

MPP's Guiding Principles

- Build long-term, mutually respectful relationships with members of Congress and their staff.
- Use dialogue to build mutual understanding.
- Become a trusted source of valid information.
- Differentiate information from opinion.
- Employ a strictly non-partisan approach.
- Collaborate with other peace advocacy groups.

How to Get Involved

To join our network of like-minded activists in your area, e-mail the appropriate Coordinator(s). You can be active on both your House team and a Senate team.

We look forward to your participation.

Contact MPP

Contact MPP or mail contributions to:

Minnesota Peace Project

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Minnesota Peace Project

Speaking Peace to Power

Minnesota Peace Project (MPP) is a network of citizen activists whose mission is to help build a more peaceful world by influencing U.S. foreign policy. We seek to achieve this by the exchange of perspectives and information with our members of Congress.

Volunteer coordinators lead teams for each Congressional district and for two Senate teams to develop long-term, mutually respectful relationships between constituent peace advocates and their members of Congress and staff members to engage them in ongoing dialogue.

The focus of MPP's efforts is detailed in the following Peace Agenda, which provides a broad platform of systematic changes we advocate. Foremost is to move from a reliance on military and economic domination to a strategy of fostering a more peaceful world through diplomacy, negotiation, and developmental aid.

For more information about MPP, how to be involved with one or more of our teams, or to support MPP with a tax-deductible contribution, visit our website: minnesotapeaceproject.org.

MPP Peace Agenda

A) *Resolve conflicts through diplomacy:*

1. Achieve complete U.S. military withdrawal from the Middle East, promoting long-term stability through development aid and diplomatic efforts with all regional parties.
2. Pursue negotiations with Iran without precondition or threat of additional sanctions.
3. Commit to resolving the Israel-Palestine conflict through determined, balanced and focused diplomacy.
4. Limit the U.S. government's role in the internal affairs of African nations to strengthening their civil society, supporting their domestic development or, at the request of the disputing parties, mediating their domestic conflict.
5. Normalize relations with Cuba.

B) *Build an infrastructure for peace and prosperity:*

1. Promote international agreements, treaties and institutions that foster a more peaceful world.
 - Commit the United States to strengthening the United Nations, becoming a signatory to the International Criminal Court and International Human Rights Treaties; respecting and upholding international law, military nonintervention, and promoting the human rights of all people.
 - Fully participate in international agreements on climate change.
2. Develop and strengthen alternatives to military force.
 - Create and support organizations and institutions working to resolve conflicts through peaceful means, such as civilian peacekeeping forces, mediation and conflict-resolution.
 - Significantly strengthen the U.S. diplomatic corps by increasing the number of Foreign Service staff.
3. Commit to just and sustainable economic development strategies.
 - Disentangle U.S. foreign policies from failed economic policies and flawed trade agreements, such as the Trans-Pacific Trade Partnership.

- Address the devastating effects of large debt burdens on developing countries.
- Promote policies that require fair and transparent transactions by multinational companies operating in developing nations.
- Empower local communities to determine their economic development priorities, to identify desired results of their projects and to exercise some authority over the administration of development resources.

C) *Dismantle the infrastructure that encourages militaristic response to conflicts:*

1. Refocus our military to provide for a more accountable national defense.
 - Prohibit the U.S. military's engagement in the internal affairs of other nations.
 - Limit the deployment of missile defense systems to defense of U.S. territory.
2. Significantly reduce U.S. military expenditures:
 - Develop and implement a plan to significantly reduce U.S. military spending to a level not to exceed the total for the world's next ten top military powers.
 - Promote policies that create civilian jobs and reduce the number of uniformed military employees to levels last recorded in the 1950's.
 - Stop production of unnecessary and ineffective weapons systems, including systems with cost overruns exceeding 10% of their original budget.
 - Reduce the number of permanent foreign U.S. military bases and the number of military personnel overseas.
 - End funding for research, development, procurement and deployment of weapons of mass destruction.
3. Negotiate, sign and approve agreements and treaties that reduce the risk of war and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction:
 - Negotiate a multi-lateral convention to prevent the militarization of space.
 - Reach agreement between the U.S. and other nuclear-armed nations to systematically eliminate all nuclear weapons arsenals by 2030.

- Establish robust Congressional oversight ensuring full transparency in the use of armed drones; and, in cooperation with the UN, develop international laws governing the military and commercial use of drones.
 - Work cooperatively with international organizations to create legal tools for prevention and prosecution of cyber-attacks. Develop and approve legislation that enjoins the U.S. from initiating or engaging in Cyber warfare.
4. Ensure transparency of all military expenditures by complete, accurate disclosure of:
 - Financial costs for weapons systems and armaments, troop and private-contractor deployments and support systems.
 - Financial costs for long-term medical and psychological care of U.S. war veterans and citizens of areas affected by U.S. military operations, including the civilian casualties of unmanned drones and bombing.
 - Counts of civilian deaths, injuries and damage to property in countries where the U.S. engages in conflict, and of deaths and injuries among soldiers/contractors the U.S. deploys.
 - Financial and human costs to a) members of the U.S. military, their families and employers as a result of repeated and rapid deployment b) non-combatants in war-affected areas where the U.S. military is engaged and c) the economic and environmental impact on war-affected areas.
 5. Reaffirm U.S. commitment to the Geneva Conventions, U.S. Rules of Engagement and U.S. Code of Military Conduct:
 - Rigorously enforce U.S. laws and policies prohibiting all forms of torture.
 - Prohibit the manufacture, sale and use of munitions that cause collateral harm to civilians.
 - Ratify the anti-land mine and cluster bomb treaties, and prohibit production and use of depleted uranium or white phosphorous munitions.
 - Cease military training activities such as those employed at the "School of the Americas."
 - Make Special Forces operations under Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) transparent and accountable.