Call for Proposals

PeaceCon 2020

Pandemics, Peace, and Justice:
Shaping What Comes Next
December 7 - 9
In partnership with the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), the Alliance for Peacebuilding is proud to announce the theme for PeaceCon 2020, Pandemics, Peace and Justice: Shaping What Comes Next, taking place virtually, December 7-9. In the midst of a global pandemic, rising global violence, and a national and worldwide reckoning over systemic injustice and racism, PeaceCon 2020 will bring together experts and practitioners to consider the interplay of justice and peacebuilding, and strategies to elevate and integrate peacebuilding in our collective effort to shape a more just, secure and peaceful future in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The world was experiencing a 30-year high in violence and violent conflict before the pandemic, with 1.5 billion people living under the threat of violence in more than 50 global conflict zones and nearly 80 million forcibly displaced – the highest number in modern history. COVID-19 has exacerbated these trends, as the pandemic upends societies and economies, fuels polarization and competition for resources, and escalates citizen mistrust, government repression, and violent extremism. At the same time, the pandemic has disproportionately affected communities of color and marginalized communities domestically and exacerbated structural inequalities inherent in the international system. The twin disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic and global call for racial equality offers a unique moment to rethink and reinvigorate efforts – such as Sustainable Development Goal 16 – to put peace and justice at the center of international policy and practice.

PeaceCon 2020 will explore the intersection of justice and peacebuilding, and consider how the peacebuilding field can forge creative solutions to global challenges of building more equitable, just, and peaceful societies during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Sessions will go beyond exploring the problem to challenge participants, put forward differing points of view, and distill learning outcomes into pragmatic solutions.

For more than 10 years, PeaceCon has provided a dynamic platform for peacebuilders to engage the global affairs community. The conference brings together policymakers, donors, NGO and private sector, academics and professionals from a range of related disciplines, such as human rights, democracy and governance, development, and environmental protection to share achievements and insights and catalyze partnerships. With the move to an entirely virtual format in 2020, PeaceCon aims to attract an even more diverse set of voices, expertise, and ideas from across the world.
Format:

Recognizing the challenges to international travel and large group gatherings this year, PeaceCon 2020 will take place entirely online, from December 7-9, 2020. Peacebuilders from across the world will be invited to share their ideas for interactive sessions, workshops, or other creative online formats, with an emphasis on moving beyond the traditional format of long panel presentations followed by brief audience question-and-answers. We seek submissions for interactive panels, ignite talks, workshops, and networking sessions with diverse institutional affiliations and speaker backgrounds. Online sessions will be designed to stimulate discussion and audience participation, with opportunities for engagement in the weeks leading up to PeaceCon and in the year to follow.

Before submitting a proposal, please take note of the following:

- All proposals will be submitted through an online form. A link to the form can be found at the end of this document. Please carefully read the guidelines and instructions below before submitting your proposal.
- In an effort to promote collaboration and diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), all proposals will require more than one organization represented, should offer diverse perspectives, and must be gender inclusive.
- Proposals that focus on highlighting a single program or product will also not be accepted for formal panels, storytelling, lightning talks or workshops.
  - With the exception of ignite talks, which may be pre-recorded, standalone proposals from individuals or entities will not be accepted.

Proposal Submission Guidelines

Selecting a General Area and Sub-topics:

When submitting a proposal, you must select one of the three, bolded general areas listed below and then highlight which sub-topics the session will cover under that general area. To keep sessions focused on a primary issue, each proposal may only cover one general area. We understand that your proposal may link more than one sub-topic and encourage you to discuss cross-cutting issues in your proposal description if applicable. Please note that the listing of the subtopics below does not guarantee its inclusion in the final PeaceCon 2020 program.

- **Shaping the World**
  - Peacebuilders in Pandemic Response
  - Post-Pandemic Recovery
  - Geopolitical Shifts in the Post-COVID World
  - Violent Extremism
  - Non-Violent Action and Peacebuilding
  - Justice and Security Sector Reform
  - Climate Strategy for Fragile States

- **Shaping the Field**
  - Locally-led Peacebuilding
  - Interreligious Peacebuilding
  - Women, Peace, and Security
  - Youth, Peace, and Security
  - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)
  - Digital Peacebuilding
  - Learning & Evaluation Innovation
• **Shaping Our Communities and Ourselves**
  - U.S. Peacebuilding (AfP only, not in coordination with USIP)
  - Anti-Racism
  - Populism and Polarization
  - Mental Health and Trauma Healing
  - Resilience and Self Care for Peacebuilders

