Halving Global Violence by 2030

The Grand Challenge on Halving Global Violence (HGV) is creating a movement to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals targets for peace. It brings together communities of practice working on different forms of violence in order to highlight interlinkages and amplify impact on the ground. It was referenced in the United Nations secretary-general’s Our Common Agenda report as an innovative, inclusive way to approach the New Agenda for Peace.¹

While most international attention concentrates on armed conflicts, evidence shows that it is interpersonal violence, especially interpersonal violence occurring in urban zones, that has the most impact on people's daily lives and has a direct effect on other sustainable development indicators. For this reason, Halving Global Violence largely focuses on interpersonal violence.

The movement is spearheaded by the high-level Halving Global Violence Task Force, a coalition of world leaders and experts committed to leveraging their knowledge, expertise, and networks to identify and disseminate evidence-based solutions to significantly reduce global violence.

It includes two initiatives that are making measurable progress towards our goal: Peace in Our Cities (PiOC): a unique global urban network of cities, and the international and locally-based partners working to reduce the most serious forms of violence in their communities, and the Gender Equality Network for Small Arms Control (GENSAC): a network of 80+ members advancing the implementation of gender-responsive small arms control.

Interpersonal violence: the numbers

- Around 80 percent of all violent deaths occur outside of conflict¹
- One in three women will experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetimes²
- 1 billion children per year experience violence³

The Grand Challenge on Halving Global Violence is part of the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, a multistakeholder partnership hosted by NYU’s Center on International Cooperation. For more information, please visit our website: sdg16.plus/peace.

¹ Small Arms Survey, Global Violent Deaths Database
² WHO
³ WHO
The Halving Global Violence Task Force

The Halving Global Violence Task Force is co-chaired by ministerial-level representatives from member states championing the HGV movement. It is also composed of members and advisors from international bodies, academia and civil society organizations.

The Task Force seeks to accomplish its goal of cutting global violence in half by focusing its efforts on reducing violence where it most often occurs and where there is greatest promise for a return of investment: outside of conflict zones. To that end, its flagship report compiling evidence-based, concrete recommendations to a wide range of stakeholders, is being released in late 2023.

HGV Task Force Co-Chairs

- Costa Rica
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Liberia
- South Africa
- Switzerland
- Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)
- African Union
Peace in Our Cities (PiOC)

More people are dying on the streets of the world's cities than in conflict zones, yet society has failed to give the problem sufficient attention. Peace in Our Cities is a diverse network driven by its members' need to address severe violence. PiOC partners with cities and organizations around the world to achieve one bold, unifying goal of halving urban violence by 2030. By utilizing its network to reduce and prevent urban violence—PiOC aims to not only preserve lives, but help cities thrive.

Peace in Our Cities is powered by the Pathfinders, the Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice at the University of San Diego, and the Stanley Center for Peace and Security.

PiOC in Action

The city of Palmira, Colombia, reduced their homicide rate by 60 percent by implementing a PiOC-supported strategy that prioritizes providing opportunities to young people in key regions of the city with high levels of violence.

Gender Equality Network for Small Arms Control (GENSAC)

The Pathfinders serves as the secretariat for GENSAC, a network composed primarily by women working in non-profits, community-based organizations, the security sector, academia, and international organizations across the Western Balkans, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Africa. GENSAC is highlighted as one of the marquee examples of feminist foreign policy in practice by the German Federal Foreign Office.

Since its inception, GENSAC has added new energy into ongoing efforts to support women's representation in small arms control debates, and to disseminate knowledge on gender-responsive small arms control. It facilitates exchanges of good practices across different regions, champions women's representation and leadership in small arms fora, and gives members a joint global platform for advocacy on small arms, gender, and development issues.

GENSAC in Action

GENSAC members in Africa are working with national-level officials to establish women-led community early warning systems when a surge of arms is appearing in communities from outside, while GENSAC members in Latin America and the Caribbean are working to develop laws to prevent gun ownership by domestic violence offenders.