Email Subject: **Kroc IPJ Quarterly Newsletter - April 2024**

Hidden Preheader: **Lessons from effective offices of violence prevention, women's peacebuilding leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic, and more.**

APRIL 2024   VIEW IN BROWSER

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KROC INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

QUARTERLY UPDATE

APRIL 2024

— DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE —

The 2024 presidential election is roughly seven months away. It is the reality of life in the United States now that election years create enormous strains on our communities, including here in San Diego. San Diego is part of the largest cross-border metropolis in the United States, is a top refugee resettlement destination, has one of the largest military communities in the country, has a thriving Jewish community, and by some accounts has the single most diverse neighborhood in the entire country. And all of that just hints at the full richness of the diversity in our region. The San Diego region must not simply manage that diversity; it must embrace it. The goal of creating an inclusive, welcoming region where everyone feels a deep sense of belonging must become part of the very identity of San Diego and what it means to be San Diegan.

At the Kroc IPJ, we are trying to do our part. This spring we have invited two speakers for our Distinguished Lecture Series that can speak directly to the challenges we face in the United States and strategies to address them. On March 14, Barbara Walter spoke on the threat of civil war in the United States and what we can do to reduce that threat. On April 25, Vidhya Ramalingam, the CEO of Moonshot, will share lessons learned from global efforts to end hate, lessons that we can apply here in San Diego. Register for the event here.
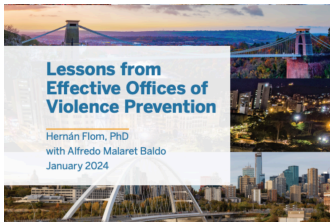
We are continuing our research to understand, and develop strategies to reduce, threats and harassment against elected officials. This year we are conducting a second round of research in San Diego County and expanding the research to Riverside and Imperial Counties. This research has now gotten national attention. The U.S. Supreme Court reversed a Colorado ruling that would have disqualified former president Donald Trump from appearing on the state's ballots. The SCOTUS proceedings included a number of parties filing amicus briefings, to persuade and inform justices, one of which referenced the research done by the Kroc IPJ's Violence, Inequality and Power Lab.

Finally, I am now the co-chair of the Community Fabric Working Group at the Burnham Center for Civic Advancement. The goal of the group is a straightforward one, to strengthen the community fabric of San Diego during this election year and beyond. I look forward to sharing updates with you about the working group in the months to come.

Peace,
Andy

WHAT WE'RE DOING

Our recent work showcases how our *Learning With* approach and commitment to knowledge, evidence, and collaborations is advancing change right here in the San Diego-Tijuana region, with actors around the world, and among the individuals with whom we collaborate.

Lessons from Effective Offices of Violence Prevention

This Peace In Our Cities report by Hernán Flom, PhD with Urban Violence Program Officer Alfredo Malaret Baldo, was produced in close collaboration with network members, such as Oakland's Department of Violence Prevention, REACH Edmonton, Foro Regional Rosario, Empire Fighting Chance in Bristol, and Fundacion Alvaralice in Cali. The report unpacks lessons from and for effective offices of violence prevention (OVPs).

OVPs are currently among the most exciting innovations in urban violence prevention space, and the report draws on analysis and case studies - including from Peace in Our Cities members - to suggest lessons on ways stakeholders can balance political support and autonomy, improve 'whole-of-city' violence prevention coordination, and be financially sustainable, among other important considerations to enhance their effectiveness.

ENGLISH

ESPAÑOL

Women Waging Peace Report 2024: Women's Peacebuilding Leadership during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Women's Peacebuilding Leadership during the COVID-19 Pandemic is the first annual Women Waging Peace report, a new publication that provides a resource for policymakers and funders, created directly from the recommendations and

priorities of women peacebuilders around the world. This report leverages the experiences and perspectives of women peace leaders to communicate clear priorities to funders and policymakers about what matters most for building sustainable and long-lasting peace.

READ

Facilitating Training and Education Programs in the Peacebuilding Field

This FACE Peace design brief considers activities and strategies to create the strongest possible relationships between facilitators and participants and an instructional design that provides participants with the information and structure they need to prepare for and contextualize the program content. Trusting relationships allow students to share experiences and exchange knowledge more honestly and fluidly, while structure affords them the resources they need to remain attentive and manage work/life balance.

READ

VIP Lab and ICCE Research Used to Support San Diego City Attorney's Proposal

On January 30, Institute for Civil Civic Engagement (ICCE) Director Carl Luna gave testimony before the San Diego City Council Rules Committee in support of San Diego City Attorney Mara Elliott's proposal for the adoption of a new Code of Civil Discourse. The Code of Civil Discourse proposes behavior standards for City officials while interacting with each other and the public. The research on threats and harassment toward elected officials in San Diego County conducted by the Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice's Violence, Inequality and Power (VIP) Lab and the ICCE was referenced in City Attorney Elliot's presentation and Dr. Luna's testimony.

