

The Peacemaker

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Featured Interview with Carla Koppell

Director, Institute for Inclusive Security, Hunt Alternatives Fund

Conducted by Carah Ong for PSFG on
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Carah Ong: You direct the Institute for Inclusive Security, which is a program of the Hunt Alternatives Fund. Can you give us some background on the Fund?

Carla Koppell: [Hunt Alternatives Fund](#) is the family foundation of Ambassador Swanee Hunt; it was established by Swanee and her sister Helen in Denver, CO in 1981. Today the foundation's home is in Cambridge, MA.

The Fund has a range of programs designed to create systemic change—our tagline is “provoking change—for good.” The [Institute for Inclusive Security](#) is run out of Washington DC. It is the Fund's largest operating program.

The Fund has several other programs including [ARTworks for Kids](#) in Massachusetts, and [Prime Movers](#), which supports the work of social movement leaders nationwide; [Demand Abolition](#) to combat human trafficking; and Inspiring Women to Political Leadership to build a critical mass of women in positions of political leadership around the world. Together with the Women's Funding Network, our Increasing Philanthropy program helped raise more than \$180 million for women's foundations around the world through the Women Moving Millions Campaign.

CO: How and when was the Institute for Inclusive Security established?

CK: The Institute was created in 1999 as [Women Waging Peace](#), subsequent to Ambassador Hunt's service in Vienna. She found that women were absent from peace negotiations for the Balkans and created Women Waging Peace to combat the marginalization of women in peace processes worldwide. The key argument behind the establishment of Women Waging Peace was that peace talks would benefit from greater inclusion of women; we perpetuate conflict if we only include in peace negotiations those who bore arms.



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Featured Interview Cont.



Carla Koppell

“A lot of the work we do is often centered on helping women create broad coalitions so their voices can be heard.”



[Jemma Kumba](#) works for women’s inclusion in Sudan.

CO: Why did you change the name?

CK: Women Waging Peace was changed to The Institute for Inclusive Security several years ago to emphasize that we are focused on improving efforts to achieve security and to recognize that women are only one constituency within a larger group of stakeholders who are marginalized in peace processes. The only way to achieve meaningful, lasting peace is if everyone is safe. That’s the theory behind “inclusive security.” We retained the name Women Waging Peace for our network of leaders; today, the Women Waging Peace network includes over 800 women from over 40 conflict areas globally.

Over time we have also become more sophisticated in our approach. For example, we conduct [research](#) to support our arguments for the inclusion of women; policymakers told us that they liked concept, but needed more evidence that something would change with a more inclusive process. We also added an advocacy component; we do a lot of work pushing for inclusion overall and we also have [extensive programs in some countries](#), such as Iraq in the past, and today in Afghanistan, Colombia, Israel-Palestine, Liberia, Rwanda, Sudan and Uganda. We believe our work in these specific places makes the case for more inclusion of women globally. Most recently, we added [trainings](#), which have two separate components: one with women peace builders to maximize their impact on peace processes; and one with policymakers on how to think about and strategize involving women. For example, we work with various policymakers in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and in the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

CO: Is the Institute funded solely by the Hunt Alternatives Fund?

CK: No, not entirely. We are actually in a growth period and have leveraged funding from a variety sources, including the Norwegian and Dutch governments, the United Nations Development Program, and the Open Society Institute. We also are further diversifying of our funding sources and increasing in size by leveraging external resources.

CO: What are some of the key successes of the Institute?

CK: A lot of the work we do is often centered on helping women create broad coalitions so their voices can be heard. I’ll give three examples from different stages of the peace process where women are playing a role in changing the discourse.

In [Sudan](#), we have three separate efforts. We have been working for several years with a coalition of women to promote inclusion in implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement; they have successfully lobbied for an electoral quota for women, advocated at the international donor conference for a focus on women, and are currently focused on election preparation. We assist women in the Government of National Unity’s women’s parliamentary caucus, the only all-party caucus in the national legislature. And we have assisted Darfurian women to strategize around peace processes for that war-torn region.

Featured Interview Cont.



[Martha Segura](#) is rebuilding trust in Columbia.

“Last month, we had a series of meetings with Israeli and then with Palestinian women to elevate their voices within their societies. There was a real thirst to become part of the peace process and I left energized by such incredible women leaders on both sides who want to find a negotiated solution.”



[Eti Livni](#) is a leader and persistent transformer in Israel.

