



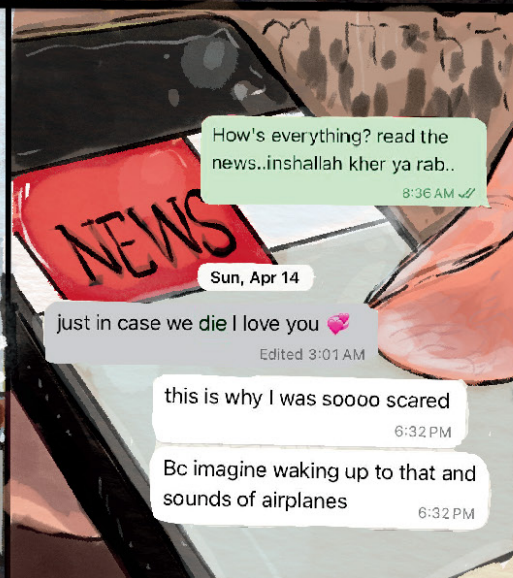
PEACE
STARTS
HERE

Artist: Diana Ishaqat

The world is seeing the highest level of non-peaceful times in recent years.



We are witnessing some of the largest scales of destruction and displacement since the world wars.



The call for peace is becoming more politicised and divided as ever.
Too many people are side-lined in the search for peace



We cannot allow war, violence, and the hatred of 'the other' become unchallenged facts of life. The space to challenge these must remain.

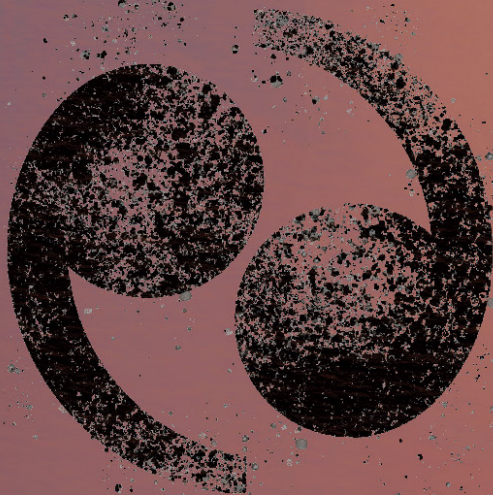
Stories from the ground need to be pushed into formal agendas.



Peace is longer-lasting when local communities have a say.



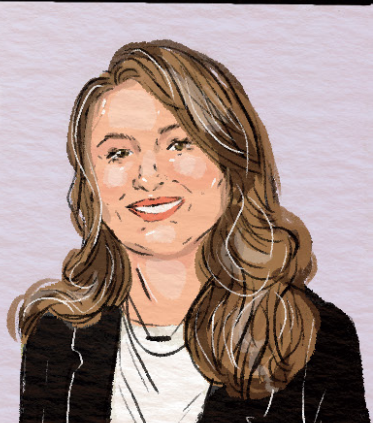
In 2023, Peace Direct initiated a call for local peacebuilders around the world to co-create a global peacebuilding campaign that joins grassroots voices, previously unknown to each other, together.



10 local peacebuilders joined forces to co-create the global peacebuilding campaign.

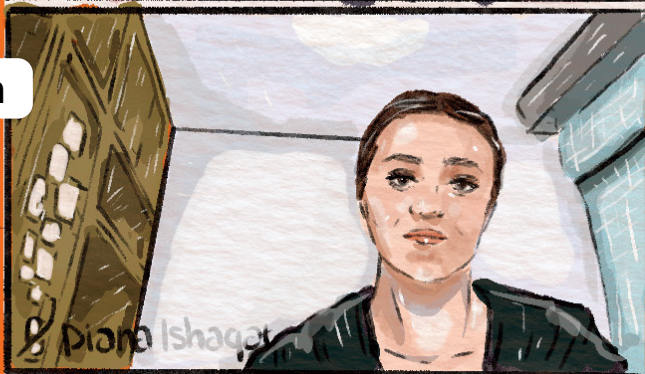
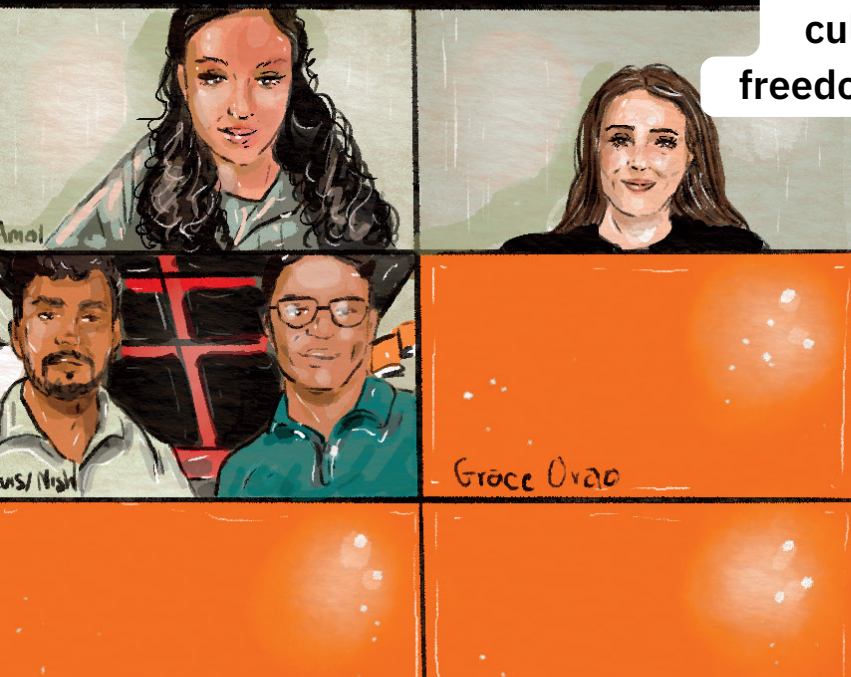


