

Report on the Symposium

War Stories Peace Stories Peace Conflict & The Media

It is imperative that we learn how to explain the possibility of peace and its concrete benefits to a skeptical public. This symposium, linking media and peacebuilding experts, is exactly what we need to make peace a subject that captures the public imagination."

- Melanie Greenberg
President and CEO
The Alliance for Peacebuilding

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A PROJECT OF SPECTRUM MEDIA & PEACE DIRECT

War Stories Peace Stories

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Project Report

War Stories Peace Stories: Peace Conflict & The Media (WSPS) drew over 400 leading journalists, peacebuilders, thought leaders and funders to the New York Times Center on April 11, 2018. The daylong Symposium put storytelling about peace efforts front and center in order to challenge the prevailing narrative about how the world deals with conflict. A primary goal was to encourage greater reporting on peace efforts, diplomacy and nonviolent resistance around the world and to inspire a wider range of approaches to conflict reporting.



The invitation-only event featured a keynote on the impact of war by **Sebastian Junger**, best selling author, award winning producer and journalist; a conversation with **Alexis Okeowo**, journalist and author and recent winner of the PEN/Open prize in literature; moderated panel discussions with key peacebuilders and journalists who have worked on or reported from international conflicts; and an opportunity for journalists to secure funding for stories about peace through a competition organized in partnership with the **Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting**. This element of the program produced tangible results that will be described later in the report.

Conceived seven years ago and implemented by a small creative team in a 14-month sprint, WSPS's mission was to seed the critical work of getting news about peacebuilding and reconciliation more widely reported across all media platforms. It is critical to human survival that we shift our collective paradigm on how to deal with conflict, and that we focus on stories missing from the constant and typical narrative of conflict. By gathering a cohort of national and international participants who engage daily in this work, taking deep dives into the subject from a variety of perspectives, and providing time to network and connect, WSPS took a significant first step in this long term effort.

Program Objectives

In spite of the fact that more countries are at peace than are engaged in violent conflict, people often feel overwhelmed by the relentless reporting of war and violence. Journalists covering conflict may be more likely to talk to military leaders than peacebuilders, and because of the scarce reporting on peacebuilding, the process is largely invisible to the public. While the concept of “peace” is highly valued, few people really understand how peace is achieved or what the peacebuilding process entails. How do former warring parties implement a peace accord? What are the steps to building reconciliation between communities who’ve committed terrible atrocities against each other? Why do some approaches work in some places, but not in others? In order to demystify the peacebuilding process for the public and build awareness of nonviolent solutions to conflict, WSPS convened a symposium to gather active peacebuilders and journalists to explore these issues together for the first time.

The focus of the symposium was on international peace efforts. To help make global peacebuilding efforts real and tangible to the audience, our partners the Stanley Foundation and an anonymous donor funded the travel costs for several journalists and peacebuilders from Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and the Far East. These individuals made an enormous contribution to the program, their personal stories enriching everyone’s understanding of what it takes to reduce and prevent violence at the local level.



The Attendees

The biggest challenge in organizing the event was to motivate journalists to participate. They are a difficult group to attract to a symposium like this, as many of them work under intense deadline pressure and it is hard to get them away from their desks. Their work also requires a certain level of skepticism. They don’t like to be told what to report or what to think; they prefer to discover the information themselves. To overcome these obstacles WSPS designed a program that would appeal specifically to journalists. And the event was promoted heavily through networks of journalist organizations. The efforts were successful.

The following is a breakdown of the audience:

Journalists	34%
Student Journalists	22%
Peacebuilders	19%
Media	7%
Editors	1%
Foundation Officers	8%
Organizers & Assistants	9%

More than half of the attendees were journalists or students of journalism. A smaller but meaningful percentage of peacebuilders attended, many of whom are actively engaged in international conflicts.

Another objective of the program was to reach program officers at foundations. The business model for news organizations has changed significantly over the years, making it difficult for these organizations to maintain and fund international reporting. News organizations have become reliant on freelancers and independent journalists to cover these stories. Foundations have begun to support independent journalists, but the need for philanthropic support of storytelling about peace and human rights is enormous. WSPS invited program officers to hear

compelling stories about nonviolent peace efforts, to recognize their power and the importance of supporting the coverage of these efforts, to fill the vacuum left by the diminished resources of news organizations.

Another key audience target was editors—a notoriously difficult audience to reach—but only a few showed up. Since editors are the gatekeepers in news organizations, it is critical to reach them as well. Reporters pitch stories to editors, who have the option to accept or reject them. A number of the panelists talked about the difficulty they've had convincing skeptical editors that stories about peace efforts will attract readers and viewers. So the low turnout by editors is not entirely surprising. Clearly they need to be approached in a different way; the large daytime WSPS symposium doesn't seem to have been the right draw for them. A better way to engage editors in publishing more stories about peace efforts might be to invite them to a dinner with a select group of other editors. WSPS recommends this as a follow-on activity.

Highlights of the Symposium:

The day began with an introduction by **Bridget Moix**, peacebuilder and the US Representative of **Peace Direct**, an organization working with local peacebuilders in 25 developing countries around the world, and the fiscal sponsor for the project. Bridget welcomed the diverse audience of journalists, peacebuilders, activists, funders, educators and students from all over the world. She put the day in perspective, speaking about the stories that can end wars and build peace, powerful stories of local peacebuilders committed to reducing and preventing violence where they live: "...the power of local peacebuilding is remarkable. Their work is heroic, their leadership is vital and their stories are compelling, but their voices are rarely heard." The WSPS Symposium provided a platform to hear some of their stories.



The First Story

The first of the day's storytellers was **Saba Ismail**. She grew up in a small village in Northwest of Pakistan, in a deeply traditional and religious area. At school she was taught that jihadists who destroyed Hindu temples are heroes and that being a jihadist was a path to heaven. Her father was different: he was a human rights activist who admired leaders like Gandhi and Mandela. He supported his daughters in becoming well-educated. A neighbor's child disappeared unexpectedly, going to Afghanistan to fight in Jihad, where he was killed. When his body was returned to his mother she was devastated by the loss, and Saba was profoundly affected. She turned from the path of Jihad and vowed to live differently and work for peace. She and her sister founded **Aware Girls**, a small but growing organization that recruits young women to work for peace.

Bridget next introduced the emcee for the event, **Melanie Greenberg**, President and CEO of the **Alliance for Peacebuilding**, a network of thousands of individuals and over 100 peacebuilding organizations. Melanie noted that she was honored to be part of an event that brought together two groups that are her heroes—peacebuilders and journalists. She expressed her hope that at the end of the day, attendees' perspectives on how to report on and think about peace would shift in meaningful ways and that as a result, more stories of nonviolent protest, resilience, peace efforts and communities pushing back against violent conflict will be published.