One specific activity we undertook with Sudanese women involved collaboration with the Norwegian Government and UNIFEM to bring a delegation of women to the May 2008 Oslo Donor Consortium, which reviewed progress implementing the CPA and generated donor pledges to support further reconstruction and development in Sudan. The Sudanese women really made a splash. Whereas at beginning of the conference only nine of the donors emphasized women as a priority, by the end 22 of 24 donors did so. It really demonstrated how including women and increasing their voice could have an impact on programming and planning.

In [Colombia](#), we have worked with a diverse group of women leaders who have gone on to create a women’s legislative caucus, which put forward the country’s first law combating sexual violence. We have conducted training for the National Commission for Reparations and Reconciliation, and increased the representation of women on the commission. We have trained magistrates and justices to pay attention to gender in transitional justice. And we have helped shape the disarmament and demobilization process to enable the government to better understand and meet the different needs of men and women.

In [Uganda](#) during peace talks we brought together women on the Government of Uganda and Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) negotiating teams, female observers from civil society, and women from parliament to facilitate their efforts to engender the talks, increase women’s representation in negotiations, and ensure attention to women’s priorities and needs. As a result, important provisions related to demobilizing soldiers and ending sexual violence were inserted into the accord. The diverse group of women has continued to work together to promote transparency and broad participation in reconstruction.

CO: How did you come to work in this field?

CK: I started working in this field when a colleague from government, Ambassador Hattie Babbitt, asked me to join her at the Hunt Alternatives Fund. We were both new to work on issues related to women’s inclusion. I had come from a development background and was brought in along with Hattie to sharpen the focus on advocacy.

CO: What were you doing recently in the Middle East?

CK: Since the Women Waging Peace network was created in 1999, we have had Israeli and Palestinian members because we believed it was important to work with women across lines of conflict. We have continued to be active there, but have realized that there is a lot of work women Israeli and Palestinian women can do separately to increase their visibility and influence.

Last month, we had a series of meetings with Israeli and then with Palestinian women to elevate their voices within their societies. We sought to bring together a diverse set of people who share a common agenda related to women’s empowerment and inclusion. The consultations were part of a longer-term program; we anticipate returning next year to bring the women together again.

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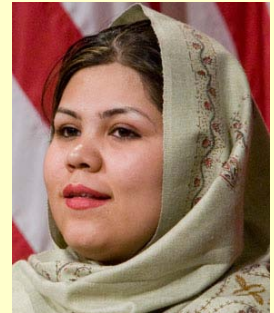
There was a real thirst to become part of the peace process and I left energized by such incredible women leaders on both sides who want to find a negotiated solution. While they don't all agree on what a solution should look like, they sincerely want an end to the conflict. It reminded me the Darfurian women, who represented ten different constituencies, yet their highest priority was to return security to society. They simply wanted civilians to be safe. The Darfurian women bemoaned the fact that for the team of male negotiators, civilian security was a secondary priority; they argued security would have been a critical issue if women had been better represented on negotiating teams. I got the same clear sense that the human security dimension is important to the Israeli and Palestinian women; if they had a voice, priorities would shift.

CO: President Obama has been struggling to develop an effective strategy in Afghanistan. What advice would you give him?

CK: There are a couple of components I would address. We had a delegation of Afghan women here a few weeks ago and they had conversations with the State Department and the White House. Women have been underutilized by the military; it was the case in Iraq and is the case now in Afghanistan. I will never forget an Iraqi woman speaking at the Council on Foreign Relations. 'Why don't they ask us for information? We know things and we want to contribute to peace,' she said. I have the same sense on Afghanistan. And there are examples of women helping with the situation. For example, Canada is responsible for the Provisional Reconstruction Team in Kandahar and created a mechanism to speak with women. When a prison break occurred a few months ago liberating hundreds of Taliban fighters, it was the women who told Canadians about the security breach, a full ten minutes before anyone else. Women can be a tremendous asset for establishing reconstruction priorities, routing out corruption, and providing information about areas where troops can't go.

The first message the women had for the Obama administration is that while security is not good right now, there has been a lot of progress on women's rights in Afghanistan. Certainly the situation is not perfect, especially with the need to secure fundamental security and reform the judicial system. A lot has changed though - women are part of parliament, they can get an education - and these changes mean something and need to be built on.

