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## Conflict, Peace and Justice

Conflict prevention and transformation, peacemaking and peace building, and post-conflict justice and reconciliation are common concerns of humanitarian and human rights NGOs. In the wake of the genocides in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda and other violent conflicts, the international community recognized the duty to prosecute war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide as a principle of justice and articulated the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) principle. Similarly, after the democratic transitions in Europe, Latin America, South Africa and other settings, governments and civil society established truth and reconciliation commissions and similar bodies to achieve important social and political objectives that criminal prosecutions alone could not achieve.

In 2002, the University, in collaboration with the United States Institute of Peace, convened a conference on peace and justice to explore the intersecting research agendas and educational programming of scholars in the fields of peace and conflict resolution and human rights studies. That conference led to the creation of the peace and global security concentration in the University's International Studies Program. The Human Rights Center will build upon our faculty expertise in peace and global security, as well as human rights studies, to conduct research into the root causes of conflict as well as strategies to establish peace, justice and reconciliation. The Human Rights Center gives special attention to acts of sexual violence against girls and women in situations of conflict and mass atrocity.

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