The First Panel: *Telling and Not Telling the Story*

Melanie introduced the first panel, *Telling and Not Telling the Story*, moderated by **Mort Rosenberg**

Mort Rosenberg – Moderator Mort is a veteran international news reporter and professor of journalism who has reported from 100+ countries for the Associated Press and other news organizations, and he was bureau chief in 7 cities around the world.

Panelists

Heba Aly, the Director of **IRIN News**, one of the world’s leading sources of original, field-based journalism about humanitarian crises. IRIN amplifies the voices of those affected by conflicts and natural disasters to drive more effective and accountable responses by the international community. Her work for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the Christian Science Monitor, Bloomberg News and IRIN, among others, has taken her to places like Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Chad and Libya.

Anna Therese Day, an award winning reporter, filmmaker and the founder of **The Frontline Freelance Register**, a representative body for freelance conflict journalists, organized by freelance conflict journalists. Her work has been featured in a variety of media outlets, including CNN, Al Jazeera English, VICE, CBS, and numerous print outlets, translated into Arabic, English, Hebrew, and Spanish.

Mike Jobbins, an experienced peacebuilder and the Senior Director of Partnerships & Engagement for the world’s leading peace organization, **Search for Common Ground**. Mike was previously SCG’s Program Manager for Africa, where he oversaw the launch of programs to counter violent extremism in the Sahel, the crisis in the Lake Chad Basin, civil conflict in the Central African Republic, and the crisis in South Sudan and other countries.

Scott Stearns, the Managing Editor of **VOA’s** Africa Division, which produces multi-media content in 15 languages for more than 68 million Africans a week. He is a recipient of the Cowan Award for Humanitarian Reporting for coverage of famine in South Sudan. He wrote for The Economist and The Jerusalem Post before joining VOA’s Africa Division in 1993.



Mort began the panel by asking “Where would we be today if journalists, humanitarians, peacebuilders, and non-governmental actors had worked in closer touch?” He said that this was the reason he jumped at the opportunity to participate in WSPS, he felt it was an extremely important project. He then introduced the panelists.

Heba spoke about the contrast between the complexity of the world we live in and the superficial quality of the news we consume. As an example she noted the conflict she was covering in South Sudan, which the mainstream press described as a battle between ethnic groups. Up close she saw a different story: a battle about resources, about power, about land. Ethnicity was simply used by leaders to motivate the hatred that led to the slaughter. She felt the way the story was covered by the mainstream press, which was grossly oversimplified and

misrepresented the root causes of the conflict, affected our policy decisions in negative ways. She feels that journalists have a responsibility to report the full story in all its complexity. She also feels that there is a growing audience that is hungry to go deeper into the stories and the issues.

Ana recounted a tragic story of one of her colleagues who was shot by an Israeli sniper, possibly a targeted act that has opened an investigation. The number of journalists that have been killed or wounded has skyrocketed in the past years. Reporters are risking their lives to bring us the news, especially those covering conflict situations. Reporters covering corruption, and those exposing the crimes of high government officials have also been killed. Ana couldn't count the number of her colleagues that have been kidnapped, imprisoned or killed. The fact that covering these stories is becoming so dangerous will ultimately prevent the public from learning about the crimes being committed. In spite of the danger, she is seeing positive things that give her hope: people working hard to make their lives and their countries a better place, while facing violence we can barely imagine. She loves reporting these stories, focusing on people working on solutions in spite of massive obstacles.

Mike Jobbins began talking about Yemen as an example of stories that aren't being told. He said that because of the indiscriminate bombing, the killing and destruction, made worse by the cholera epidemic, Yemen is truly a hopeless place. In spite of that, almost every single school is still open, kids still go to school and teachers show up to work. Villages that don't have adequate resources themselves are accepting IDPs from elsewhere in the country. By not paying attention to the few positive things going on, we are missing important opportunities to build on to help reduce the violence. As a peacebuilder, he would like to see more stories that "painted what is possible."

Scott Stearns, who has done a lot of work in Africa, says we are missing the commonality and community that exists in developing countries, because frontline reporters ignore it. Instead reporters are pushed to cover the "bang bang," based on the prevailing view that conflict sells. He also spoke about the changes in the way reporting is done. When news was a more profitable business, there were foreign bureaus in many international capitals, with employees and travel budgets that made the reporter's job easier. Now, stringers and freelancers are doing this work with minimal support. Local reporters are important contributors because they are closest to the story, but unlike international reporters, they have no place to go when something goes wrong.

The conversation continued, touching on a number of topics:

- To underline the fact that we need to look at situations with a different lens, Jobbins pointed out that 45% of Africans depend on international organizations for their healthcare, but that means that 55% don't. We aren't spending enough time and effort to look at the things that work.
- Heba Aly questioned the notion that "bang bang" is the only kind of story that sells. She feels that since the public has been so inundated with stories about violence, there is a growing appetite for stories that challenge stereotypes. Journalists need to help build an appetite among readers for more complex stories.
- There was a brief debate about the need for international journalists, when you could rely more on local reporters. Mort advocated for a mix of fresh young eyes, experienced reporters who get it and local reporters. Heba argued for shifting the balance more towards local reporters, which is IRIN's model.
- The conversation shifted to the Middle East and Ana talked about the disconnect between the US and the rest of the world. As a strong ally of Israel, the US tends to accept the reality on the ground, the West Bank settlements in particular, while the rest of the world questions the legality of Israeli policy.
- Mort asked Mike Jobbins a key question: How can we improve the connection and the working relationship between the press and peacebuilders? Mike advocated for a tighter relationship and more coordination between reporters and peacebuilders. He cited a powerful story that illustrated the amazing complexity of conflicts like the one in the Central African Republic. Search worked with local filmmakers to cover the story and used it to provoke conversations among young people.
- Scott Stearns picked up on this idea of the complexity of these conflicts and asked "How do you tell these stories in 10 column inches or a 90 second radio piece?" He thinks that the new Internet platforms for news are one way around the limitations of conventional news outlets. VOA broadcasts these stories in English, French and native languages, thereby expanding the audience enormously.



The Second Story

Melanie then introduced the next storyteller, **Quscondy Abdulshafi** from Central Darfur, who began by recounting a frightening story from his youth, where 70 people from his village were savagely killed. That was the beginning of the violence in Darfur. He mentioned that at that time, when he went to bed, his mother made sure he was wearing shoes in case they had to run away suddenly when the soldiers came, which could happen at any moment. Danger continued when he went to university; the village of one of his friends was bombed and his friend was suddenly the only survivor from his village. They were inspired when they saw a picture of a student from Darfur in America holding a sign that said “Save Darfur.” For the first time, they felt like they were not alone, that people in other countries cared about their plight. He concluded that the news media is extremely important to people living with violence, like in Darfur.



