



RESOLUTION ON REDUCING VIOLENCE IN CITIES

Resolution developed in partnership with Peace in our Cities and adopted by a majority of GPM votes on 15 June 2020.

Introduction

A key global priority is reducing violence, especially in our cities. Over 600,000 people are killed every year around the world in situations of conflict- much of it playing out in cities, extremism, crime and interpersonal violence. Yet there are also remarkable examples of cities preventing and reducing violence, especially where there is smart leadership, data - driven and evidence based interventions focused on hot spots and social and economic prevention measures. Even so, there continues to be an absence of strong inter-city action to accelerate violence reduction measures around the world.

As the coronavirus pandemic continues its spread around the globe, it will interact with these existing violence dynamics in both predictable and non-predictable ways. We are already seeing, for example, consistent trends of increased violence within the home primarily against women and children. While in some cities street violence has gone down as a result of stay-at- home orders, in others street – or community violence – is increasing, placing additional burdens on public safety agencies already over-burdened as a result of COVID-19. It is essential as we advance efforts to respond to the pandemic to not lose sight of ensuring broader safety for our urban residents, including measures to reduce and prevent violence.

This GPM is well situated to drive a global city-led violence reduction agenda. In 2019, the Durban Declaration underlined the GPM's commitment to reducing violence by 50% by 2030. It stressed the importance of comprehensive and integrated strategies based on evidence of what works. The GPM is not alone. Specifically, Pathfinders for SDG16 - a multi-stakeholder coalition of dozens of governments, international agencies, and NGOs - has also committed to reducing violence by 50% by 2030. Another city-based initiative, Peace in Our Cities, was co -launched by the Pathfinders, Impact: Peace and +Peace, and includes GPM city members like Amman and Dayton.

The GPM has an opportunity to accelerate action on the 50% reduction agenda. The goal would be to engage other city networks to join a common declaration and set of evidence-based actions to halve violence by 2030. The actions will necessarily be retrofitted to apply to the current context of coronavirus pandemic, including the restrictions placed on in-person interaction as well as heightened stresses of our systems. The declaration and accompanying actions would be developed using the GPM Virtual Platform. The final product would be delivered to the UN Secretary General and the General Assembly during the UNGA sessions between 15 and 30 September 2020. In this way, the GPM not only strengthens city network collaboration, but it scales-up activities in a key issue aligned to its mandate and policy priorities.

Resolutions

Do you agree with and support the following resolutions?

1. We commit to significantly reducing all forms of violence and related death rates within our urban jurisdictions by 50% by 2030. This is in line with our commitment to

implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16 in our cities, which also calls on governments to reduce all forms of violence and related death rates.

2. We urge national governments to provide political and financial support to ongoing efforts to reduce violence by 50% by 2030. We support adopting and investing in data-driven and evidence-based public security and safety solutions.
3. We support the exploration of partnerships with international organizations promoting city safety including, but not limited to, the African Forum for Urban Security, European Forum for Urban Safety, UN-Habitat, Peace in Our Cities, and other relevant groups.
4. We will explore relevant partnerships, and coordinate prevention, within our own cities, drawing on the expertise from all sectors, including those working on criminal justice, in the health, education, and social protection systems, and on community and economic development.
5. We acknowledge that many communities most impacted by COVID-19 are also those communities most impacted by violence and traditionally most disadvantaged. As we advance, we will pay particular attention to substantially increasing our support, including trauma support, to these communities to make all our cities and communities more equal.
6. We will work with communities to promote peace, including providing platforms for leadership by survivors of violence, and by communities and groups who face the highest risks of violence.
7. We will develop strategies to tackle the interrelated nature of different forms of violence, rather than treating them in isolation. We will focus on areas the most vulnerable parts of our cities (in relation to gender, at-risk young people and poverty), where levels of violence are highest, working to achieve rapid increases in safety and security.
8. We will work to break intergenerational cycles of violence, in particular by confronting violence against children and young people at home, in schools, in communities, and online. We acknowledge the increased risks of violence, including trafficking in children, that is resulting from shelter at home orders and the disruption to schooling for nearly 90% of the world's children and youth.
9. We encourage cities and city networks to work collaboratively to document and disrupt online extremism where it leads to violence in cities. We urge social media platforms to stand together with us in this endeavor to reduce the spread of misinformation and bigotry.
10. We urge cities to pursue public safety and security policies that minimize harm and human rights violations. We support the [UN System-Wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements](#) and encourage their adoption by cities.
11. We will mainstream a gender perspective into everything we do, recognizing the different ways women and men experience violence, tackling gender-based violence, and providing platforms for leadership by women peacebuilders.