with [Our World in Data](#) as a partner organization.

This project updates WPF’s dataset of ‘great famines’ since 1870 and combines it with recent humanitarian emergencies that have been reviewed by the Famine Review Committee of the UN’s Integrated food security Phase Classification system (IPC). The datasets allow us to identify major trends in the occurrence, geo-location, lethality, and causes of famines, and also, in combination with other datasets such as V-Dem (varieties of democracy) and the Global Hunger Index, to explore correlates of famine. It provides a tool for posing questions and examining hypotheses. What we see is that many of our general hypotheses are confirmed: famines are associated with censorship and authoritarian government, that their causes are highly diverse but cluster around war and repression often combining with environmental and economic stress. It’s interesting to find that ‘world food crises’, when worldwide prices of basic foods peak, have sometimes been associated with an increase in the numbers of famines—but more often not.

ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS:

The Famine dataset was launched at an online event, jointly with the Feinstein International Center, on April 22, 2025.

7
blog essays
drawing on
dataset

Famine Voices

“The people who are the real experts in famine are its survivors. We must listen to them.”

Alex de Waal, Royal Anthropological Institute, Huxley lecture, October 24, 2024

RESEARCH TEAM AND PARTNERS:

Alex de Waal and **Birhan Mezgbo**. This program is partially funded by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

The project brings grassroots and anthropological perspectives on famine and related issues into dialogue with key policymaking institutions including the UN-accredited Integrated food security Phase Classification (IPC) initiative, also lawyers involved in bringing cases of starvation crimes to court. The core rationale is that societies have their own complex understandings of ‘famine’, ‘great hunger’, or ‘starvation’ which are important in their own right and which also need to be heard by policymakers and lawyers. The voices of people afflicted by famine often stress social trauma and threats to a dignified, customary way of life. They are highly gendered: women and men have different experiences of famine/catastrophe. There is no singular, ‘correct’ definition of famine that excludes other framings. Instead, we should recognize different, diverse understandings.

ACTIVITIES :

In FY25, the project had eight sessions:

February 13, 2025: Introductory session and **discussion on the ramifications of the closure of USAID**, presenter **Alex de Waal**.

February 28, 2025: **Key findings from the historic famines data project**, presenter **Alex de Waal**, with **Yael Krifcher** and **Jennifer Hatton**.

March 14, 2025: The everyday **politics of famine**, presenters **Naomi Pendle** and **Nisar Majid**.

March 28, 2025: **IPC System**: Introduction and contemporary challenges/dilemmas, presenters **Dan Maxwell** and **Peter Hailey**.

April 11, 2025: Special issue of **Disasters on famines**, presenters **Susane Jasper**, **Tamer Abd Elkreem**, **Mehroosh Tak**, **Elizabeth Hull**, and **Harry Verhoeven**.

May 9, 2025: **SGBV and famine**, presenters **Bridget Conley**, **Dyan Mazurana** and **Birhan Mezgbo**.

May 22, 2025: **Humanitarian data in Gaza**, presenters **Feroze Sidhwa**, **Dan Maxwell**, **Peter Hailey**, **Andy Seal** and **Chris Newton**.

June 18, 2025: **Legal approaches to starvation crimes**, presenters **Boyd Van Dijk** and **Tom Dannenbaum**.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence, Reproductive Violence & Starvation: Mutually Reinforcing Crimes

Over recent years, there has been important discussion, debate, and advancement in understanding how the international law of starvation could apply to on-going crises, including Sudan, Gaza, and Tigray (Ethiopia). Recent advances in the law of starvation include: increased understanding of the nexus between war and famine; the incorporation of starvation into the UN Security Council’s protection of civilians regime; an amendment to the Rome Statute extending the starvation war crime to non-international armed conflicts; increased reference to legal frameworks governing starvation in analyses of recent cases, including in UN reports; and the central inclusion of starvation in Gaza in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) genocide case against Israel, and the International Criminal Courts (ICC) war crimes and crimes against humanity cases against Israeli leaders. Yet the law remains largely untested in court.