Alexis Okeowo and Robert J Rosenthal: A Conversation

Melanie Greenberg returned to introduce the next part of the program, a conversation between **Alexis Okeowo** and **Robert J. Rosenthal**. Alexis has been a reporter for **The New Yorker** since 2015. She grew up in Alabama, the daughter of Nigerian parents. Alexis wrote a beautiful book, the PEN/Open prize winner *A Moonless, Starless Sky: Ordinary Women and Men Fighting Extremism in Africa*, that in many ways epitomizes one of the key ideas behind

this symposium. The book tells stories about local peacebuilders working to reduce violence in four African communities. She spent several years in Nigeria focusing on men and women who, in spite of pervasive violence and significant obstacles, are trying to make their world better. Her unsung heroes are living testaments to resilience. Robert Rosenthal, an accomplished journalist who has written for a number of highly respected newspapers and magazines and now runs the world-renowned **Center for Investigative Journalism**, conducted a wide-ranging interview.

Robert began talking about how Alexis' book brought back memories of his own work in Africa for the Philadelphia Enquirer. He observed that more than anything else, the book is about empathy, trying to understand lives that most Americans and westerners in general have no clue about. Page after page, she makes these people come alive. She was attracted to these people because they weren't victims: they chose to do something to fight back against Boko Haram's violence, against slavery in Mauritania, against the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda. She profiled young people from Uganda who had been captured by the Lord's Resistance Army and were forced to kill as child soldiers. She was shocked when they told her about this episode because they laughed as they talked about killing people, perhaps because of the difficulty of explaining what they did to a westerner. Their story demonstrated a level of moral complexity that fascinated Alexis; these are people who were both perpetrators and victims. How does one reckon with experiences like that? Another story she recounted was that of a young man named Biram who worked to fight against slavery in Mauritania. He was a hero in many ways, succeeding in challenging powerful people who had slaves, and was responsible for freeing thousands of slaves.

Robert opened up the discussion to questions from the audience. A reporter covering the peace agreement in Colombia mentioned that there were 170 human rights leaders who have been killed, and asked "How do you protect your subjects?" Alexis spoke about being extremely careful, taking sensible steps such as changing people's names and where they lived. Another question focused on the responsibility journalists have to their subjects in terms of not revealing more than the subjects would want to have known. Alexis spoke about staying in touch with her subjects to question them about these limits. She said she had a high level of respect for her subjects and took their privacy seriously.



Presentation of the Pulitzer Awards for the *Pitching for Peace Competition for Journalists*

Melanie Greenberg opened the session, introducing **John** and **Kem Sawyer** from the **Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting**. John is the Executive Director and founder of the Pulitzer Center; his wife Kem is a contributing editor. They and their colleagues at the Pulitzer Center have been responsible for some remarkable journalism from all over the world that would never have happened were it not for the Center's support.

Kem began her presentation explaining that the Pulitzer Center funds international reporting projects focusing on conflicts and crises. They also run an ambitious educational program to bring reporters and their stories to schools universities and communities around the US. For the *Pitching for Peace Competition For Journalists*, they solicited story ideas from experienced journalists from all over the world. They received 202 applications from 60 countries and they were pleased and surprised to have surfaced 45 particularly strong applications— good stories from experienced journalists.

A jury chose 3 winners, each to receive up to \$20,000 to produce their story. However, with so many compelling stories to choose from, the Pulitzer Center decided to fund an additional 7 stories, investing over \$100,000 to bring all 10 stories to the public.



The top three were:

Grassroots Peacemaking in Africa's Great Lakes: Africa's Great Lakes region has seen its share of upheaval, from political instability to humanitarian crises that have dangerous ripple effects across borders. A secret weapon has emerged in the efforts to establish a long-term peace and ease inter-communal tensions—and these peacekeepers don't wear blue helmets. They're community mediators. Cassandra Vinograd, an award-winning writer and producer based in London, will look at how communities and individuals are using nonviolent reconciliation tactics and a grassroots approach to cement stability in the Great Lakes region.



A Lasting Peace in Colombia?: Freelance journalists Laura Dixon, Mariana Palau, and Verónica Zaragovia will report on the successes and failures of the peace deal with the left-wing FARC guerrilla group in the most critical moment of its implementation. In a time of transition towards a new presidency, they will assess what has changed since one of the most ambitious peace deals in the world was signed in November 2016, ending more than 50 years of war, and what challenges will arise with a government change. By traveling to different regions of Colombia, they'll cover how peace commitments are carried out, or not, focusing on women, minorities, and other vulnerable subjects.

A Second Chance in Somalia: For over a decade, the terrorist group Al-Shabab has been waging a campaign of violence and terror across Somalia with its seemingly endless supply of new recruits. A few ordinary Somalis are working to deny the terrorist group its ability to recruit new fighters—and also to help those who fell for its false promises. A rehabilitation center not far from the capital is working to rescue hundreds of former Al-Shabab recruits who have defected and provide vocational training before returning them to their communities. Hassan Ghedi Santur, a freelancer based in Nairobi, reports on giving defectors a second chance.

These three were also invited to present their pitches live in front of the WSPS audience, with the opportunity to receive an additional honorarium of \$5000. They made their presentations to a panel of four judges: **Hayes Brown**, deputy world news editor at *BuzzFeed*; **Yochi Dreazen**, foreign and national security editor at *Vox*; **Vanessa Gezari**, national security editor at *The Intercept*; and **Saba Ismail**, activist and founder of *Aware Girls*. The three judges who are editors acknowledged that there simply aren't enough stories about how countries get to peace and how they emerge from conflict.

The journalists made passionate defenses of their stories, and in the end, the team of three freelance journalists working on the Colombia story—Laura Dixon, Mariana Palau, and Verónica Zaragovia—won the additional \$5,000 honorarium.

The Pulitzer Center ultimately decided to fund 10 stories—there were just too many great stories pitched that they didn't want to miss—committing well over \$100,000 to support this peace reporting.

The Third Story

Kessy Ekomo-Soignet is a community leader, peacebuilding practitioner and founder of URU, a youth-led organization leading projects to increase effective engagement of and support for youth in locally-led conflict prevention and reconciliation efforts in the Central African Republic. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon appointed her as an expert for the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security, as mandated by Security Council resolution 2250 (2015). She also serves as peacebuilding expert and focal point for Peace Direct in the Central African Republic.

She began her brief talk challenging some of the ugly stereotypes that people have of the Central African Republic. She tells us that these stereotypes are not the country that she knows. She says that people she knows are doing things to improve the country. She founded URU to work with young people, who represent 72% of the population. They also work with women. She wants people to see the other side of the story, the young people, the women who are working for peace, who are trying to reduce violence.