READ

Is America Heading Toward a Second Civil War?

As part of our Distinguished Lecture Series, author and professor Barbara F. Walter delivered her talk, Is America Heading Toward a Second Civil War? Violence, Inequality and Power Lab Director Rachel Locke moderated a Q&A session with Walter.

WATCH

Parallel NGO CSW Forum Event: Flexible Funding is the First Step

Although women are vital to the success and sustainability of peace efforts, women peacebuilders remain severely underfunded — and the funding that is available to them is often unresponsive to their needs and characterized by a power disparity between funder and funded. We hosted a parallel NGO CSW Forum event to highlight the necessity of flexible funding mechanisms to support women peacebuilders around the world. Panelists addressed original research conducted by women peacebuilders on funding mechanisms. Additional panelists discussed the State Department-funded Supporting Her Empowerment: Women's Inclusion for New Security (SHE WINS) initiative, which works to implement flexible and supportive funding mechanisms – including a Rapid Response Fund – for women-led organizations in a range of conflict-affected communities. Both these initiatives focus on building equitable relationships between funders and women peacebuilders, emphasizing that it is critical to co-create programming and ensure that women peacebuilders are treated as full partners through the planning and implementation processes.

WATCH

WHAT'S MAKING US THINK

Below are just some of the pieces that caught our eye this quarter. They come from different areas of work, but all of them illuminate the type of justice-centered approaches to ending cycles of violence that are core to the mission of the Kroc IPJ.

- Appeals Court Revives Mexico's Lawsuit Against Gunmakers (The New York Times)

- Preventing Urban Firearm Homicides during COVID-19: Preliminary Results from Three Cities with the Advance Peace Program (Journal of Urban Health)

- El Salvador: Policies, practices, and abusive, arbitrary legislation violate human rights and threaten civic space (Amnesty International)

- El Salvador Decimated Gangs. But at What Cost? (The Daily)

- Bukele attacks gender theory and removes it from public schools in El Salvador (El País): This story is particularly relevant because El Salvador has among the highest rates of sexual gender-based violence and femicide in Latin America.

- Restoring the Past Won't Liberate Palestine (The New York Times)

- The game is up (The Racket): A journalist's take on the violence in Haiti.

- [Una frontera, un año electoral y una trampa mortal para migrantes (el hilo)](#)

- [What Can Fragile States Teach Us About America's Challenges? (The Dispatch)](#)

- [What happened to Nex Benedict? (NPR)](#): A heartbreaking act of violence that resulted in the death of Nex Benedict, a 16-year-old nonbinary person in Oklahoma.

- [The Global Respect Act and LGBTQI Human Rights (Williams Institute)](#)

- [Ghosting the News, Local Journalism and the Crisis of American Democracy (Columbia Global Reports)](#): This book expands on how and why local news has been disappearing and what this means for local democracy and government accountability.

- [How Civil Wars Start (Crown):](#) An insightful book by our Distinguished Lecturer, Barbara F. Walter.

KROC IPJ NEWS

Women PeaceMakers Fellowship Applications due April 8

This year's Women PeaceMakers Fellowship theme is building peace within the diaspora. We will select three Fellows who live in a diaspora community and work to build peace within their country of residence using a gender-responsive approach. This work may be focused on ending cycles of violence that affect members of the diaspora community or on leveraging a diaspora-led movement to end cycles of violence in their country of residence more broadly. Fellows will conduct research using a gender lens on diaspora-led movements to make their countries of residence more peaceful.

Anyone who considers themselves a peacebuilder working to reduce cycles of violence through a focus on gender, peace, and conflict is welcome to apply. People of all genders, including transgender and non-binary or gender-fluid people, are welcome to apply and are eligible for a fellowship. Applications are due April 8, 2024. [Learn more](#).

April 25: Innovations in Preventing Violent Extremism

As part of our Distinguished Lecture Series, Vidhya Ramalingam will share lessons learned from global efforts to end hate. Vidhya Ramalingam is Founder and CEO of Moonshot, a company working to end online harms, applying evidence, ethics and human rights. Under her leadership, Moonshot has pioneered online intervention programs to pull individuals out of violent movements, new partnerships with tech companies to safeguard against hate in-platform, and efforts to disrupt terrorist recruitment efforts online.

Join us Thursday, April 25 at 6:00 PM at the Peace and Justice Theatre at the University of San Diego. Register.

Introducing the 2024 Violence, Inequality and Power Lab Fellows

The cohort of VIP Lab Fellows features eight fellows: two residential fellows based at the University of San Diego and six non-residential fellows based in Ghana, Mexico, Colombia, the

Netherlands, and the United States. [Read more](#).

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The Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice (Kroc IPJ) is the bridge between learning and practice within the Kroc School. The core of the Kroc IPJ's mission is to learn with our partners how to end cycles of violence and build peace, both locally and globally.

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