

OVERVIEW



From April 27-29, 2014, the Peace and Security Funders Group (PSFG) held its annual conference in Chicago with over 60 current and prospective PSFG members from 34 grantmaking institutions attending. The conference is an opportunity for PSFG members and prospective members to network; engage in strategic conversations with leaders in the field of peace and security; and develop their grantmaking skills. Highlights included:

- Keynote addresses by Senator Dick Durbin and Ambassador Ivo Daalder;
- Four interactive panels, highlighting best practices from successful policy campaigns; how to engage new allies in peace and security work; the good/bad/ugly role of funders in conflict; and tips on working with “Next Gen” funders;
- Meetings of our four Working Groups: Women, Peace & Security; Nuclear Funders; Conflict & Atrocities Prevention; Military Spending;
- Networking opportunities, including a welcome dinner; a “speed networking” session; and a reception hosted by PSFG member the MacArthur Foundation; and
- Three skills-building workshops: strategic communications, managing board relations, and foundation advocacy.

PSFG 2.0



Following a [video](#) on its past, PSFG’s new Executive Director Alexandra Toma gave a [presentation](#) on the future of PSFG. Alex hopes to increase PSFG’s impact along three themes: (1) by building PSFG’s capacity – both as an organization and that of its members, (2) by strengthening PSFG’s public voice and brand, and (3) by expanding PSFG’s base and membership. “PSFG 2.0” was written about in a recent *Inside Philanthropy* [article](#). Finally, Alex shared organizational goals for 2014-2015 year (see below) and called upon members to help PSFG meet these goals by sharing their grantmaking success stories and acting as ambassadors for PSFG; by encouraging other funders to join PSFG; and by paying dues. Members also received a copy of PSFG’s new strategic plan, which further articulates how PSFG will achieve its mission; if you’d like a copy, please contact [Alex](#).

Past to Future: PSFG by the Numbers

55 members	→	65 members
51% dues-paying members	→	100% dues-paying members
1 full-time staff	→	2.5 full-time staff
FY13 Budget: \$246,209	→	Proposed Budget, FY14: \$373,044
1 Working Group	→	4 Working Groups

KEYNOTES

Senator Richard J. Durbin (Illinois)

In his opening remarks, Senator Durbin emphasized the need for the increased use of diplomacy and development to promote peace and security. Citing the disparity between the Pentagon and USAID budgets, Sen. Durbin called for continued investment in “smart security solutions,” or development assistance programs, as mechanisms for conflict prevention. He also discussed the implications of the global water crisis on both global health and international peace and security, stressing the importance of leveraging public and private funding to invest in access to clean water. Finally, Sen. Durbin called on foundations to share their success stories with Congress and the American people, and to continue to work towards smart and sustained diplomacy and development.



Ambassador Ivo Daalder

Ambassador Ivo Daalder, President of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, discussed the top three peace and security issues keeping him up at night. These included Pakistan, the Arctic, and the return of geopolitics. Ambassador Daalder encouraged the PSFG community to help policymakers go beyond the short-term “Inbox” and think through longer-term peace and security challenges.

“We need to work together to create a broad alliance for development assistance, conflict resolution, and human rights efforts.”

- Senator Dick Durbin

PLENARY PANELS

Lessons Learned from Successful Policy Campaigns



Kelly Bronk, Ploughshares Fund

Michael Ostrolenk, Global Integral Solutions

Michael Poffenberger, Resolve LRA Crisis Initiative

Conrad Martin, Stewart R. Mott Foundation

Moderated by: Dini Merz, Colombe Foundation

Successful advocacy campaigns build on existing networks, bring together diverse constituencies from the start, and include a power analysis, a mapping, and a targeted media strategy. Funders can play an important role in supporting policy campaigns by providing core support, connecting grantees to one another and their

networks, and advising on strategy; however, panelists cautioned that funders should be cognizant of power dynamics. Mr. Poffenberger identified the importance of a competitive media strategy to draw adequate attention to issues by first appealing to emotions through storytelling before moving to a call to action. Mr. Ostrolenk identified the importance of finding a bottom line for agreement when working across party and ideological lines, while Ms. Bronk reflected on the role foundations can play as the connective tissue linking grantees together and focusing their work on three pillars: (1) policy and analysis, (2) media and messaging, and (3) advocacy. Finally, Mr. Martin emphasized the importance of understanding the issue and what is needed to resolve it, and the importance of supporting authentic, bottom-up campaigns

“There are no real enemies, only future allies.

- Michael Ostrolenk

Unlikely Allies – Collaborating Around Shared Goals: Evangelical Christians



Lynne Hybels, Willow Creek Community Church
Shannon Sedgwick Davis, Bridgeway Foundation
Deborah Fikes, World Evangelical Alliance
Moderated by Alexandra Toma, PSFG

The panelists discussed their experiences tackling controversial issues within their communities and how they are overcoming these challenges. They suggested that there is great potential for the evangelical Christian community to become a player in funding and engaging in peacebuilding and peacemaking. A generational shift within this community is opening up a space for new

engagement: the younger generation is exposed to a plurality of voices through social media and is more interested in engaging in social issues. Additionally, increased emphasis in evangelical churches on the role of Jesus as peacemaker has opened up a space for evangelicals to engage in peacebuilding. While evangelicals have not traditionally engaged in “peace work,” there is potential to leverage the strong culture of philanthropy within the evangelical community towards peace and security work. Finally, the panelists noted the importance of having individuals who understand or come from the faith community working to engage evangelicals on these issues.