The Second Panel - Who's Telling the Story and Whose Story Are They Telling?

Melanie returned to introduce the Second Panel, which focused on gender issues in news reporting. Men comprise about three-fourths of the guests booked to discuss foreign policy and national security on American prime-time cable and top Sunday news shows. What do we lose by not including more women's voices? And what do we gain when we listen to the people who live in conflict zones? She then introduced the moderator and the panelists for the Second Panel, which are:

Moderator Zainab Salbi of PBS and Women for Women International - Foreign Policy Magazine named her as one of the "100 Leading Global Thinkers," and Fast Company identified her as one of 100 "The Most Creative People in Business." Salbi was Executive Editor and Host of the nationally broadcast PBS Show #Me Too, Now What? She is currently the editor at large at Women in the World in association with The New York Times.

Panelists

Anastasia Taylor-Lind Photojournalist – Anastasia is an English/Swedish photojournalist who has been working for leading editorial publications all over the world on issues relating to women, population and war for a decade. She has written about her experiences as a photojournalist for The New York Times, TIME LightBox, Nieman Reports and National Geographic.

Christina Aisquith The Fuller Project for International Reporting - Christina is the founder and editor in chief of The Fuller Project for International Reporting; author of two nonfiction books on women, and has given voice to women in her journalism for more than 20 years from Iraq, Afghanistan, Turkey, as well as violent neighborhoods in Philadelphia and Baltimore.



Passy Mubalama AIDPROFEN (DRC) Passy is a pro-democracy and women's rights activist with over 7 years of experience in promoting democracy, human rights, good governance and the rule of law in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). She is Founder and Executive director of Action and Development Initiative for the Protection of Women and Children affected by conflict (AIDPROFEN), a nonprofit organization that promotes women's rights in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo DRC.

Jacqueline O'Neill Inclusive Security – Jacqueline is the President of Inclusive Security, a DC-based organization that increases the inclusion of women in peace and security processes around the world. With partners in

government and civil society, she has worked directly with more than 30 countries to create or improve government-wide strategies on inclusion. She has been published by outlets including Foreign Policy, Vox, and the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations.

Karishma Vyas Documentary Filmmaker Karishma is an Emmy-nominated Australian journalist and filmmaker who has covered conflict across South and Southeast Asia for almost 20 years. Her film *Afghanistan-No Country For Women* was nominated for an Emmy and received the Amnesty International Human Rights Award. Through powerful, character-driven documentaries, Vyas hopes to re-sensitize an increasingly war-weary public to the enduring importance of conflicts and the impact they have on generations of civilians.

Zainab introduced the topic and the panelists; the discussion began with Christina Aisquith talking about her experience as a young reporter working in Iraq. When she was there, she wanted to write about women's experience of war, but she was told to focus on something more serious. She asked the audience to step back for a minute to focus on the fact that so much of the reporting that we've known has been about men and written by men. She thinks this has to change and that it is beginning to change. She feels that one dividend of focusing on women's stories is that they will inevitably be more about peace than war.

Zainab asked Passy if she thinks women have a different perspective on war and peace. She lives in the Eastern Congo, the most violent part of the country. She says there are perhaps 70 rebel groups in the areas and they have committed an incredible number of human rights violations. DRC is known as the capital of rape. But in spite of that horrific fact, women are the ones who keep life going. The women she knows are courageous, determined, and working hard to restrain the violence that dominates life in this region. Other highlights of the discussion include:

- Jacqui spoke about the fact that when women are meaningfully involved in peace negotiations, they broaden the number of issues on the table, which tends to make peace agreements more durable.
- Recent research has shown that how women are treated in a country is the single biggest predictor of whether a country goes to war with itself or its neighbors.
- Anastasia feels that war is represented far more than peace, also that women are presented as passive and men are seen as active. Only 15% of photojournalists are women, which limits what the world sees.
- Karishma spoke about the power of editors to decide what journalists are able to cover; which determines what viewers and readers get to see. She gave an example that even a paper like the NY Times, only 1 in 5 of the obituaries are women. The bias is very strong.
- Digital news is having an interesting impact on how news is covered because what stories people click to generate data and the data tells you what grabs people's attention. The data is telling us that women's stories are very popular.
- Another factor that is changing the landscape is that the frontlines are disappearing, the battlefield is disappearing, war is more violent, but at the same time more ambiguous in terms of who is fighting who.
- Increasingly, women are agents of change; Passy feels that we need more women in the media to better capture the role they are playing.

Zainab then opened the discussion to questions from the audience. The first question was from a photojournalist who spoke about the idea of the war photographer, now called the conflict photographer or conflict reporter. He would like to see the world open up to a peace photographer or a peace reporter. Another question focused on the fact that it's rare that news organizations call on expert women to comment on the news, even when there are highly qualified women who can address a wide range of issues.

There were a variety of responses to this last question, Christina Asquith pointed out that the way women get trolled it's so strong, and the language is so much more violent, that she thinks it puts a damper on women willingness to speak up. Anastasia pointed out that the excuse of there not being enough women experts who editors can call on to speak authoritatively on a particular issue is untrue. There are organizations like Foreign Policy Interrupted or She Speaks; that list women experts on a wide variety of topics, and make them easy to find. One interesting question that came up had to do with news editors who are clearly the gatekeepers who decide

what makes news and what doesn't. She felt that editors belonged at a symposium like this to speak about their perspective on these issues.

Melanie then introduced the keynote speaker **Sebastian Junger** a journalist and filmmaker whose books and documentaries focus on people facing implacable opposition, whether it's the ocean, as in his book *The Perfect Storm* or soldiers facing the Taliban in Afghanistan, as in his award winning film, *Restrepo*. In his films on war, he shows us a very different picture of what really happens, than the images we see in the news.

Sebastian Junger He began his talk by pointing out that he studied anthropology in college and tends to see everything through that lens. He then talked about his career and how it evolved. Early on in his career he had dangerous job cutting down tall trees and that sparked his interest in people, mostly men who do dangerous jobs. That led him to write about fishermen facing in his book *The Perfect Storm* or soldiers in several of his books and films. He felt that covering war was intoxicating, that it was somehow more real than life without it. After covering several wars including the civil war in Afghanistan prior to 9/11, he wanted to know what war was like for American soldiers. He ended up at a lonely outpost in eastern Afghanistan called Restrepo. It was an extremely violent place to be, there was no let up in the violence. They were attacked three or four times a day by the Taliban. Over time, it made him incredibly sad that wars happen. When his close friend and partner was killed in Libya, everything changed for him, he no longer wanted to have anything to do with war; it was just too said to bear. He began to wonder, how something so horrible, so destructive could be so compelling. He ended his talk saying at the job of a good journalist is to preserve human dignity and to tell the stories objectively as possible.