From Nepal to Jordan, Kenya to Venezuela.



For years, we've been writing, campaigning, making art, organising communities and founding organisations.

Navigating changing circumstances, cultural nuances, limitations on the freedoms of expression and contextual differences.



Leave

After a year of connecting virtually with each other and other grassroots voices, our campaign found its message,




We met every week to develop **Peace Starts Here**, a campaign that speaks to local voices around the world who also want to take a stand, however big and small.

A movement for local peacebuilders,
by local peacebuilders.



A movement that speaks to local voices around the world.



An illustration depicting a public event. In the upper left, a man with glasses and a blue blazer is speaking into a microphone. Behind him, a woman in a black hijab and glasses looks on. In the foreground, a woman with long dark hair and a brown shawl looks towards the speaker. To her left, a man in a green shirt and a blue face mask is visible. The background shows other people, including one with a camera on a tripod. The overall style is a soft, painterly illustration with a warm, orange-toned background.

A movement that tells international and Global North institutions, and NGOs to support the expertise and resilience of local peacebuilders so they can participate in sustainable peacebuilding.

To weave together our stance and create a resource for others as they research, create, design, and campaign for local peacebuilding too.

After months of collaboration between groups of local peacebuilders, **The Peacebuilders' Manifesto** was born. Our asks are:

#1 MAKE SPACE FOR LOCAL PEACEBUILDERS TO LEAD



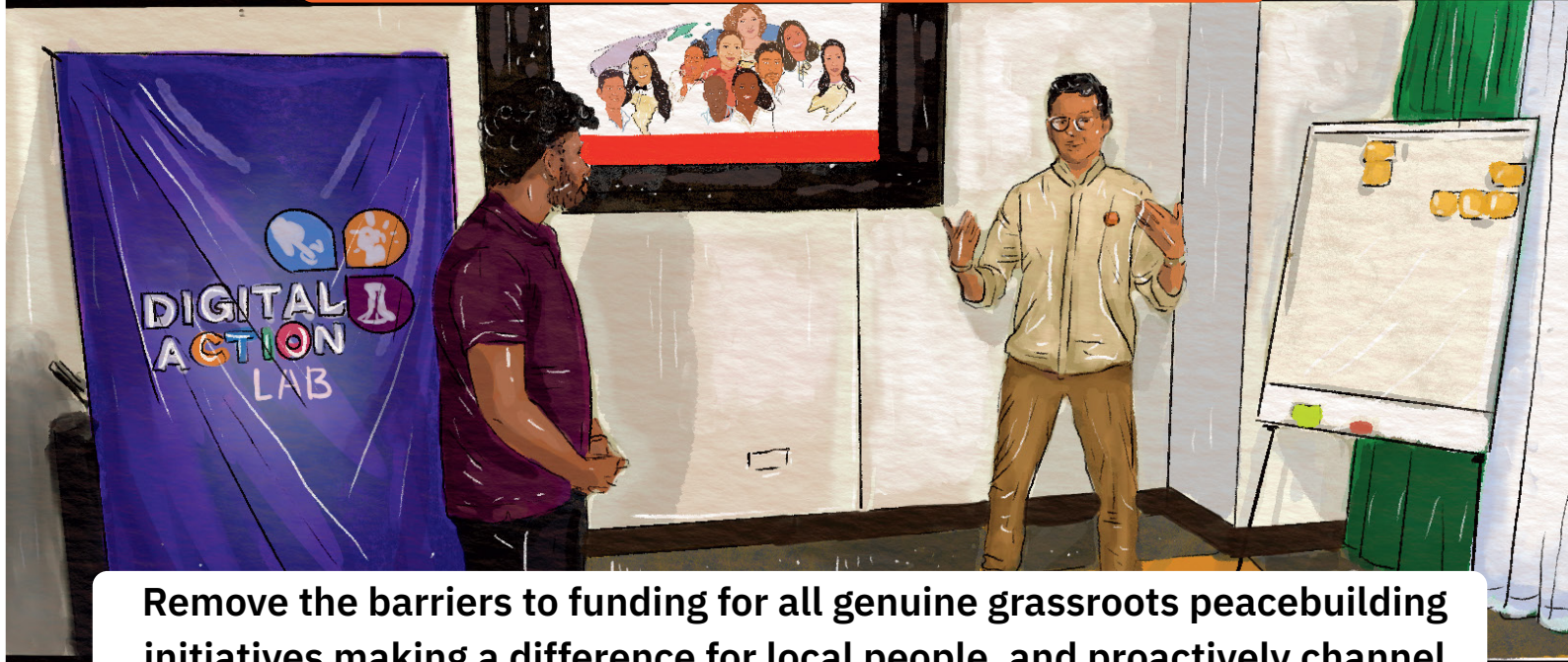
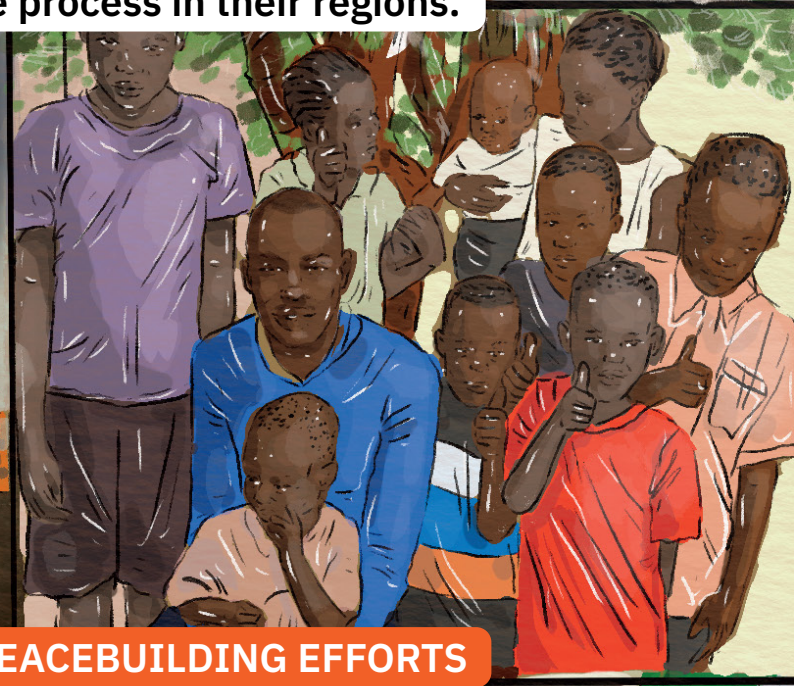
<https://peacestartshere.world/manifesto/>

