



2016 Annual Meeting Report
Peace & Security in the Current Global Context
April 26-28, 2016
Portland, Oregon

OVERVIEW

The Peace and Security Funders Group (PSFG) held its 2016 Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon, with over 70 current and prospective PSFG members attending. The meeting provided a space for funders to network, think creatively about grantmaking strategies, and address the deeper and more complex peace and security issues that inform their work. The full meeting agenda is available [here](#). Highlights included:

- Three workshops, nine member-led “power hours,” two plenaries, and three roundtables on issues as diverse as impact investing, developing leaders, funding in entrenched conflicts, crafting one’s elevator pitch, and collaborative grantmaking;
- An Oxford-style debate on the use of military intervention for the sake of peace;
- Meetings of four of PSFG’s working groups: Women, Peace and Security; Nuclear; Locally-led Peacebuilding; and Conflict and Atrocities Prevention;
- Networking opportunities, including an opening dinner, speed networking, a dinner hackathon centered around three themes (fear, trust, and peace), and a pre-meeting trip to the Columbia River Gorge and post-meeting walking tour of Portland; and
- A presentation of PSFG’s long anticipated [Peace and Security Funding Index](#).

PSFG BY THE NUMBERS

Since our last annual meeting (May 2015), PSFG has grown!
 56 members → **63** members
 97% membership support → **100%** membership support
 2.5 full-time staff → **3 full-time staff**

SETTING THE STAGE – PEACE AND SECURITY IN A CHANGING WORLD ORDER

[Erica Chenoweth](#) (Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver) kicked off the meeting by framing the current state of peace and security. As a result of increased globalization, we are more connected than ever. At the same time, the competing trends of rising nonviolent civil resistance and resurgent authoritarianism mean that established orthodoxies about how the world works are up for grabs. Her remarks provided a framework for the next two days of meetings. [Hillary Wiesner](#) of the Carnegie Corporation of New York (and a PSFG Steering Committee member) moderated this dinner dialogue.

PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE CURRENT GLOBAL CONTEXT

PSFG Executive Director Alexandra Toma kicked off the meeting by sharing her personal story about her path to peace and security work. Participants then spent two minutes each sharing with a partner about what brought them to peace and security. Finally, PSFG Steering Committee co-chair Ariadne Papagapitos (Rockefeller Brothers Fund) welcomed new PSFG's nine new members and recapped the opening dinner.

PLENARY SESSION: THE 2016 PEACE & SECURITY FUNDING INDEX

Led by the Foundation Center's [Anna Koob](#) and PSFG's [Rachel LaForgia](#), this session gave participants a deep dive into the recently-launched [Peace and Security Funding Index](#). The session focused on how the Index will help PSFG work towards its [objectives](#), how PSFG members can use the Index, its [key findings](#), and how members can ensure their data is accurately represented in future indices.

Key Takeways

- Funders can improve next year's Index by including more information on the purpose, location, and strategy of a grant in the grant description and by directly submitting all of their grants data to the Foundation Center.
- Funders can use the Index to find new funding partners, direct grantees to potential funders, identify funding gaps, and understand how their grantmaking fits into the peace and security landscape.

CONCURRENT ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

SHAKING UP PHILANTHROPY: CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPACT

[John DeBlasio](#), GPD Charitable Trust

[Sayer Jones](#), Meyer Memorial Trust

[Mildred Callear](#), Overseas Private Investment Corporation

[David Callahan](#), *Inside Philanthropy* (moderator)

This panel exposed participants to different types of investments, such as impact investing and partnerships with government banks, as well as opportunities and challenges in the divest/invest space.

Key Takeaways

- Impact investment approaches through loans and private sector investing boosts economic development that supports conflict prevention and reconstruction.
- Investing in socially net-positive, for-profit entities in conflict areas using program or endowment funds is possible and can be beneficial to both funders and beneficiaries.
- Funders should familiarize themselves with their organization's investment charter to know what is permissible regarding grantmaking alternatives.

For a deeper dive into these themes, contact the speakers directly or PSFG's Merry Stricker.

BUILDING TOMORROW'S LEADERS TODAY: SUPPORTING LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

[Dahnesh Medora](#), Meyer Memorial Trust

[Deborah Meehan](#), Leadership Learning Community

[Amy Bisno](#), American Jewish World Service (moderator)

This session employed a fishbowl structure to engage all participants in a rich, dynamic discussion on how to best support leadership within grantee organizations.

Key Takeaways

- In order to address structures and systems, funders must support leadership development on the individual, organizational, and network levels.
- Leadership development must be incorporated into funders' long-term strategies, particularly when working in historically marginalized communities.
- Funders should take care not to isolate leaders; they must ask leaders to identify and engage their support networks in order to avoid burnout.

For a deeper dive into these themes, contact the speakers directly or PSFG's Rachel LaForgia.