Nearly absent from these advancements and discussions are the ways in which SGBV, reproductive violence, and starvation crimes interact. We aim to explore how SGBV, reproductive violence, and starvation can interact to create mutually reinforcing harms.

We will explore and analyze the ways in which SGBV and reproductive violence link with starvation crimes, and how these forms of violence interact to magnify harm to individuals, their families, communities and societies. Despite profoundly gendered impacts of mass starvation, there is insufficient dialogue across the areas of expertise on current cases (Sudan, Gaza, Tigray [Ethiopia]), SGBV, reproductive violence, international law, starvation and starvation crimes.

This project provides a forum to share expertise and develop new ways of understanding, documenting, analyzing, preventing, responding to, and increasing accountability for these acts of violence. Its outputs are designed to disseminate these findings to key policy and legal audiences.

RESEARCH TEAM AND PARTNERS:

The core project team includes **Bridget Conley**, **Dyan Mazurana**, **Tom Dannenbaum**, and **Birhan Mezgbo**. It is partially funded by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, which began in January 2025.

“During conditions of mass starvation, SGBV and reproductive violence, particularly against women and girls, increase in ways that are shaped by the conditions driving mass starvation.”

Concept Note, Sexual and Gender Based Violence, Reproductive Violence & Starvation: Mutually Reinforcing Crimes

Mass Incarceration



Countering the Criminalization of Care

Half of all Americans have family member who has been incarcerated. One in five has an incarcerated parent. Eighty percent of women in jails and 58% of women in prisons are mothers, most being primary caretakers of their children.

In short: the policies of mass incarceration fragment the lives, dreams, economics and daily experiences of life for a significant portion of the American public. Reformist initiatives lack attention to the humanistic, personal and relational harms the system imposes on all those touched by it. This gap also blinds reformers to the possibilities for transformation that are already embedded in the human relations within and across the walls.

This project locates the potential for transformational change in a praxis of care, an approach that requires the expertise of directly impacted people, who form the core of our research team. Drawing on narrative, oral histories, and conceptual analysis conducted by people with lived experience in the carceral system, this project centralizes, theorizes, and interrogates “care” as the focal, yet understudied, element of mass incarceration and its potential eradication. We contrast the carceral imperative to isolate, separate, and individualize those convicted of crimes, with an imperative of community-building through care as expressed and enacted by incarcerated people, their families and loved ones.

The final output is an edited volume, with chapters by scholars and directly impacted people. It also includes a Participatory Action Research component, where formerly incarcerated people and loved ones of incarcerated people are trained to conduct interviews with others who have cared for someone who was incarcerated.

RESEARCH TEAM AND PARTNERS:

The core project team includes **Bridget Conley** and **B. Arneson**, working in collaboration with **Catherine Besteman** of Colby College and **Linda Small** of Reentry Sisters. The Advisory Board includes: **Jasmyn Brown**, **Jacqueline Fonseca**, **Juanda Gikandi**, **Shanita Jefferson**, **James Marshall**, **Laurie Normand**, and **Daniel Porter**.

It is partially funded by a [National Endowment for the Humanities](#).

ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS:

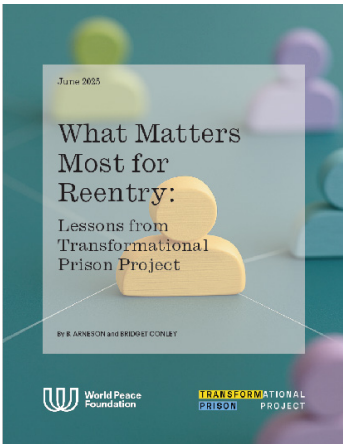
10

interviewers trained, with a total of 50 interviews conducted in Maine and Massachusetts.

6

chapters drafted

Convening of the Advisory Board composed of directly impacted people and three meetings held for the participatory action research component, "Care and Love Across the Walls," including creation of interview script.



“Reentry is like being born all over again. It’s like learning how to walk in a world that is designed for you to stumble.

