



Peace efforts are invisible in the media.
We want to change that.

OUR MISSION

War Stories Peace Stories is a bridge-building organization igniting powerful conversations between journalists and peacebuilders from all over the world about peace, conflict, and the media.

How can we help more people understand that peacebuilding is a viable practice that can bring an end to conflict? To paraphrase the British playwright Tom Stoppard: if you want to change the world, start with journalists. We take his advice seriously.

WSPS builds bridges between journalists and peacebuilders to improve global media coverage of peace and reconciliation. Our projects promote journalism that doesn't fan the flames of conflict and demonstrates that there are alternatives to war and violence. This includes our podcast *Making Peace Visible*, our seasonal digital journal *NUANCE*, and our film series, *Peace Docs*. WSPS also conducts peace journalism workshops and hosts international symposia online and in-person. Our goal is to build a robust infrastructure of resources to facilitate in-depth, sustained dialogue between journalists and peacebuilders, with the goal of establishing a new community of professionals who possess a shared commitment to reshape narratives about peace and conflict.

AREAS OF FOCUS

- If It Bleeds, It Leads: The Problem of Selling Peace Stories
- Political Polarization in the U.S.
- Ukraine: Covering a War in all its Complexity
- Reporting on Refugees
- Gender and Peace: Peace Movements Sustained by Women
- How the Media Covers Nonviolent Protest Movements
- Covering Climate-Related Conflict
- Colombia: Lessons from the Colombia Peace Agreement

FOUNDER

WSPS Founder and Executive Director, Jamil Simon, is an award-winning documentary filmmaker, humanitarian, and lifelong peace activist. In partnership with organizations like USAID and the World Bank, Jamil has worked in Africa, Europe, Asia, and Latin America, promoting humanitarian reform through media-based public awareness programs. **WSPS Associate Director Steven Youngblood** founded the Center for Global Peace Journalism and has taught peace journalism to audiences in 32 countries. Both Jamil and Steven are **Luxembourg Peace Prize** laureates.

To learn about the whole WSPS team, visit our website! (See below.)

OUR PROJECTS

PODCAST: *MAKING PEACE VISIBLE*

In the news media, war gets more headlines than peace, conflict more airtime than reconciliation. On *Making Peace Visible*, we speak with journalists and peacebuilders who help us understand the human side of conflicts and peace efforts around the world. From international negotiations in Colombia to gang violence disruptors in Chicago, to women advocating for their rights in the midst of the Syrian civil war, these are the storytellers who are often risking their lives to change the narrative.



JOURNAL: *NUANCE*

When it comes to news coverage about peace and conflict, far too many stories are reduced to black and white narratives. *NUANCE* is a seasonal online journal focused on building more effective strategies for covering peace and conflict, with articles, essays and conversations contributed by award-winning journalists, peacebuilders, scholars, and other peace advocates.



FILM SERIES: *PEACE DOCS*

Whereas reports typically only cover a fraction of stories about peacebuilding efforts, documentaries have room to tell the whole story. *Peace Docs* is a curated film series in partnership with independent filmmakers and The Global Peace Film Festival. Our goal is to create a living archive of the highest quality documentary films about peace and reconciliation in the world today, and to make these films as accessible as possible.



LOOKING AHEAD:

2ND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Our first international symposium, held at the **New York Times Center**, drew over 400 leading journalists, peacebuilders, thought leaders, and funders to explore critical issues related to covering peace and conflict. Our second international symposium (date TBA) will feature dynamic workshops, lectures, and educational resources centered at the intersection of current global crises, how the media reports on these crises, and innovative strategies for capturing the public imagination on the possibility of peace.

AWARD & GRANT PROGRAMS

We want to incentivize peace journalism by celebrating journalists who write compelling stories about peace. We are in dialogue with leading university journalism programs to host an annual award for exceptional reporting on peace and conflict, which will be called **WSPS Story Awards**. Additionally, we want to revive our **Pitching for Peace** grant competition, which began in 2018, and was funded and managed by the Pulitzer Center.