CONCURRENT MEMBER-LED WORKSHOPS

RAPID-RESPONSE GRANTMAKING MECHANISMS

[Mary Stata](#), Humanity United

[Caitlin Stanton](#), Urgent Action Fund

This workshop focused on various rapid-response (RR) funding mechanisms and the circumstances under which they are most effective.

Key Takeaways

- RR mechanisms vary widely, from "cohort style" grantmaking in a finite time period to quick emergency grants turned around within 24 to 48 hours. Monitoring and evaluation and proposal requirements also vary, but overall, need to be less laborious for grantees.
- More avenues for sharing the "nuts and bolts" of RR grantmaking within the PSFG community would be useful for members who want to build a case for RR grantmaking within their organizations.
- RR grants should not replace general support grants but can be effectively used as stopgap measures for unexpected events, such as threats of or responding to early-warning signs of conflict and atrocities.

For a deeper dive into these themes, contact Mary, Caitlin, or PSFG's Alex Toma.

INTERNATIONAL PEACEBUILDING AND EXTREMISM-RELATED ISSUES

[Andreas Hipple](#), GHR Foundation

[Lynn Kunkle](#), El-Hibri Foundation

[Alison Peters](#), The Institute for Inclusive Security

[Steve Riskin](#), U.S. Institute of Peace

[Hillary Wiesner](#), Carnegie Corporation of New York

This workshop highlighted PSFG members' work on so-called countering violent extremism ("CVE") and "CVE"-related issues. It also engaged participants in a discussion on whether the "CVE" frame is one funders want to maintain as they begin or continue grantmaking in this space.

Key Takeaways

- PSFG members are funding a number of "CVE" initiatives, including engaging female civil society leaders, research on community resilience and resistance against violent narratives, and building the capacity of Muslim religious and community leaders in the U.S. and internationally.
- The "CVE" frame/approach is not sufficient to address the root drivers of radicalization.
- To a large extent, grantees and government actors have embraced the "CVE" frame, presenting a challenge for peace and security funders that must be addressed.

For a deeper dive into this issue, contact the PSFG members above or PSFG's Merry Stricker.

COLLABORATIVE ACTION FOR COLLECTIVE POLICY IMPACT

[Ellen Friedman](#), Compton Foundation

[Paul Carroll](#), Ploughshares Fund

[Andreas Hipple](#), GHR Foundation

[Ariadne Papagapitos](#), Rockefeller Brothers Fund

[Michelle Dover](#), Ploughshares Fund (moderator)

[Theo Kalionzes](#), MacArthur Foundation (moderator)

This interactive session featured a number of PSFG members discussing diverse grantmaking partnerships with a focus on lessons learned.

Key Takeaways

- Collaborative efforts need concrete objectives with motivated partners; common purposes should develop organically and it's crucial to provide space for frank discussions.
- Foundations can act as hubs for collective action, but for these to be successful, it's important to have agreement on structure/goals/leads. Also, coalitions must have an agreed upon "change model" and "power analysis" before proceeding.
- Expectations and roles should be set early on, with all partners providing a clear sense of resource availability. Care should be taken to avoid competition between grantees. Space should be provided for implementation by both the collective and the individual.

For a deeper dive into this issue, contact the PSFG members above or PSFG's Alex Toma.

DEBATE: MILITARY INTERVENTION FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE AND SECURITY

[Patrick Hiller](#), War Prevention Initiative, Jubitz Family Foundation

[Bridget Moix](#), Peace Direct

[Carl Robichaud](#), Carnegie Corporation of New York

[Jennifer Smyser](#), Stanley Foundation

[Alexandra Toma](#), PSFG (moderator)

In order to shake things up and to bring out the complexity of issues in the peace and security field, PSFG tapped four of its members to play-act form “pro” and “con” debate teams in order to debate this statement: “Military intervention should *never* be used for the sake of peace and security.” The debaters used historical examples, current day foreign policy analysis, and moral arguments to make their cases. The audience was polled before and after this Oxford-style debate and asked if they agreed with the debate statement. The debaters’ arguments changed the audience’s mind: initially, only 21% of participants agreed with the statement; after the session closed, 34% agreed.

PLENARY: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? U.S. LEADERSHIP IN 2016 AND BEYOND

[Neal Keny-Guyer](#), Mercy Corps

[Jensine Larson](#), World Pulse

[Peter W. Singer](#), New America

[Evelyn Thornton](#), Institute for Inclusive Security, Hunt Alternatives Fund and PSFG Steering Committee member (moderator)

In a series of fast-paced lightning talks, three great thought-leaders shared their opinions on what is needed most urgently from peace and security funders:

- Peter Singer posited that technology, cyberspace and great power conflict will demand increased and focused attention by the next four presidents – and by funders.
- Jensine Larson argued that a “Global Digital Women’s Mobilization Fund” could advance and increase impact by activating and strengthening female community leaders who are working to overturn violence from the inside out.
- Neal Keny-Guyer suggested that the world’s major challenge – particularly in relation to the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals – is that success depends on progress in fragile states and building better governance is at the heart of this.