David Delvalle, [What Matters Most for Reentry: Lessons from the Transformational Prison Project](#)

Restorative Justice and Reentry: Nurturing Community Care through Anti-Carceral Organizations

RESEARCH TEAM AND PARTNERS:

WPF, under the leadership of **B. Arneson** and **Bridget Conley**, partnered with the [Transformational Prison Project](#) and collaborators **Noble Williams**, **Bobby Iacovelli**, **Kentel Weaver**, **Kevin Keo**, **Zoe Young**, and **George Hutchins**. WPF also collaborated with two Project Researchers: **Shaheed Abdullah**, a formerly incarcerated scholar affiliated with the Tufts University Prison Initiative of the Tisch College of Civic Life, and **Ingrid Lundberg**, a graduate student at the Fletcher School. [This project is supported by the Community Research Center at the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts University.](#)

While most people of the 1.9 million people incarcerated in the U.S. eventually get out of prisons and jails, many go back: recidivism rates have been found as high as 83% over ten years. Incarceration and successful reentry impact the wellbeing of the country as a whole. Nonetheless, there is no recipe for success. This project aimed to document how reentry support provided by formerly incarcerated people that adopts a restorative justice approach helps fill the gaps.

A one-year collaboration between the Transformational Prison Project (TPP) and WPF, this project culminated in the publication of a report, [What Matters Most for Reentry: Lessons from the Transformational Prison Project](#) (WPF, June 2025). It assesses the impact of TPP’s informal support for individuals navigating reentry after incarceration. TPP was founded by incarcerated men at MCI-Norfolk as a restorative justice (RJ) initiative focused on healing from harm, taking responsibility, and rebuilding community ties. Today, TPP operates through formal programs such as RJ circles, mentoring, and digital literacy courses for three key groups: currently incarcerated individuals, professionals and students working within the criminal justice system, and people experiencing reentry.

In addition to formal programming, TPP offers informal, flexible support to those reentering society. This includes help with immediate needs after release, guidance on navigating probation or parole, mentorship on accessing services, emotional support, and opportunities for community engagement. These supports are offered with consistent availability; TPP staff are often just a phone call away, anytime.

To understand the impact of these informal supports, TPP and WPF conducted a series of oral history interviews with 30 people who received TPP’s help during reentry.

ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS:

4

events

3

blog essays

1

report

African Politics & Peace



The Horn of Africa is the shatter zone where the fissures of Africa, the Middle East and the World are causing catastrophic societal crises.

Alex de Waal, [Hunger in War Economies](#), Disasters, October 15, 2024



The Politics of Conflict: Sudan & South Sudan, Ethiopia, and the wider region

Sudan, Ethiopia, the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea Arena are beset by ongoing and deepening political, social, and humanitarian crises. **The situation has never been worse.**

The institutions and mechanisms for responding have never been weaker. The region is a shatter zone where an overlay of regional and global economic and political pressures is intersecting with local fissures to create a situation of accelerating breakdown of the basics of governance. We engage with the United Nations, the new leadership at the African Union, and various mediation forums in Europe, Africa and the Middle East in trying to frame these crises, their drivers, and ways of grappling with conflict resolution.

We published ‘[Defining the Crisis in the Sudans](#)’ Special Report by Alex de Waal and Abdul Mohammed, published jointly with [USIP](#) and [Thabo Mbeki Foundation](#) (October 2024). Alex also published, ‘[Lineages of Genocide in Sudan](#),’ [Journal of Genocide Research](#) (April 2025).

RESEARCH TEAM AND PARTNERS:

We have worked closely with the [U.S. Institute for Peace](#) (prior to January) and the [Thabo Mbeki Foundation](#), and with a number of Sudanese and Ethiopian colleagues, notably [Mulugeta Gebrehiwot](#), former WPF senior fellow, and [Abdul Mohammed](#), long-time peace and democracy activist.



ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS:

11

TV and radio appearances

7

blog essays on Sudan

6

articles:
Foreign Affairs, London Review of Books, Responsible Statecraft, BBC, The Guardian

1

report with United States Institute for Peace and Thabo Mbeki Foundation

9

blog essays on Ethiopia

1

blog essays on the Red Sea

1

blog essays on Eritria

Political Marketplace

Our two main projects concluded in 2024/25.