The Third Panel - Moving Forward: Reimagining Conflict Reporting as a Force for Change

Melanie introduced the last panel that tries to pull the various threads of the day together to wrap it all up. The image of the conflict reporter is iconic, embedded in our sense of international journalism. What we don't imagine when we think of conflict reporting is the coverage of the peaceful protest, nonviolent resistance, careful negotiation, or the stories of individual resistance. A local perspective can change the way we think about conflict. And human stories can be as compelling as war reporting. In this next panel, we hear from organizations who are already rethinking conflict reporting and offer unique approaches covering crises.

Moderator- Laurie Hayes Laurie spent 35 years as a journalist, not counting college and high school, where she majored in newspapering. She spent 23 years at the Wall Street Journal as a financial news journalist, and seven years at Bloomberg News where she held the title of senior executive editor overseeing global beat reporting by 1,100 reporters and editors.

Panelists

Daniel Beaulieu - Daniel is Chief Content Officer at News Deeply, an award-winning digital media company dedicated to creating understanding of critical issues and building communities around them, including Syria, Refugees, Oceans, Water, and Women and Girls. Daniel previously led the World Economic Forum's Knowledge Lab thought-leadership Incubator and helped lead the Global Agenda Councils, the world's largest network of experts dedicated to addressing global issues.

Tina Rosenberg - Tina is a Pulitzer Center grantee, is co-writer of the New York Times *Fixes* column and co-founder of the Solutions Journalism Network. She is a longtime New York Times writer, for the editorial page and the Sunday magazine before *Fixes*. Her articles have appeared in the New Yorker, Rolling Stone, The Atlantic, Foreign Policy and many other magazines.

Jon Sawyer - Jon is founding director of the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting. The Center partners with major newspapers, magazines and broadcast outlets as well as universities and high schools across the United States and Europe. In 2017 the Center provided over \$1.5 million in direct support to journalists working on over 130 projects. The Pulitzer Center has won an Emmy for new approaches to news and documentary, the Asia Society's Goldman Sachs Foundation Prize for best use of technology in international education, and best online journalism prizes from the National Press Foundation, the Society of Professional Journalists, and the National Press Club.

Reza Sayah - Reza is a journalist and documentary filmmaker based in Tehran, Iran. For the past 20 years, Reza has reported for international news organizations including CNN, Al Jazeera, PBS NewsHour, and France 24. Most recently, Sayah reported on this year's Iranian presidential elections. In 2008, Reza helped launch CNN's bureau in Islamabad, Pakistan where for the next five years he reported on the country's ongoing political turmoil, the government campaign against the Taliban, and the search for Al Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden.

Nahal Toosie Nahal covers foreign policy and national security for POLITICO. She's been a journalist for more than 20 years. Toosi joined POLITICO in 2013 which placed her in New York, Islamabad, London and, occasionally, Kabul. One of the biggest stories she covered while with The AP was the killing of Osama bin Laden. Her biggest project in recent months was a story for POLITICO Magazine about the Rohingya refugee crisis and U.S.-Burmese relations.

The panel began with a brief introduction by Laurie Hayes. Each of the panelists explained what they did and spoke about their approach to covering peace and conflict. Daniel describes the organization he co-founded, **News Deeply**, as a social impact news media company that occupies the space between traditional journalism and advocacy. As the name implies, they've created single-issue channels that gather news from many different sources related to the topic. The first channel they started was Syria Deeply; they now have channels on Malnutrition, Oceans and Refugees. They just launched a new channel called Peacebuilding Deeply. Daniel feels that there is too much information and not enough understanding; the purpose of News Deeply is to help improve understanding on the issues the focus on. They also provide a place for connectivity that allows journalists focused on the same issue to connect with each other.

Tina began talking about the news organization she cofounded with David Bornstein, called the **Solutions Journalism Network**. It's based on a column that they co-wrote for the New York Times called *Fixes*, the focus is on solutions to problems, but with journalistic rigor and without advocacy. Jon Sawyer was next; he is the founder and director of the Pulitzer Center. It's a remarkable organization that does a wide range of activities all focused on journalism and education. The center funds journalists to cover international stories on crises, conflicts, health issues and other important topics. The center also is very active in education and works with colleges, high schools and middle schools to teach young people about what it takes to cover a story. The idea is to make them better consumers of the news they read.

Reza talked about the importance of journalism and emphasized the responsibility of journalists have to report accurately and objectively. He pointed out that the way some news is reported by corporate news organizations actually promotes violence. One thing that he thinks is missing from mainstream news is the presentation of alternative narratives that get to the root causes of conflict.

Hally works for Politico covering foreign policy and national security. Politico has expanded the range of topics it covers; she mentioned a new series called *What Works* that focuses on cities and some of the new innovative techniques they are using to resolve common urban problems.

The conversation continued covering a number of topics including:

- We need to cover stories that address solutions to problems, not just the problems.
- Also important to not always portray people as victims, but to emphasize their agency in dealing with tough situations.
- Too much of mainstream news coverage is caricature, too much is oversimplified. The treatment of the Rohingya is a good example, the way the mainstream press covered it resulted in an oversimplified narrative that that led to bad policy decisions.
- Telling peace stories well requires a deeper look at the full range of options available and the role of a wider variety of actors.
- We need to make a distinction between breaking news and feature stories. Tina suggests that we look at what has always made good stories– the characters, the action, the tension, the problems and the solutions. Good stories almost always find readers.
- We need to get this message about covering peace to EDITORS!
- We need more women editors!
- The way media is delivered nowadays is literally altering how our neurons function, mimicking the way addictive drugs do, demanding instant gratification. It has become harder and harder to engage people in nuance and long form reporting.
- With the Internet, there are a multitude of choices for news; people can choose to hear the news they want to hear. The array of choices should be a good thing, by allowing people to hear diverse points of view; the problem is that's not how people are consuming the news. Instead of paying attention to diverse sources, most people rely on the sources that echo their own political views.
- Tina compared the situation we have today to the 60s and 70s when Walter Cronkite, Huntley Brinkley and the New York Times told us what to think. She doesn't want to return to that situation, better to have more choices in spite of the problems that come with them.
- Jon Sawyer, who covered the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan felt a real disconnect between the criticisms of the war, coming from people who understood the situation well, who knew that this war was going to be a disaster; and his editors, the NY Times and the networks all of whom bought the hype from the Bush administration that it was going to be a great thing for Iraq. That failure to deliver alternative points of view motivated him to launch the Pulitzer Center.



Survey Results – Summary

Overall, the reactions to WSPS that came through in the survey results were very positive, indeed many people thought it should have been longer than just one day and others would like to see it done again.

