



# DEPARTMENT OF PEACEBUILDING ACT OF 2023

## An Overview

There is a **bill in Congress calling for a cabinet-level Department of Peacebuilding (DoP)** and a Secretary of Peacebuilding to sit at the table of our government and to ensure **that peacebuilding is an ongoing and prominent national priority.**

The DoP provides for **collaboration and cooperation** of governmental entities, applicable experts, nongovernmental organization stakeholders, appropriate non-profit organizations, individuals, state, tribal and local leaders to develop, enact and promote peacebuilding efforts and programs, including consultation with those who are most impacted by related programs.

The idea of an office or department of peace(building) and proposed legislation have been part of the national dialogue since the days of George Washington. It is time to establish a Department of Peacebuilding. **It is time to build bridges, not walls.**

### **Why a Department of Peacebuilding?**

Our nation has been at war for all but 21 years of its existence. The culture of violence impacts all through hate, racism, sexism, gun violence, economic and resource disparity, mass displacement of individuals due to violence in its many forms, and other factors. Violence costs lives and money and reduces quality of life. Monies and resources now spent on violence remediation could be spent instead on healthcare, education, jobs, improved environmental conditions and more. Peace is a human right and a security issue. We know racism and other types of violence are significant drivers of violence and key obstacles to peace. We know peacebuilding can be taught. **It is time to build a sustainable culture of peace.**

### **Mission**

The DoP addresses the interconnection of all life and the intersectionality of peace, justice, equality, human rights, governments based upon rule of law, planetary survival, and peace. Its mission is to cultivate peace and peacebuilding as a strategic national policy, to reduce and prevent violence and to proactively research, develop and promote best practices and policies to achieve these goals. **It is time to address the root causes of violence and promote the root conditions of peace.**

### **Structure**

DoP legislation calls for the following offices within the Department: **1) Peace Education & Training; 2) Domestic Peacebuilding Activities; 3) International Peacebuilding Activities; 4) Technology for Peace; 5) Arms Control & Disarmament; 6) Peacebuilding Information & Research; and 7) Human Rights & Economic Rights.** It calls for an Intergovernmental Advisory Council on Peace and a Federal Interagency Committee on Peace. DoP legislation also calls for **a) a U.S. Commission on Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation** and **b) a U.S. Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans.**

### **What will a DoP do?**

- **Research and promote best practice** violence prevention & reduction tools, programs & policies
- **Consult with and advise applicable** entities and individuals on peacebuilding
- Assist with **development and dissemination of peace education curriculum**
- **Develop violence prevention and violence de-escalation training** for the general public -- in the domestic and the international arenas -- to provide tools and educate about peacebuilding skills and to promote sustainable peace, peacebuilding buy-in and peacebuilding awareness
- **Provide grant monies** relating to peace education, development of school and neighborhood programs for nonviolent conflict resolution and creating local peacebuilding initiatives, establish a Cultural Diplomacy for Peace grant program to promote diplomacy and cultural understanding between and within neighborhoods, establish an International Cultural Diplomacy for Peace program to promote diplomacy and cultural understanding between the U.S. and other nations.

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## Peace Education & Training

- **Peace education at all school levels & for the community**, both domestically & internationally
- **Peace education to include anti-harassment/ anti-bullying**, social emotional learning, mindfulness, compassion, restorative practices, dialogue/ mediation training & other conflict prevention tools
- **Peace education to include study of the U.S. civil rights movement**; human rights and liberties movements; contributions to the U.S. of its diverse ethnicities, races and religious communities; environmental stewardship; and practices that enhance peace and peacebuilding

## Domestic Peacebuilding

- Develop new policies and support existing policies to effectively **address personal and family violence** -- including prevention of suicide, domestic violence, spousal abuse, child abuse, mistreatment of the elderly & gun violence
- **Address school violence, gangs, police violence, hate crimes, economic injustice**, human trafficking, racial and ethnic violence & violence against LGBTQ+ individuals
- Provide for **public education programs and counseling strategies** to promote acceptance and respect for the diversity of all individuals in the U.S.
- Support **local community initiatives to create peace projects** that facilitate development of conflict resolution and healing of societal wounds

## International Peacebuilding

- Secretary of Peacebuilding to be a member of the **National Security Council**
- **Advise** the President, the Secretaries of Defense and State, and others with **conflict analysis and practical ways to prevent or reduce violence** before it escalates and on matters relating to national security, including protection of human rights and the prevention of, amelioration of, and de-escalation of unarmed and armed international conflict
- **Prevent or reduce violence** through eradication of human trafficking, extreme hunger, infectious diseases, poverty, genocide and dehumanization and mistreatment of individuals
- **Promote peacebuilding** through universal primary education and empowerment of girls & women
- Provide for **training and deployment** of graduates of the National Peace Academy and support creation of a multinational nonviolent peace force
- Provide **training** for administration of post-conflict reconstruction and demobilization in war-torn societies

## Arms Control & Disarmament

- **Develop nonviolent strategies** to prevent and deter testing and use of nuclear weapons, weaponized drones and assault weapons
- Address and **support** nuclear waste cleanup

## Human & Economic Rights

- Ensure that all agreements between the U.S. and other countries **incorporate the principles enunciated in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights**
- Work with other governmental bodies and nongovernmental organizations to document and make recommendations about such **human rights abuses** as genocide, torture, police brutality, caging of children and adults, slave labor, child soldiers, & human trafficking
- Analyze and make **recommendations on scarcity of human and natural resources** as a source of conflict and the **impact of violence within and among nations** as a source of human displacement, criminalization, vilification and mistreatment of those fleeing their homes

## Emphasis on Domestic Peacebuilding

The DoP bill provides that at least 85% of its budget is to be used for domestic peace programs.

**Over 200 organizations and 47 cities, counties & tribes - representing 17.7+ million people - endorse the establishment of a Department of Peacebuilding.**

**Investing in violence prevention is, on average, 60 times more cost effective than intervening after violence erupts.**

***Violence is costly. Peace is priceless.***