One was the partnership with the [London School of Economics](#) and the [University of Edinburgh](#) under the [Peace and Conflict Resolution Evidence Platform](#) (PeaceRep). This focused on the Horn of Africa and Nigeria. It explored how democratization was derailed by systematized transactional politics in Ethiopia and Sudan, and how Nigeria has established a working simulacrum of democracy, run by the country’s ‘godfathers’ to ensure that elections are mechanisms that make elected officials accountable to their paymasters, not their electorates. Despite resistance from scholars who are reluctant to let go their favored frameworks of state formation, our model of the political marketplace has gained traction as the leading theoretical explanation for persistent policy failings. Where systematized transactional politics combines with violence, we see generalized war—more in the sense used by Thomas Hobbes as a propensity to violence than organized conventional inter-state conflict as theorized by Carl von Clausewitz.

The project on ‘[Traumatic decarbonization](#)’—how fragile fossil-fuel producing states manage a collapse in oil rents—concluded with a [special issue of the journal Environment and Security](#), edited by Aditya Sarkar and Alex de Waal. The issue includes 8 papers on the fraught politics of the energy transition in fragile fossil-fuel producers, how declines in carbon rents are destabilizing peace settlements, and case studies of Ecuador, Iraq, Nigeria, South Sudan, Sudan and Venezuela. The big conclusion is that the framework of the political marketplace is a very useful way of understanding transactional politics as a system and bringing clarity to what is commonly decried as ‘disorder’ in the international system.

RESEARCH TEAM AND PARTNERS:

The core project team included [Alex de Waal](#), [Jared Miller](#), [Aditya Sarkar](#) and [Tanner Kimpel](#). The PeaceRep program was funded in part by a grant from the [UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office \(FCDO\)](#).

The Traumatic Decarbonization program was partially funded by a grant from the [United States Institute of Peace \(USIP\)](#).

ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS:

9

blog essays

6

occasional papers

Traumatic Decarbonization:

1

special journal issue

7

academic papers

Arms Trade & Militarism

“With fluctuations and uncertainties in U.S. political, military, and economic priorities — often interpreted by Gulf leaders as signs of gradual disengagement — America’s influence appears to be receding.

Emma Soubrier, [Decentering Arms in Middle East Security](#), January 7, 2025



Revitalizing Debate on the Arms Trade

This program works through a series of collaborations with long-term partner organizations. We concluded our two-year program, [Revitalizing Debate on the Arms Trade](#) with two publications, “[Arms and the state: How the arms industry influences government in western arms producing nations](#),” by Sam Perlo-Freeman (5 Nov. 2024, WPF and CAAT) and “[Decentering Arms in Middle East Security](#),” by Emma Soubrier (9 Jan. 2025, PRISME). We continued our collaboration with the [Corruption Tracker](#) (CT), the UK-based, youth- and women-led organization that documents corruption within the global arms trade. The organization not only published six research studies of corrupt arms deals, it also drafted a cross-case, analytical report reviewing findings about corruption in the arms trade.

In January 2025, we began our third two-year grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, which continues to fund our partner organization, [PRISME](#), led by Dr. Emma Soubrier, in addition to other WPF programs. PRISME aims to redefine the conception of “security” in the Middle East and North Africa, as the starting point for strategic relations between Middle East and North African (MENA) countries and their European and North American partners, through seminars, mentoring young scholars, developing a database of experts who work on inclusive, sustainable approaches to security in and with the MENA region.

RESEARCH TEAM AND PARTNERS:

This fiscal year, the project team included **B. Arneson** and **Bridget Conley** from the WPF, the Corruption Tracker team, **Emma Soubrier** (PRISME), and **Sam Perlo-Freeman** (Campaign Against the Arms Trade). **The project was partially funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.**

ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS:

16	blog essays on PRISME's website
13	blog essays on Corruption Tracker's blog, CATC:H
6	cases of corruption published by CT
3	reports
1	blog essay on Reinventing Peace

Storytelling



The road from Kosovo to Iraq led me to rethink the whole era, and the Kool Aid I had drunk, and [I] try to drink other beverages since then.

