



The Peace Alliance

2015 Annual Report



The Peace Alliance
Educational Institute

*“Peace is not passive,
it requires active
engagement.”*

-- Diane Randall of the
Friends Committee on
National Legislation



*During our 2015
National Conference in
Washington, DC, we
Visited over 100
Congressional Offices to
Promote Peacebuilding.*

2015 witnessed the launch of our **“Be the Movement!”** initiative based on the Five Cornerstones: **Empowering Community Peacebuilding; Humanizing Justice Systems; Fostering International Peacebuilding; Cultivating Personal Peace; and Teaching Peace in Schools**

Our **Be The Movement** campaign is inspiring and empowering people to take a meaningful step for peace, and helping us grow a movement of a million strong. Together, we will create the critical mass necessary for peacebuilding to be our societal norm. We can make it happen! Visit www.peacealliance.org and view our new video “Peacebuilding: Our Next Frontier.”



L-R: Congressman Scott (D-VA), Heart Phoenix, and Judy Kimmel (TPA Board Chairs)

Our **National Conference**, held in Washington, DC October 15-20, 2015 culminated in a two-day effort on Capitol Hill that generated 100 Congressional Office visits and over 7,000 additional emails and calls to

elected officials from constituents concerning the **Youth PROMISE Act** and **Genocide and Atrocity Prevention Act**. Our conference featured expert panelists and esteemed moderators, including: UN Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury; Heart Phoenix and Jeffrey Weinberg of the River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding; U.S. Rep. Bobby Scott; Diane Randall of the Friends Committee on National Legislation; Lena Slachmuis from the Search for Common Ground; Phil Donahue; and many others. One of the highlights of the conference was our expression of gratitude to **Congressman Bobby Scott** with **The Peace Alliance’s Congressional Peacebuilder Award** for his tremendous work on The Youth PROMISE Act (YPA). To quote Representative Scott, “in the words of Ghandi, we are all focused on **being the change that we wish to see in the world.**”

With the help of our **Restorative Justice Fellow, Molly Rowan Leach**, The Peace

Alliance is leading the way, partnering with the **National Alliance of Community and Restorative Justice** to offer a series of panels and courses to address challenges in schools and successful approaches taken by some of the most underserved school communities to cultivate emotional intelligence, and nonviolent communication skills in the school curriculum.

*“We cannot always build a future for
our youth, but we can build our youth
for the future.” – FDR*



Restorative Justice in Action

Longmont, CO is a community of almost 90,000 where youth recidivism has dropped below 8% due to implementing Restorative Justice (RJ) processes that unite RJ practitioners, resource officers, schools, and the Police Department in a web of responsiveness that has shown verifiable results.



Our **Student Peace Alliance (SPA)**, led by Sally Kaplan, continues to grow by leaps and bounds, adopting an approach of going beyond campus chapters to accommodate a diversity of millennial preferences, including structured small and large group activities and opportunities for individuals to take action on behalf of peacebuilding and cooperation. SPA works with college advocates from Princeton, NYU, Harvard, University of Tennessee, George Washington University, and Puget Sound, among others.



The SPA works for the passage of the **Youth PROMISE Act**, aimed at reducing youth incarceration, and ending the school to prison pipeline. This bill would fund evidence-based mentoring and restorative justice programs in schools, and more. The SPA also advocates for **Abolish the Box**, eliminating the up-front requirement that students applying for college admission and financial aid must check if they have had any prior discipline or legal problems. This automatically puts them at a distinct disadvantage before their entire record of achievement is considered.

Legislative Update

Major Legislation Supported by The Peace Alliance in 2015 includes the **Youth PROMISE Act**, meaningful parts of which were passed by the House of Representatives on 12/3/2015. It is now in the Senate as (S1177) the **Every Student Succeeds Act**; the **Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act**, which provides important prevention and intervention alternatives for challenged youth; the **Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act**; and our efforts to support a **U.S. Department of Peacebuilding** continue as we support funding for key peacebuilding priorities such as the Conflict Stabilization Operations Bureau and Complex Crises Fund, which provide critical peacebuilding support in hotspots around the world. We were also pleased that the Iran Nuclear Deal on which we all worked passed in Congress.