**Deciding Your Session Format and Structure**

We encourage the development of participatory and interactive sessions. Below are sample structures and formats that should serve as guiding examples. Please note that these are only examples. AfP will consider the use of other formats not listed and encourages creativity and innovation. **All proposed sessions should not exceed 1.5 hours in length.**

**Formal Presentation** - Sample formats include:

- **Facilitated Panel Discussion** - Moderated discussion by no more than four panelists and one moderator.
- **Storytelling** – Speakers tell their stories to help illustrate the overarching themes related to the conference. This session works best with 4 – 5 speakers each having around 15 minutes to tell their story.
- **Lightning Talks** – Lightning talks typically have a group of speakers that are allotted no more than 10 minutes to make each of their presentations. This session format ideally yields several informative presentations through encouraging presenters to be as concise as possible with their time constraints.
- **Ignite Presentations** - Ignite presentations are similar to lightning talks but use a PowerPoint presentation style with slides changing every 15 – 25 seconds. This format makes use of excellent visual presentations to support a very clear and articulated message.

**Workshop** - Workshops are typically interactive sessions that involve group-wide activities that can accommodate 20 – 40 individuals. Below are some sample formats:

- **Problem Solving Session** - Speakers pose a problem and lead attendees through an exercise to develop solutions.
- **Campfire Session** – A group of facilitators first start with a brief presentation, but then shift the attention to the audience allowing for a facilitated discussion.
Example Session I

Session Title:
Disengagement and Reintegration of Ex-combatants: Reframing the Approach to Facilitate Local Ownership

General Area Selected:
- Shaping the World

Topics Chosen:
- Violent Extremism

Session Format:
- Facilitated Panel Discussion

Example Session II

Session Title:
Raising the Bar – Meaningful Gender Inclusion in Peacebuilding

General Area Selected:
- Shaping the Field

Topics Chosen:
- Women, Peace, and Security
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Youth, Peace, and Security

Session Format:
- Ignite Presentation
Know Before You Submit

Speaker Selection:

We encourage presenters to represent a variety of perspectives and backgrounds, including non-US voices, local peacebuilders, and having gender balance. AfP recommends reaching out to potential speakers before you submit your proposal to ensure they will be available. Accepted proposals will have no more than 5 speakers, including the moderator.

In order to ensure the greatest chances for success, we encourage those interested in submitting proposals to carefully review our guidelines. In addition, those interested should note the following:

- Proposals can be assigned for any time between 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Eastern Standard Time between December 7 – 9, with a possibility for scheduling outside this window for presenters based outside the United States. Please do not submit a proposal if there is inflexibility in the time that it can take place, but also let us know if you have a general time preference, as we will do our best to accommodate these preferences.
  - While a virtual conference is not limited by time zone constraints, PeaceCon is limited to a small team of less than 10 individuals all located along the East Coast and therefore cannot commit to streaming across all time zones.
- Please ensure proposals are detailed and substantive.
- Due to the high volume of submissions and limited number of sessions, not all proposals will be accepted for the conference. In reviewing proposals, we may recommend that applicants with similar topics present together to produce a more dynamic session and diverse range of perspectives.

Responsibilities:

Organizers with accepted proposals are required to:

- Provide the contact information of all their speakers to AfP.
- Develop their session, and meet all AfP deadlines. An AfP staff member will be assigned to provide guidance assistance. However, the applicant is responsible for all session development including:
  1. Confirming all speakers and ensuring biographic, social media handles, and photo information are submitted promptly.
  2. Submitting information to promote their session on social media and pre-event promotion.
  3. Coordinating session materials, to include a coordination call in advance, and PowerPoints by necessary deadlines.
  4. Learning the online technical platform for PeaceCon 2020 in advance, for which guidance will be provided by AfP.
  5. Ensuring each panelist is equipped with the tools necessary to participate in a virtual session, i.e. a computer or mobile device, internet connection, etc.

Submitting a Proposal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference Date:</th>
<th>December 7 – 9, 2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Online</td>
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<tr>
<td>Who Can Submit a Proposal:</td>
<td>Any interested parties, but preference will be given to AfP members</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for Submission:</td>
<td>September 13, 2020</td>
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All proposals must be submitted online via the link below. Early submissions are encouraged.

Click Here to Submit Your Proposal Online

When submitting your proposal, you will be asked:

- For your contact information
- Conference areas and themes covered
- Speakers on your session
- A detailed description of your session
- How your session will be solutions oriented and practical
- Background and experience you and your session organizers have in relation to the topic

Please submit questions to Stephanie Budaker, Manager for Membership and Operations, at Stephanie@allianceforpeacebuilding.org.