Samuel Moyn, Disrupting Peace Season 1, [Episode 1](#)



Disrupting Peace Podcast

RESEARCH TEAM AND PARTNERS:

The core project team includes Bridget and co-producer, **Emily Shaw** (of Emily Shaw Creates), sound engineer **Jacob Winik** (independent contractor), and marketing support from WPF’s **Kelsey Henquinet** and **Emily Ruhm**. To help get us started, we brought on **Jeremy Helton**, a podcast marketing expert, who provided us with a workshop to inform our outreach strategy.

In FY25, the WPF launched its new podcast series, **Disrupting Peace**. It 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 is changing systems from the ground up. Together they explore what worked, what didn’t, and why we shouldn’t give up.

The optimism once associated with peacemaking and peacebuilding has markedly diminished. Many of people in the field are experiencing significant frustration or even profound disillusionment. For example, according to PRIO, 2023 saw the highest number of conflicts since 1946, coupled with a notable decline in the commitment to peacemaking from nations that had previously championed it. The potential for consensus at the UN Security Council, which seemed promising in the 1990s, has faded. Instead, major global powers are increasingly engaged in or supporting conflicts rather than leading peace efforts. Disrupting Peace explores what went wrong, what was learned, what new issues have arisen, and how we can regain momentum for a more peaceful future.

The podcast allows WPF to speak to different audiences and address a wider range of issues than is possible through our in-depth research projects. Each season includes a trailer and 6 episodes, launched weekly. **Season One** ran from September 24 to October 29, 2024, and **Season Two** ran from February 27 to April 15, 2025, with an additional three bonus episodes. Topics covered in Season One: Lessons from the era of peacebuilding, the global arms trade, autonomous weapons, climate change, prison abolition and immigration to the US. Topics covered in Season Two, which had the theme of “Lessons from Global Resistance”: gender equality in Iceland, opposing Presidential overreach in South Korea, rebuilding after a dictator in Syria, governing without a military in Costa Rica, academic freedom in the US, and the long-term impact of a populist leader in Italy.

ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS:



WPF at the Fletcher School



Teaching and Student Support

ADVISING:

Bridget served on the doctoral committee for **Lima Ahmed**.

Alex served on the doctoral committee for **Jared Miller** and **Andrea Walther Puri** (both received their PhDs in 2025) and is on the committee for **Ben Naimark-Rowse** and **Aditya Sarkar**.

Alex taught his course '**Conflict in Africa**' in Spring 2025, with **24** students enrolled.

WPF/LEIR FELLOWSHIP:

Margaret Adomako was the recipient of the 2025-2026 World Peace Research Fellow at the Leir Institute. Research Director, Bridget Conley [interviewed Maggie](#) about her research for our blog, Reinventing Peace.

OCS SUMMER INTERNS:

Emily Todd (MALD) and **Levan Shatirishvili** (MALD) both had internships with the European Public Law Organization (EPLO)

Alexandra Patton (MALD) for her fellowship with Women's Earth Alliance

Doniyor Mutalov (MALD) for his internship at Integrity Initiatives International

Imran Hossain (GBA) for his internship at Peace Economy Project

STUDENTS (& recent graduates) EMPLOYED:

- Matt Day
- Jennifer Hatton
- Kelsey Henquinet
- Tanner Kimpel
- Olivia Landau (Teaching Assistant)
- Birhan Gebrekirstos Mezgbo
- Jared Miller
- Emily Ruhm
- Faith Sambu
- Aditya Sarkar
- Eliab Taye

STUDENT & RESEARCH CENTER CONFERENCE SUPPORT:



April 10-11, 2025: **Africana Conference 2025** - Changing the Lens: Redefining African Agency for a New Generation

March 10, 2025: **The Rise and Fall of Russia's Wagner Group**, Eurasia Center event

February 2025: **Fletcher Journal Winter 2025 launch event**, Power Dynamics: The Changing Nature of Energy

November 21-22, 2024: **Gender Conference: Resilience and Liberation in Uncertain Times**