The Peace Alliance

No country incarcerates a higher percentage of its population than the United States. Our current model of juvenile incarceration, costing states between \$50,000 and \$200,000 to lock up a single youth for one year, is costly and has not succeeded at preventing crime. The nonpartisan Washington State Institute for Public Policy found that for every dollar spent on county juvenile detention systems, \$1.98 of “benefits” was achieved in terms of reduced crime and costs of crime to taxpayers. By contrast, diversion and mentoring programs produced **\$3.36 of benefits**, aggression replacement training produced **\$10 of benefits**, and multi-systemic therapy produced **\$13 of benefits for every dollar spent**. Moreover, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency found that a program very similar to the **YPA** implemented in Pennsylvania **saved \$5 for every \$1 invested in prevention**. Preventative programs offer a tremendous return on investment, both in terms of budgets and more importantly, in terms of lives.

The Peace Alliance Bottom Line

Prevention, Intervention, and Education Cost a Lot Less and Work Better.



We’ve ramped up our advocacy and education capacity exponentially by enlarging our network, affiliations, and reputation. Our network of activists is 60,000 strong and growing, and represents Movers & Shakers in communities across the country—particularly through our **Action Teams**. These heroes take consistent action to reach elected officials, policy makers, the media, and the general public to advocate for peacebuilding. **National Field Director, Dan Kahn** visited dozens of cities this year on our **National Action Team Tour** recruiting, training, and inspiring multitudes of peacebuilding advocates. Thanks to all of you, we generated over **60,000 messages and phone calls to Members of Congress and the President** urging support of peacebuilding policies and legislation.



Follow us @PeaceAlliance

We've expanded our partnerships and affiliations with organizations such as Alliance for Peacebuilding, Friends Committee on National Legislation, ACLU, UN Foundation, Search for Common Ground, STAND, Humanity United, Kalliopeia and LUSH Cosmetics Foundations, Ploughshares, and many others, on our way to **creating a peacebuilding movement of a million strong.**

Thanks to the tremendous work of our **Communications Director, Matthew Albracht**, our message is getting out there! Through email, our Website (over 400,000 Web hits last year!) and social media alone, we are spreading the powerful message that peacebuilding offers a prescription for our times. We've been kept very busy with our communications outreach work. After the tragic Oregon Schools shootings, our article published on Huffington Post was the main blog article spotlighted on the top of HuffPost's homepage for almost two days.



We've been asked to give speeches and interviews about peacebuilding in increasing numbers. **Our President, Bob Baskin**, spoke to over 2000 high school students in San Diego for the **International Day of Peace** on September 11, 2015. At the closing Bob was presented with a proclamation from the Mayor of San



Diego for The Peace Alliance's peacebuilding work.

We also partnered with Oprah Winfrey to promote her important series, **Belief**, which highlights how humanity can come together around common values.

This past year we have also significantly ramped up our research and data mining efforts focused on capturing and highlighting the effective programs, tools and organizations working in the field of peacebuilding and violence prevention. In fact, our Website includes a comprehensive "Statistics on Violence and Peace" Webpage that is now the top Google Search listing for violence statistics on all of the Web, and is one of our site's most visited Webpages. Through our **Five Peacebuilding Cornerstones**, we have tracked down powerful data showing the efficacy of peacebuilding, as well as cutting-edge strategies and organizations that are leading the way. We continue to work hard to uncover and reveal the "Faces of Peace" who are trailblazers on the planet.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter, where we continue to post and share powerful stories, breaking news, and data on peacebuilding and what our nation and world can do to move forward. It's inspiring to see what is possible.



Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ThePeaceAlliance



The Peace Alliance

www.peacealliance.org

Looking Ahead to 2016

Using our **Be the Movement! Take a Step for Peace** initiative as the foundation, we will continue our education and advocacy around The Peace Alliance's **Five Cornerstones of Peacebuilding**.

Additionally, join us on an exciting journey as we launch our new programmatic track focused on "Direct Service, Education and Training." Key highlights of our plan include:

- Creating the first national centralized **Restorative Justice & Processes Training** for people who want to bring these practices into their communities and schools to teach peace. To begin, we will create a translatable model and hands-on pilot in a few key school districts.
- Intensifying our peacebuilding voice at the national level by offering more education and training options to our growing cohort of committed advocates.
- Offering virtual training on cultivating personal peace, including mindfulness, nonviolent parenting, reducing conflict in the workplace, and other related areas of personal peace.
- Continuing to bring together key peacebuilding stakeholders as we move toward **our goal of a million strong.**