

# Advocacy Teams



## Action Sheet

[fcnl.org/TeamToolkit](https://fcnl.org/TeamToolkit)

### Legislative Ask for January 2023

## Urge Your Members of Congress to Invest in Peace in Fiscal Year 2024

**A**s advocates for peace, we have long been guided by one core understanding: War is not the answer. But it begs the question— if war’s not the answer, then what is? Our reply: Peacebuilding.

Peacebuilding addresses the underlying causes of violent conflict by resolving injustices in nonviolent ways. However, despite some key increases in funding for peacebuilding last year, total appropriations for critical peacebuilding accounts came out to just 0.5% of the Pentagon budget. This is a fundamentally flawed approach, and in 2023, FCNL’s Advocacy Teams will be working to change it.

This work comes at an urgent moment. Today, the world faces some of the highest levels of violence and more active armed conflicts—including the war in Ukraine—than at any point since end of World War II. Climate change, lasting effects of the pandemic, and rising authoritarianism are helping drive political instability worldwide.

The U.S. government can save lives, prevent suffering, and save taxpayer dollars by making robust investments in peacebuilding.

Each year, Congress negotiates and authorizes discretionary federal spending with 12 appropriations bills. The State Department, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs (SFOPS) appropriations bill includes funding for several key peacebuilding accounts.

This year, we are requesting substantial funding for three key peacebuilding accounts: \$66 million for the Complex Crises Fund, \$40 million for Reconciliation Programs, and \$25 million for Atrocities Prevention.

With a brand-new Congress and federal budget cycle, we have the power to make our voices heard early in the appropriations process. The positive progress that we saw in peacebuilding funding last year is our foot-in-the-door!

*Read more background about our ask here: [fcnl.org/ATBackground](https://fcnl.org/ATBackground)*



### Actions to Take in January

#### Ask your members of Congress to invest in peace.

Request a lobby visit to urge your member’s public support for increased funding in three key peacebuilding accounts.

Submit a letter-to-the-editor calling on your legislators to support increased investment in peacebuilding.