



## The Great Need for Peacebuilding Investment

A great need exists in our country and world for a comprehensive and coordinated approach to preventing and resolving violent conflict. From the growing rate of domestic incarceration to increasing problems of international conflict, the United States faces great challenges around the issue of violence in our homes, communities and world. This May, in honor of Mother's Day, citizens across the nation are bringing pies to their Congressional offices to talk about the need for greater investment in peacebuilding, and to let their leaders know that "Peace Wants a Piece of the Pie!"

We urge you to read the U.S. Peace Index to learn more about the economic benefits of peacebuilding. Legislation to establish a cabinet-level **Department of Peacebuilding** is currently before the House of Representatives (HR 1111). We encourage you to learn about these and other peace issues, which will augment our current problem-solving options, providing practical, nonviolent solutions to the problems of domestic and international conflict.

While current policy-making tends toward reactive rather than proactive approaches to violence reduction, these pieces of legislation will create institutional platforms for the burgeoning science and practice of peacebuilding. They support the United States in being as effective at addressing the sources of violence as we are at addressing its symptoms.

For more information on the legislation and our campaign, please visit  
**The Peace Alliance** website at [www.ThePeaceAlliance.org](http://www.ThePeaceAlliance.org)

Source: "A New Era of Responsibility: Restoring America's Promise" (budget of the United States government, issued by the White House Office of Management and Budget), Table S-7. Funding Levels for Appropriated ("Discretionary") Programs by Agency, year 2010 request. Excludes mandatory outlays (e.g., Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Interest on debt), which typically represent about half of the total federal budget. Dept. of Defense includes Funding for Overseas Contingency Operations Proposed (\$130B). "Other" includes Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Energy, Interior and Treasury, and the major agencies (Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, General Services Administration, NASA, National Science Foundation, Small Business Administration, Social Security Administration, Corporation for National and Community Service and National Infrastructure Bank) and other agencies unnamed.