

# Strategic Peacebuilding Pathways

**Peacebuilding** is the development of constructive personal, group, and political relationships across ethnic, religious, class, national, and racial boundaries. It aims to resolve injustice in nonviolent ways and to transform the structural conditions that generate deadly conflict. Peacebuilding can include conflict prevention; conflict management; conflict resolution and transformation, and post-conflict reconciliation.

Peacebuilding becomes **strategic** when it works over the long run and at **all levels of society** to establish and sustain relationships among people locally and globally. Strategic peacebuilding connects people and groups “**on the ground**” (community and religious groups, grassroots organizations, etc.) with **policymakers and powerbrokers** (governments, the United Nations, corporations, banks, etc.) It aims not only to resolve conflicts, but to build societies, institutions, policies, and relationships that are better able to sustain peace and justice.

Strategic peacebuilders address issues of human rights, economic prosperity, and environmental sustainability as well as violence.

**What does the field of peacebuilding practice look like? What are the potential career pathways for a strategic peacebuilder? Where do I fit in?**

The graphic circle below explains more — it was developed by John Paul Lederach, professor of international peacebuilding, and Katie Mansfield, M.A. '08 — illustrates the main components and subcomponents of the field of peacebuilding and their relationship to each other.

The **inner circle** highlights the three major areas of strategic peacebuilding:

1. efforts to prevent, respond to, and transform violent conflict;
2. efforts to promote justice and healing; and
3. efforts to promote structural and institutional change.

The **outer circle** highlights sub-areas of practice and career focus within those three areas. For each of these sub-areas, a variety of individual career pathways emerge. For example, the following are career pathways taken by Kroc Institute alumni (many careers could be included in multiple categories). **To see select alumni working in any of these areas, just click on the subcategory in the outer circle.**

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