OUR MANIFESTO

Create more inclusive ways for local peacebuilders to lead, shape and influence the peace process in their regions.



#2 FUND MORE LOCAL PEACEBUILDING EFFORTS



Remove the barriers to funding for all genuine grassroots peacebuilding initiatives making a difference for local people, and proactively channel resources to local peacebuilders in communities closest to conflict.

#3 SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN LOCAL PEACEBUILDERS

Support the expertise and resilience of local peacebuilders so they can participate in sustainable peacebuilding and build trust with policymakers, funders and donors.



#4 CENTRE PEACEBUILDING AROUND LOCAL PEOPLE

Invest in more human-centred, collaborative and community-led approaches to global peacebuilding efforts, encouraging local peacebuilders to play an active role in decolonising the role of global actors.




#5 LEARN FROM LOCAL PEACEBUILDERS



Promote successful local peacebuilding initiatives to aid learning, insight sharing and collaboration in the wider peacebuilding sector.



The campaign journey has taken us many places. Our thoughts and efforts to connect peacebuilders took us around the world.



From Colombia to Albania, to the thousands of people from over 100 countries viewing and interacting with us online; Peace Starts Here introduced us to powerful local voices.

“Peace starts from *story*. A story tells a lot about the struggle, negotiation, about resisting, and the good things too”.

-Rubi, Indonesia


“For me, peace starts with the affected individuals on the ground. The peacebuilders and the humanitarians; the people who are helping and actually aiding their communities.”

-Manisha, United Kingdom

“I think that peace starts from you, from your heart, from your family, community, and society...”

..peace to me is the freedom to express yourself, and to also listen to others”.

-Bibiche, Cameroon.



“If there's no bread, talk of peace cannot happen. If there's no water, talk of peace cannot happen. If there's no electricity, talk of peace cannot happen.”

-Bashar, Jordan.

“To me, peace starts from education and awareness. First, a person reaches a sufficient level of awareness through education, and that leads to a path to peace.”

-Omar, Palestine and Egypt.

“Peace starts for me from home, where the foundations and values..when we include women in peace negotiations and conflict resolutions, their unique perspectives contribute to addressing the root cause of the conflicts, and therefore building lasting peace.”

-Rahaf, Jordan.



Our Manifesto

Is peace an abstract, distant idea, a buzzword, or do you stand by peace?

Amplify local voices and join us today!
Add your voice to the Manifesto.
peacestartshere.world/the-peacebuilders-manifesto/

Artist: Diana Ishaqat