Second, to succeed in Afghanistan, we need to be equally focused on establishing a functioning judicial system as we build an Afghan army and police force. Without these, Afghanistan will not have a strong democracy, nor will troops be able to withdraw. The women who were here specifically suggested training judges and lawyers on the new Constitution, civil code and human rights law. We have to ensure judicial recourse for men and women. Finally, the delegation highlighted the fact that women can serve as a real vehicle for reaching out to communities, disseminating information and explaining why an increase in troops is important.



[Wazhma Frogh](#) is a gender and development specialist in Afghanistan.

"To succeed in Afghanistan, we need to be equally focused on establishing a functioning judicial system as we build an Afghan army and police force. Without these, Afghanistan will not have a strong democracy, nor will troops be able to withdraw. The women who were here specifically suggested training judges and lawyers on the new Constitution, civil code and human rights law. We have to ensure judicial recourse for men and women."

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[Medina Wesseh](#) is rebuilding public faith in democracy in Liberia.

“At end of the day, we are always about partnering with local stakeholders. We view ourselves as facilitators helping local organizations and people to strengthen their roles in peace building.”

CO: The Institute partners and collaborates with a number of organizations. What have you learned from the collaboration process?

CK: We have learned that partnerships will be critical to success. For example, we collaborated successfully with NATO, bringing a delegation of Afghan women to NATO headquarters to talk about role and potential of women. They also had the opportunity to testify before the European Parliament. Subsequent to that partnership, NATO has strived to increase the number of women on its delegations.

We also partnered with the World Bank and UNIFEM around the Liberia donor conference. As a result, the Government of Liberia and the World Bank made a more concerted effort to consult local women and men on developing a strategy for poverty reduction. They also involved more gender experts to ensure greater attention to the different needs of men and women.

We are also working with the Bosnian government on developing a national action plan for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. That resolution was the first to call attention to the need to involve women and meet their needs in all stages of the peace process.

Finally, at end of the day, we are always about partnering with local stakeholders. We view ourselves as facilitators helping local organizations and people to strengthen their roles in peace building.

CO: In a [policy brief based on case studies](#), you and Jacqueline O’Neill argue that women are regularly marginalized by the donor assistance pledging process and only sporadically consulted on reconstruction priorities and needs. What recommendations do you make for increasing women’s inclusion?

CK: The dearth of women participants is not a hard thing to remedy. Donor conferences are not secretive in the way that peace negotiations often are. There should be scope to bring others into that dialogue. Conferees should make room at the table for women and other members of civil society. Conveners should request that representatives of stakeholder groups be represented. Funders should provide financial support for civil society and women’s representation. When outsiders cannot be brought in en masse, local consultations should be held with information broadly disseminated. Our policy brief is meant to provide examples of what can be adopted and replicated from the experiences including women in the Sudan and Liberia donor conferences.

CO: What can foundations and philanthropists do to incorporate women into decision-making roles and processes?

CK: There are a number of ways foundations and philanthropists can be on cutting edge. For those making grants, it is critically important to assess by program area how many grants are going to organizations headed by women or men to ensure balance. Certain sectors have serious imbalances.

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Grantmakers need to ask the questions: How many men and women are serving in programs on ground? How many training participants are male and how many are female? Do we need to reach out to different sets of people to alter the mix of grant recipients? Are we soliciting proposals equally from male and female applicants? Is the selection process balanced enough to ensure equitable distribution? Grantmakers need to think about not only where they are advertising, but how to screen and judge applicants to ensure balance. Women's groups are often at a disadvantage and may not be able to craft proposals equally easily; they may be less well-acquainted with the solicitation process.

Amb. Hunt tells a story from her time in Vienna. She told her staff she wanted to invite an equal number of men and women to every reception, and by that she did not mean the wives of men. Philanthropy and foundations should follow her lead. We need to make sure we have an equal number of men and women speaking at and attending our events and receiving our funding. Participation in events and receiving grant awards can give women credentials, elevate their stature and expand their networks.

In terms of programs, it is important to think about structuring programs to make sure they are paying attention to issues of inclusion. It's not enough to tack on a separate program for women; it won't change the system. It doesn't necessarily come naturally, especially in fields like nuclear disarmament. There are many organizations run by women and they are frequently leading movements in civil society. We need to think creatively about how to reach those women and bring them into our discussions.

The Institute is happy to serve as a resource in helping grantmakers reach out to women in a certain country. We can also help identify women working in certain fields and can help brainstorm opportunities for thinking about gender in different types of programs and operations.