Question #1 How did you find out about this event? Almost 40% of the respondents said that they found out about WSPS by word-of-mouth from friends and colleagues. The next largest contingent was by email, 17% found out by emails and 14% said they heard about the event from our partner the Pulitzer Center. The next largest category was 13% who found out from Facebook. Other smaller groups included people who found out through Twitter or from a teacher or professor, or others.

Question #2 Why did you choose to come to the symposium? The largest group, 44% said they came because they were interested in the topic and wanted to learn more about it, and that it was relevant to what they do. Another 20% came because they wanted to see and meet other journalists, hear what they had to say and make connections. 15% of the respondents were motivated mostly by their interest in Peacebuilding and nonviolent solutions to conflict. 10% said their interest was work-related and 11% came because they knew someone who was either a panelist or an organizer of the project.

The following are examples of positive comments.

- "It was very important to me to see other journalists from around the world and to hear their stories about conflicts in their countries. I found answers to many of my questions."
- "I'm interested to know how reporting on peace can become more compelling, or as compelling as reporting on conflict."
- "I am a Peacebuilder and wanted to connect with journalists; as well as to offer my own thinking to the conversation (during the breaks etc.). I learned a lot!"
- "Great topic. Great lineup."
- "I'm interested in finding more ways to get peace stories to the public."
- "I attended the symposium because I wanted to connect with other peace journalists and share reporting experiences."
- "I'm interested in the efforts of local peacebuilders and local communities in conflict affected areas and the role and responsibility of the media in creating and shaping narratives about conflict affected countries."
- "Because immediately after the general elections in my country, Kenya, war erupted and hundreds of people were killed either by police, mob justice and organized criminal gangs due to their political affiliations. I felt it is my responsibility as a journalist to report responsibly on how to end the war and violent killings and this would only go through by majoring in peace stories. And for that matter the symposium would be my greatest opportunity to help me build on how best to approach these stories. And that is why I chose to attend the symposium!"
- "I've always been interested in photojournalism but focusing more on conflict, I'm interested to see the other side."

- "It is because of, to my mind, the poor and often negative ways conflicts are reported in my country, Nigeria, which is plagued with Boko Haram insurgency and herdsman's killing of farmers. So I was looking to learn how, in a deliberate way, to report conflicts from the perspective of peace."
- "Topic I'm super interested in as a filmmaker. How do you tell stories that don't focus on violence and war, but accurately depict it and remain compelling?"

There were no negative answers to Question #2, which is a nice testament to what people saw and heard.

Question #3 Share your views on the different parts of the symposium? The respondents scored the following sections of the symposium from 1 to 5. All three panels got very high scores. Panel # 2 was the top choice, panel # 3 was second and panel # 1 was third. Between the two keynote speakers, Alexis Okeowo got the highest score; Sebastian Junger got the lowest score of any category. The Pitching for Peace Story Pitches was the second lowest category. The three storytellers all got high scores but Sabah Ismail scored the highest of the three.

Question #4 Share comments on symposium content. This question asked for written responses and they were quite interesting. 37% of the responders thought that the topics were excellent and well chosen. 22% thought the panelists were excellent. 10% thought that it wasn't long enough, that it should've been a two-day event to cover more topics. A few people wish there were more Q&A and that there was more time for networking and conversations. Presumably they would've liked longer breaks or more time overall. A few thought that Sebastian Junger was boring. A few thought that there should've been editors present on the panels. A few thought that there should've been more about peace and less about news content.

The following are a few sample comments:

- "Important, provocative. The interlocutors were not equally adept, and I wish there had been a little more time for Q&A, but found the day excellent as a whole."
- "The content was fine, for a one-day symposium it covered as much as could be covered given the time constraints. A further few days would have perhaps given opportunities for breakout areas and small seminars to discuss focused issues with experts."
- "The meet and greet the night before, was both informative and a great opportunity to meet and speak with folk in a more intimate setting. I'm looking forward to ongoing symposiums. Thanks!"
- "I wonder if there's a way to talk more about documentary film and how that can expand some of the stories."
- "Terrific organization of the content and its presentation. Perhaps you could have included more editors so that the audience could have learned from and also influenced their perspective."
- "The story pitches were a bit too odd to watch. I think because the audience had not seen the applications. Therefore, the judge's question sometimes felt out of context and the audience's role in the whole thing felt irrelevant/unimportant."
- "The symposium showed how much further work is needed to better connect peacebuilding and journalism. I also would have liked to see a real integration/discussion of the concept of peace journalism as outlined by scholars such as Galtung and Lynch."
- "Knowing it is impossible to include everything in a short time, I thought the content was great. Could you have added other topics, sure. Could you have added more opportunities for attendee interaction or

discussion, yes. But doing so would require more time. Perhaps in the future you will extend this to two days?"

- "The symposium was extremely well-organized, the panelists were interesting and the audience was diverse and informed. It's too bad Sebastian Junger did not choose to be either interesting, informed or diverse. I was very sad to see that his toxic masculinity followed on such a fabulous panel of women offering thoughtful and nuanced perspectives on reporting."

Question #5 Rate these aspects of the symposium experience. The aspects of the symposium that people were asked to rate were the following:

- Overall Concept
- Website
- Mobile Phone Program
- Ticketing and Registration Process
- Check-In
- Food and Beverage, And Venue.

The scores were high in almost all the categories, mostly in the good to excellent range. The check-in, ticketing and registration process and the overall concept got the highest scores. The website, the mobile phone program and the food and beverage were the next group in terms of ratings.

Question #6 Please Comment on the above program elements. By and large the comments were very positive. The only element that was panned was the lunch. However a few people loved it. People loved the venue, they thought it was extremely well organized. Here are a few interesting comments.

- Please know that discussions that happened in the lobbies were intense and focused. There was a feeling that information and essential knowledge was being shared in a rare opportunity to connect directly with colleagues. I recommend building in a bit more time for networking. It felt like life-and-death information was being shared, wedged in between essential stories... perhaps too quickly.
- The symposium was terrific. fascinating from beginning to end.
- The space worked really well for the component, transitions. Flow. Excellent auditorium for size, sound. Visual design of the events spaces was elegant, vivid, non-intrusive, and helped create intimacy and focus.
- Perfectly organized. Highly professional and fun to be part of it.
- It was a well-conceived event, impeccable communication. Bravo

Question # 7 What's your "take away" from the symposium? There were some really terrific comments in this section. Here are a few examples of the comments. I think it is evident that many people took away what we were hoping they would, the idea that peace should be reported on more frequently and in depth, and violence should be covered more thoughtfully.