“We’re not unlikely allies, we’re just unfamiliar.”
- Paul Carroll, Ploughshares Fund

MEMBER-ORGANIZED SESSIONS

Understanding and Engaging Next Generation Philanthropists



Shoshana Buchholz-Miller, Arabella Advisors
Sharmila Rao Thakkar, The Siragusa Foundation
Michael Moody, Johnson Center, Grand Valley State University
Moderated by Michael Kleinman, Humanity United

A 2013 [study](#) found that a relatively small group of Gen Xers and Millennials are inheriting over \$40 trillion in wealth, much of it designated for charitable giving. In this session, panelists discussed how this group, known as “NextGen” funders, differs from their predecessors and what this means for those looking

to engage them. The panelists describe how NextGen funders are interested in demonstrating impact quantitatively, building buy-in amongst their peers, and generating innovation in NGO partner organizations. In addition to giving their financial resources to organizations, NextGen funders want to be involved in the work they support. Some ideas for engaging NextGen funders included cultivating their leadership through mentorship programs, reserving spots for them on learning trips, and developing NextGen programs within affinity group. One way to engage NextGen funders in peace and security work is by drawing attention to the way conflict disrupts education and basic needs, two areas where NextGen funders have demonstrated a lot of interest.

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: The Role of Funders in Conflict



Clare Lockhart, Institute for State Effectiveness
Bridget Moix, Peace Direct
Gary Slutkin, Cure Violence
Andrew Hyde, State Department
Moderated by Evelyn Thornton, Institute for Inclusive Security

Drawing on diverse experiences ranging from applying a public health approach to reducing interpersonal violence to funding local

peacebuilding in Somalia, the panelists identified the need for funders to think more intentionally on how to build sustainable peace by supporting long-term peacebuilding work. Funders need to be smarter about supporting alternative peace processes that engage and support constituencies for peace, rather than focusing on “spoilers” to the peace process. Overall, panelists emphasized the need to support work that is locally driven, led, owned, and implemented while cautioning that it is important that the local constituents be proponents of peace so as not to strengthen the “thugs.” Funders should work with local partners to understand how they can best support and amplify the work of local organizations. Finally, panelists noted the need for greater collaboration amongst funders to more efficiently mobilize resources and maximize impact.

WORKING GROUPS

For more detailed information about discussions or to join a working group, please contact PSFG Executive Director [Alex Toma](#) or PSFG Program Associate [Rachel LaForgia](#).

Women, Peace and Security

Chairs: Evelyn Thompson and Cynda Collins Arsenault

- Members engaged in information-sharing
- Discussed 2014 work plan and website
- Brainstormed types of information to share

Nuclear Funders

Chairs: Carl Robichaud and Paul Carroll

- Discussed funding for upcoming year, existing work, and new areas of work
- Upcoming call

Conflict and Atrocities Prevention

Chairs: Ariadne Papagapitos and Michael Kleinman

- Attendees discussed and gave feedback on draft workplan and scope of work
- Next meeting will be at IHRFG New York conference in July

Military Spending

Chairs: Dini Merz and Conrad Martin

- Shared information on work
- Discussed potential members



PARTICIPATING MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

American Jewish World Service ♦ Carnegie Corporation of New York ♦ Catalyst for Peace
Chino Cienega Foundation ♦ Colombe Foundation ♦ Cordaid ♦ El-Hibri Foundation ♦ GHR Foundation
♦ Global Peace Building Foundation ♦ Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation
♦ Heinrich Boell Foundation North America ♦ Humanity United ♦ Institute for Inclusive Security
♦ International Human Rights Funders Group ♦ Jubitz Family Foundation
♦ John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation ♦ Ploughshares Fund
♦ Robert R. McCormick Foundation ♦ Rockefeller Brothers Fund ♦ Samuel Rubin Foundation
♦ Secure World Foundation ♦ Skoll Global Threats Fund ♦ Steiner King Foundation
♦ Stewart R. Mott Foundation ♦ TerraFocus ♦ Alan B. Slifka Foundation
♦ Charitable Foundation/Institute for Economics and Peace ♦ The Cloverleaf Foundation
♦ The Nexus Fund ♦ The Stanley Foundation ♦ TrustAfrica ♦ United States Institute of Peace
♦ Urgent Action Fund ♦ Wellspring Advisors



The **Peace and Security Funders Group** is a network of public, private and family foundations, and individual philanthropists who make grants or expenditures that contribute to peace and global security. Our mission is to enhance the effectiveness of peace and security philanthropy.