Administration

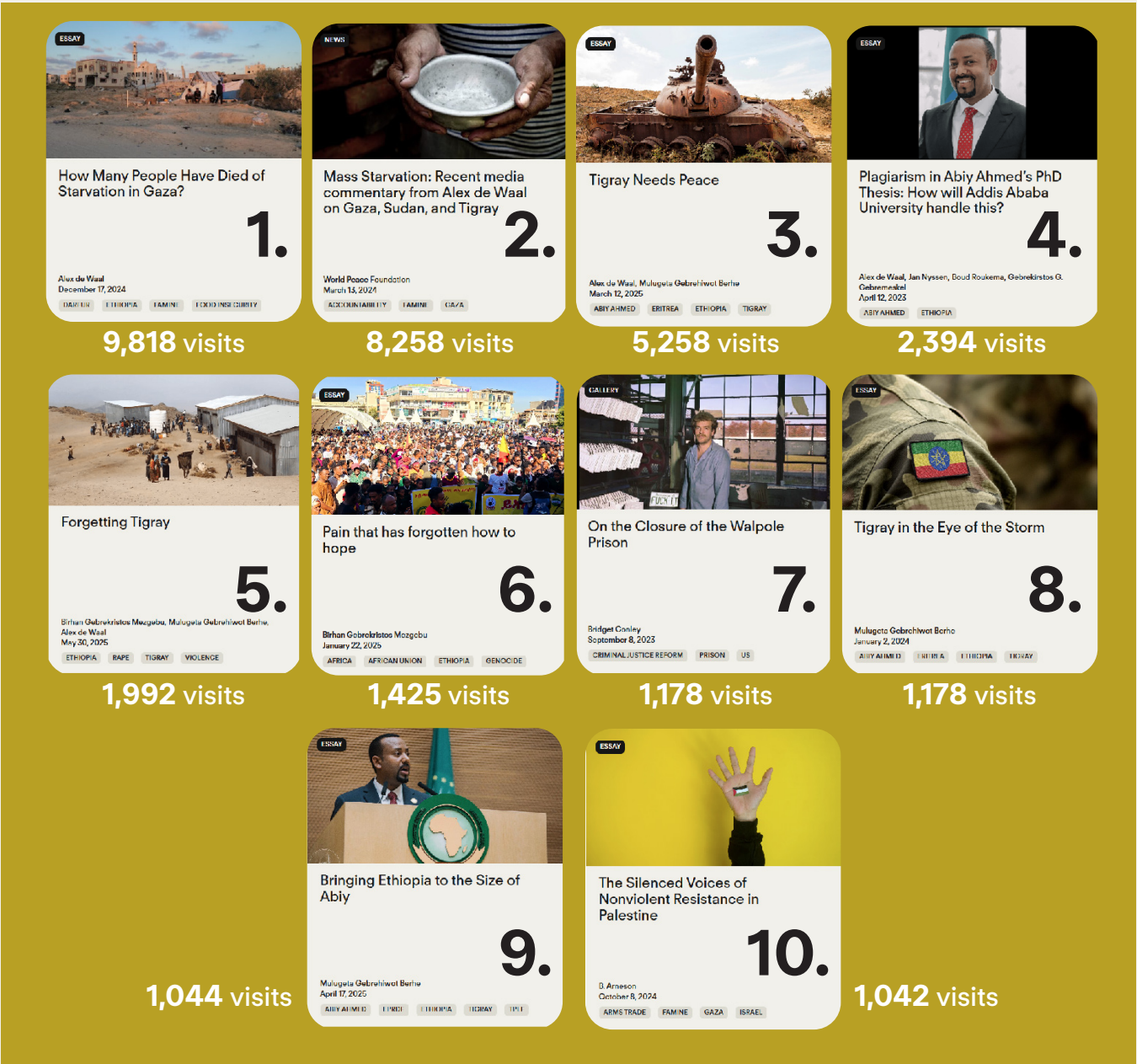
Outreach & Communication



Website & Blog

Our website, including webpages and our blog, received **164,546** visits in FY25, up from 141,513 in FY24. Separating out our core content pages from the blog, our most visited page was the homepage, with **28,851** visits, followed by: "Our Story" (**5,262**), "Research Areas" (**4718**), "Our Team" (**4149**), and "Alex de Waal" (**1723**).