- My take away from the symposium was the affirmation that we are in a business of telling stories that celebrate human dignity in places of wars. Coming shorter than that is morally and ethically unacceptable.
- Really amazing people out there, recording the hardest stories for the rest of the world. There will always be an appetite for bang-bang, but there is a market for the peace stories, especially among journalists.

- I think this is a fantastic concept, and one that can/should be replicated. It's very important.
- It is important to work harder to bring underreported stories to a bigger audience to expand the consciousness of what is happening around the world and how anyone could help.
- that there are a lot of stories about peaceful solutions to conflict that are waiting to be told, and lots of journalists who want to tell them.
- There is much work to be done to educate journalists and other about peacebuilding. There is a willingness to learn. We need more sites like News Deeply to help tell the stories of peacebuilding to a broader audience.
- Lots: Don't just report on the horse race or the bang bang. Good stories matter. Context matters. Historical parallels matter. Deep dives into human stories matter. Readers are tiring of the same old and are looking for hope, paths forward, and possible options for resolution.
- there is so much to learn here. it's an amazing topic and well done to open up the topic.
- There's hard work to do, and editors need to be involved more.
- Find creative ways to tell peace stories - need to represent women and other voices much better.
- Really interesting, good discussion, needs to continue.
- To be determined. Honestly, there was too much to absorb in a short time and I really need to go back and review my own recordings of the sessions. So much was covered in such a short time, I need to let this settle and to review my recordings. One simple take away is that there are many other like-minded people out there trying to cover issues of war and peace in a more balanced way. As a freelancer in a remote location, it's easy to feel isolated. It was very inspiring to meet so many people doing important work from around the world. I am sure what I heard and discussed at WSPS will have a strong influence on my own reporting going forward. I feel like this is something that will manifest over time and in ways that are not necessarily definable in concrete terms.
- I leave with a deeper understanding of the issues surrounding reporting on conflict and peace building. I also leave with a hopeful feeling that there are many people working the right directions.
- peacebuilding actions might be enhanced by a powerful triad: local peacebuilding initiatives, journalism and international cooperation. These three actors are key to knowledge exchange and consolidation of solid peacebuilding and conflict prevention networks
- I loved how well rounded the panels were. I, as a female, enjoyed the women reporting sector and was fascinated with their experiences. Thank you for that. It gave me more insight into my dream of becoming a (war/peace) conflict zone reporter.
- There is an important continuing conversation to have about how to transition coverage and understanding about peace

Question # 8 Was the symposium relevant and useful for your work, and if so, how? Most of the comments and answers to this question were positive. Most felt that it was relevant to their work in one way or another, what was interesting was the way their answers differed from each other. Some emphasized the networking; others found it affirming to be with so many other journalists who are facing similar obstacles and challenges. Many

talked about being able to see their own storytelling in a new light. Here are a few sample responses:

- Important encouragement, ideas, and approaches to new ways to cover the war story.
- Yes. Great to hear how other photographers are dealing with the issues we all face
- I was important to hear about the new challenges journalists are facing to get to the stories, and how to make those stories appealing in a saturated field.
- The symposium was very relevant for my work at Peacemaker 360. More than gleaning best practices from panelists, I made important networks that I am now exploring further for partnerships. Thank you so much War Stories Peace Stories for giving me such a unique opportunity to connect and learn from other journalists. This was definitely the best journalism symposium I have ever attended.
- Yes! I work as a representative to the UN and several of the speakers frequently engage in the UN space. It was interesting to hear different voices come together, from both the peace building and journalism fields.

Question # 9 Additional comments and suggestions. A number of respondents wished that the event was longer and provided more time for networking. Several said that it should be done again, and in other cities. Several mentioned the need for editors to participate in the conversation, since they play such an important role as gatekeepers for the news reports we get. A few would like to be able to see video replays of the event online. A few specifically mentioned the presence of women on the panels as well as the panel on gender. One interesting comment– “Have a thought-leader on the concept of sustaining peace,” suggests that more information on how peacebuilding is actually done would have been helpful.

The following are a few sample comments:

- I think the conversation has just started and should continue. More such discussions should be held not only in one location but other places if possible to sensitize the media. Various training programs should be developed to train media practitioners. Peace builders should not relax in their efforts to get the media to reshape their conflict stories towards peace building.
- The organization was impeccable, and I really think that this first Symposium was a huge step ahead. However a one-day event makes it difficult to really engage specific and real changes. The challenge of "peace journalism" is enormous and I felt that all the participants needed more time to do interpersonal connections that we could translate in professional actions.
- Would like to see more panels with editors/publishers discussing their decision-making process on selecting what stories are important to bring to light while keeping their business model.

Initial Outcomes

It is unusual for a symposium to deliver tangible, measurable results, but we are proud that WSPS did. WSPS’s partner the Pulitzer Center sponsored 10 stories on international peace efforts from the entries in their Pitching for Peace Competition. The breakthrough independent news organization, News Deeply created a new channel called Peacebuilding Deeply. Stories about peace and reconciliation now have a home of their own.

Other results may not be as tangible as the 10 stories Pulitzer sponsored or the new Peacebuilding Deeply channel, nevertheless, it is clear from the survey results that many people made meaningful contacts that will produce new partnerships, others said they were inspired to look at conflict reporting in new ways. There was a large cohort of journalism students who heard experienced journalists talk about the challenges they faced covering peace and conflict, and their desire to do it differently.

Partners and Advisors:

WSPS had the active support of 20 prominent organizations in peace and journalism and a number of accomplished individuals in peace and journalism. We are proud of the strong coalition of individual advisors and organizational partners who worked with us to implement the program. These partners provided critical guidance that helped shape the program and agenda, and made introductions and connections in the journalism and peacebuilding realms.

Peacebuilding Organizations

The Alliance for Peacebuilding
 The American Friends Service Committee
 The Global Peace Film Festival
 Inclusive Security
 Institute for Economics & Peace
 The Institute for Human Security, Fletcher School
 of Law and Diplomacy
 Partners Global
 Peace Direct
 Stanley Foundation
 Transparency International

Journalism Organizations

The Center for Global Peace Journalism
 Foreign Policy Interrupted
 Frontline Freelance Register
 Fuller Project for International Reporting
 The Ground Truth Project
 International Center of Photography
 IRIN
 Overseas Press Club
 Pulitzer Center

Advisors

Christina Asquith, The Fuller Project for International Reporting
Jessica Berns, Jessica Berns Consulting
Michelle Breslauer, US Director of Institute for Economics and Peace
Chic Dambach, Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow. Former President, Alliance for Peacebuilding
Richard Golob, President, United Nations Association of Greater Boston
May Jeong, Magazine Writer and Investigative Journalist
Melanie Greenberg, President and CEO, Alliance for Peacebuilding
Susan Hackley, Managing Director, Program on Negotiation, Harvard Law School
Elizabeth McClintock Managing Partner, CMPartners
Steve McDonald, Global Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
Bridget Moix, US Representative, Peace Direct
Wesley S. Morgan, Defense Reporter, *Politico*
Jason Motlagh, Writer, Photographer, Filmmaker
Kem Knapp Sawyer, Contributing Editor, *Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting*
Devon Terrill, Media Program Officer, Stanley Foundation
Steven Youngblood, Director of the Center for Global Peace Journalism

Funders:

The project was funded with grants from the Humanity United Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Compton Foundation and the Jubitz Family Fund. The Stanley Foundation partnered with us to develop some of the panels, to bring conflict journalists and active peacebuilders to participate in the event, produce the dinner for speakers and organizers the night before the symposium. They also covered the catering for all the meals and the reception.