Finally, resources to bring other voices into the conversation are lacking. When there are peace negotiations, there is usually only money for negotiators. Philanthropists can play an important role in providing resources to make sure women and other members of civil society are able to be observers at every negotiation that takes place. This is a relatively low-cost way to transform how peace is created. If I had to challenge the funding community, it would be to create a pool of resources to bring women to the table, so they can make their voices heard to decision-makers, highlight differing priorities and make change in the international system.

CO: One final question: Are you hopeful about prospects for increased inclusion of women in peace processes?

CK: I'm cautiously optimistic. The Obama administration and Secretary Clinton have raised the issue of inclusion. There is general recognition of the need to focus on women, but we need to understand that in order to tackle the problems, women have to be part of the solution. They are not just victims. There is a tendency to look for solutions and devalue the contributions of women. While there has been progress and more people, both male and female, think this is an important issue, there is not yet real momentum. We need people saying, "We need more women in the room!" Until we truly act on our commitment to inclusion, we're not going to have the comprehensive solution we need.

Save the Date!

May 31 - June 2, 2010: *"Peace and Security Policy Briefing: A View from Europe"* in Brussels during the European Foundation Center's Foundation Week.

Plan to attend this exciting two-day seminar to learn from senior policymakers and analysts about Europe's most pressing challenges to peace and security and to explore the role of philanthropy in addressing these challenges with your funder colleagues from Europe and the United States. Co-sponsored and organized by PSFG, the European Foundation Center, Rowntree Charitable Trust, Fondation Charles Leopold Mayer, Berghof Foundation for Conflict Studies, and the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. The seminar will begin on May 31st with a site visit to the EU headquarters.

Upcoming Events

December 14, 2009: Connect U.S. Fund will hold a Community Meeting in Washington DC. The meeting will feature a keynote address by Deputy Secretary of Defense **William J. Lynn III**; panels on ongoing campaigns, the Obama administration's foreign policy progress so far and fundraising; and training sessions focused on public speaking, and messaging. [RSVP online](#).

January 19, 2010: The Institute for Inclusive Security will hold its 11th [Annual Policy Forum](#), entitled *Women Moderating Extremism*, in Washington DC.

January 25-26: The International Human Rights Funders Group will hold its [Semi-Annual Conference](#) in San Francisco.

March 16-17: The Council on Foundations and the Forum of Regional Associations of Grantmakers will host **Foundations on the Hill**.

April 19-21: The **Global Philanthropy Forum** will take place in Northern California.

April 25-27: The Council on Foundations will hold its Annual Meeting.

In the Loop

The Obama Administration last month [released the names](#) of people who have visited the White House and the adjacent offices of the executive branch. The list reveals that the White House is attempting to [fulfill its pledge to work with Foundations](#), showing at least eight philanthropy executives have made visits, some multiple times. Among the visitors are: **George Soros**, Founder and Chairman, **Open Society Institute**; **Gara LaMarche**, President of the **Atlantic Philanthropies**; **Steve Gunderson**, Chief Executive of the **Council on Foundations**; **Luis Ubiñas**, Chief Executive of the **Ford Foundation**; **Carol Larson**, Chief Executive of the **David and Lucile Packard Foundation**; **Judith Rodin**, President of the **Rockefeller Foundation**; and **Sally Osberg**, Chief Executive of the **Skoll Foundation**.

Samantha Rennie is leaving the **Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund**. We are grateful for her always-valuable contributions to PSFG and wish her the best. Welcome to **Andrew Cooper**, who will maintain the Fund's involvement with PSFG. Andrew can be reached at andrew.cooper@memfund.org.uk.

Stephen Colbert hypnotizes **Ploughshares Fund** President **Joe Cirincione** with his simulation of a nuclear attack. Watch the segment from The Colbert Report [here](#).

Former Secretary of State **George P. Schultz** joined the **Ploughshares Fund's** Advisory Board in October.

Four **Ashoka Peace** fellows were recently honored with awards. [Eboo Patel](#), founder of a national movement promoting interfaith religious cooperation and one of President Barack Obama's advisers on faith, was named one of America's Best Leaders for 2009 by *US News and World Report*. [Mohammed Ashafa and Pastor James Wuye](#) won the Fondation Chirac Prize for Conflict Prevention for their work in Nigeria, and **Betty Makoni** was voted one of *CNN's* top ten heroes for 2009 for her work to save girls in Zimbabwe from sexual abuse.