Our most visited blog essays are (*click to visit*):



Social Media

In 2025, WPF revamped and expanded its social media engagement. While WPF ceased use of X, in favor of other platforms, such as **BlueSky** (new in FY25), because the political shifts of the platform that do not align with our mission, we continued to utilize **Facebook**, **LinkedIn**, **LinkTree**, and **YouTube**. To expand our social media presence, this year, WPF also started an **Instagram** account. WPF launched multiple campaigns across our social media platforms. At the beginning of the year, this included three separate campaigns: a series summarizing WPF’s accomplishments in 2025; an announcement and rebranding of our profiles with the **new logo** and design elements; and a series on what to expect from WPF in 2025. Later in the year, WPF had additional campaigns on Season 2 of the Disrupting Peace podcast and the launch of the report “What Matters Most for Reentry: Lessons from the Transformational Prison Project.” Through these campaigns and our regular content, WPF’s work contributed to conversations on rising authoritarianism and shifting political markets, reentry following incarceration, famine trends globally and historically, and more.

Our strategy continued to primarily highlight our active programmatic areas with dedicated days: **Monday for Mass Incarceration**, **Tuesday for Podcast & Newsletter**, **Wednesday for African Politics and Peace**, **Thursday for Militarization and the Arms Trade**, and **Friday for Mass Starvation**. WPF expanded these dedicated days to build on our in-house content and showcase partner organizations, activists, and researchers working on related topics. To deepen audience engagement, WPF utilized a mixture of content mediums, including videos, audio, and photos, piloted interactive formats—polls, live Q&As, and quizzes—and explored co-branded campaigns featuring shareable infographics and curated research highlights. This has successfully expanded our views, interactions, and followers.

Through our current strategy, WPF expanded its reach and engagement. In the past year, WPF’s LinkedIn profile gained over 800 followers and had more than 58,000 impressions. On Facebook, our content had over 18,000 views and reached over 6,600 followers. While WPF is still investing in the growth of its Instagram page, over the last 90 days, WPF’s Instagram had almost 14,000 views (80% were non-followers) and reached over 4,200 accounts. Our partnership posts with the Transformational Prison Project received significant engagement, each surpassing 1,000 views and totaling almost 5,000 views together. BlueSky, unfortunately, does not provide analytics, but prior to closing our X account, our content around African peace and politics, especially around Ethiopia, was very salient, with some of our posts reaching over 10,000 users on X.

Stay Connected

In February 2025, we launched the WPF Newsletter, beginning with **122** subscribers. By June, the number of subscribers totaled **262** and we continue to grow this audience.



Instagram

almost
14,000
views

&

reached over
4,200
accounts

LinkedIn

gained over
800
followers

&

more than
58,000
impressions

Facebook

over
18,000
views

&

reached over
6,600
followers

Funding & Administration



WPF's operating revenue comes primarily from the Ginn Endowment and our own investments, grants with a very small amount from publication royalties.

Our funding partners for **FY2025** include:

The **Carnegie Corporation of New York** has supported our work on the **Arms Trade and Militarism** with three rounds of funding. The project "**Revitalizing the Debate on the Arms Trade**," ended October 2024, and new round of funding from Carnegie began January 2025. This project includes a partnership with Cote d'Azur University and work on Mass Starvations through the Famine Voices and Sexual and Gender Based Violence projects, and support for the podcast.

Tufts University's **Tisch College Community Research Center** awarded a one-year grant of **\$10,000** to support a collaboration with the Transformational Prison Project on the **impact of re-entry programming**. This grant concluded June 30, 2025.

Our collaborative program with Colby College on the **criminalization of care** is largely funded through a **National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)** grant administered by Colby College. The original grant was for \$187,383.00 over two years.

UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) (through University of Edinburgh and London School of Economics) funded the multi-year project with the **Peace and Conflict Research and Evidence Programme (PeaceRep)**, based at Edinburgh University. PeaceREP concluded on schedule in March 2025.



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