Peace Direct:

Peace Direct's US office served as fiscal sponsor and a primary partner for the project. In addition to ensuring fiscal accountability, Peace Direct provided advice and input to the program and design of the event; mobilized resources to support additional local peacebuilders to participate in the event; recommended speakers, including Kessy Ekomo, Quscondy Abdulshafi, and Saba Ismail; helped organize an opening reception for speakers and international guests; helped trouble shoot and address project problems; and, provided financial resources to cover funding gaps. Peace Direct's Senior US Representative opened the event, and the communications team promoted the project through social media and live tweeting. Support for the project was a critical part of Peace Direct's work to shift the narrative on war and peace and lift the profile of local people working to transform their societies.

Production Team:

Jamil Simon- Executive Director is a peace activist, an award winning documentary filmmaker, and an expert in communication strategy. He has made films and worked on media projects in Africa, Europe, Asia and Latin America promoting social and environmental reform. He has worked on peace related film and media projects in Burundi, Jordan, Mali, Central African Republic and Haiti. His broad, rich experience and his passion for shining a spotlight on peace efforts led to the creation of the *War Stories Peace Stories* symposium. He is in production on a feature length documentary on peacebuilding in four countries called *Beyond Diplomacy: Building Sustainable Peace*, working with the Fletcher School at Tufts University.

Donna DeAngelis - Event Producer specializes in producing and managing large-scale, multi-media events for elite audiences, and the production of compelling video stories. Her signature skill is the ability to keep the program focused on the strategic goals and objectives of the event, while managing the work of artists and technicians who work on-site. She has worked in the broadcast, political and corporate sectors. She produced and implemented staged capital campaign launch events for Yale University, Harvard Business School, the University of Pennsylvania Law School and other top national Institutions.

Mari Badger - Social Marketing and Strategy has been an award-winning marketing & communications consultant and creative director for more than 25 years. She is a co-founder of a startup called Smart Agenda which makes meeting software, principal at noodle + scribble, a creative services firm focused on mission-based organizations, and an independent marketing consultant. Her previous work includes startup nonprofits, marketing for the Boston Women's March for America, which turned out to be the largest of the marches outside of DC, and initiatives such as education conferences, arts festivals, and community service events.

Peter Agoos- Design Director. Peter has created permanent and temporary works at all scales, ranging from multimedia staging design for events to theatrical and film sets, from exhibit and architectural designs to public art installations, from documentary films to graphic design for print and web. He has worked with corporations from startups to industry-defining giants as well as small nonprofits and international NGOs. Current and recent projects include Creative Director for several VA 2109 Commemoration events marking 400 years of representative democracy in Virginia and America (2017)

Elizabeth Bartle is an experienced nonprofit manager, program and communications consultant and board member. Her areas of expertise include program evaluation, communications and community relations. She currently consults to several area non-profit's; advises for the admissions office of an independent school; and serves on the board of the Community Charter School of Cambridge and the advisory board of the Boston Women's March for America successor, March Forward Massachusetts.

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Photos by Samuel Stuart Hollenshead

ANNEX

ANNEX A

Seven Additional Peace Stories Funded by the Pulitzer Center from the *Pitching for Peace Competition*:

Title	Journalist	Country	Summary
The Double-edged Sword of Building Peace	Nadia Drost	Colombia	A series of reports for the PBS News Hour on post-FARC peacebuilding in Colombia, with stories on the search for the disappeared and the process for reconciliation. Columbia is estimated to have over 40,000 forcibly disappeared, more than Chile and Argentina combined during their dictatorships, new government unit with judicial authority will augment state investigators and NGOs
Finding a Way Out in El Salvador	Danny Gold	El Salvador	For Salvadorans, in the country with the highest murder rate in the world, gang members can seem all-powerful. Still, there are people who risk their lives to put an end to the violence, with pastors and reformed gang members using religion as the means to do this. Danny's 20 minute documentary will report on the threats faced by pastors, some of whom have been imprisoned or attacked by police for their proximity to gangs, seen through the eyes of a pastor working to help gang members escape gang life.
The Balkans: Roadblocks to Peace	Malcolm Brabant	Bosnia and Herzegovina	In Bosnia, rampant nationalism, especially on the Serb side, is preventing the country from reuniting after the bitter ethnic conflict of the 1990s. Serb nationalism is being stoked by Russia, which sees an opportunity to sow discord in what was once its area of influence. The problem is one of international recognition, especially by Serbia, which regards the territory as the soul of its identity. Is there a way beyond the impasse? Or is Kosovo doomed to be something of a non-state.
Women Peace-builders in Afghanistan	Sara Hylton & Alice Su	Afghanistan, Pakistan	A cross-border photography and narrative feature about Afghan and Pakistani women working together in a peace-building network.
Mali's Faltering Peace	Peter Chilson	Mali	390 miles north of Mali's capital lies the spiritual center of a modern jihad led by an Islamist preacher, Amadou Koufa. His movement sought to undermine Mali's peace agreement in 2015 and continues to derail elections.
Afghanistan's First Female Rangers	Gulnaz Khan	Afghanistan	Today, in a country ravaged by war, the Band-e Amir National Park is a beacon of hope, and an unexpected leader in conservation and women's rights. In 2012, the government made a historic decision to hire four female rangers in a country where only 16% of Afghan women are employed in the formal economy. These women are playing a pivotal role in safeguarding Afghanistan's wildlife and natural wonders, educating visitors, and paving the way for peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery.
Religion and Reconciliation in Iraq	Alice Su	Iraq	Alice is writing a reported feature about "the question of whether separation is the solution for sectarianism in Iraq (or in general), and questioning

			<p>the way we talk about identity conflict - especially religious and ethnic conflict - in the Middle East," and "how minority groups are dealing with return, reconstruction and reconciliation - or lack thereof," and a story from Sinjar on the obstacles to reconstruction and access to medicine for displaced Yazidis there.</p>
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