Switchboard

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation announced a \$1.5 million grant to a network of twenty scientific research and education centers across Russia [to support training opportunities for young scientists](#) to be administered by the [US Civilian Research and Development Foundation](#). The grant will support the final phase of the Program on Basic Research and Higher Education, a joint effort of CRDF and the Russian Ministry of Education and Science. The program also received funding from the Carnegie Corporation. The MacArthur Foundation also made a grant of \$212,000 to the [World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy](#) to develop a three-year strategy for advancing international justice through the [Coalition for the International Criminal Court](#).

A [recent report](#) from The Foundation Center determined just how much foundation funding has increased to address issues related to global warming. Its conclusion: foundation support has climbed from less than \$100 million in 2000 to more than \$850 million in 2008.

[Peace Development Fund](#) program partner [Gathering for Justice](#) was featured [on NPR on November 23](#) for its work to address youth violence in Chicago. Last year, more people were murdered in Chicago than US soldiers killed in Iraq. Despite these overwhelming challenges, Gathering organizers, like [Justin Richardson](#), have been working with high school students, empowering them by providing them real skills that they can use to de-escalate violence.

[Women for Women International](#) is celebrating a [new exclusive two-year partnership](#) with [Kate Spade New York](#) which will include nearly 250 women from communities throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina who will be employed knitting hats, mittens, scarves, and dog sweaters for [Kate Spade New York's Holiday 2009 line](#).

In the News

President Obama announced on December 1 his [decision to send an additional 30,000 US troops to Afghanistan](#), arguing that U.S. "security is at stake in Afghanistan and Pakistan. This is the epicenter of violent extremism practiced by al Qaeda. It is from here that we were attacked on 9/11, and it is from here that new attacks are being plotted as I speak." PSFG Director [Katherine Magraw](#) has prepared a summary of NGO initiatives on US military involvement in Afghanistan. [Click here](#) to email Katherine if you would like a copy.

The US and Russia were unable to reach agreement on a treaty to replace the [Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty \(START I\)](#) before its [December 5 expiration](#). The most significant differences on a new agreement center on verification and monitoring. Some had hoped the agreement would be ready for President Obama to sign when he visits Europe this week to collect the Nobel Prize, allowing him to show progress on nuclear arms reductions even as he sends more troops to Afghanistan.

The Obama administration [nominated Rajiv Shah](#), a former [Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation](#) executive, to serve as USAID Administrator. He most recently served as Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics at the US Department of Agriculture. Shah joined the Gates Foundation in 2001 where he worked as policy analyst and senior economist, developed a program for vaccine financing, and served as Director of Strategic Opportunities and Deputy Director of Policy and Finance for the global health program. The Obama administration also appointed [Ambassador John Limbert](#) to be the first-ever Deputy Assistant Secretary for Iran in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs at the US Department of State. Amb. Limbert was held hostage in Iran for fourteen months following the takeover of the US embassy in Tehran. He is a decorated career US diplomat who has held several senior positions in Washington with the State Department. He most recently authored [Negotiating with Iran: Wrestling the Ghosts of History](#).

The [Second Review Conference of the Landmine Convention](#) was held last week. The Conference reflected on the enormous progress that has been made in the last two decades, but was roiled by the recent surprise announcement from the Obama Administration that it did not intend to sign the Treaty. [Read an interview](#) by [Amy Goodman](#) of *Democracy Now!* with [Steven Goose](#), Director of [Human Rights Watch Arms Division](#), on the Administration's "appalling" decision to reaffirm the Bush decision to remain one of the few states outside of the treaty.

Resources

In [*What's Wrong With Charitable Giving—and How to Fix It*](#), Pablo Eisenberg, senior fellow in the Center for Public and Nonprofit Leadership at the Georgetown Public Policy Institute, suggests nine changes that would go a long way toward making philanthropy meet the needs of charitable organizations and address some of the most urgent public needs. He recommends, among other things, that foundations: increase payout rates of net assets annually, general operating support and multi-year funding; adopt rolling grantmaking; simplify application and reporting procedures; improve public accountability; and fund the watchdogs.

According to a new controversial academic book entitled [*Globalization, Philanthropy, and Civil Society: Projecting Institutional Logics Abroad*](#), US foundations funding overseas are an element of American "soft power," projecting the governments interests overseas and remaking the world in America's image. The book's editors, David C. Hammack of Case Western Reserve University and Steven Heydemann of the United States Institute for Peace, argue in the introduction that foundations project their ideas and operating practices to create a "Western grant economy," but access to material, professional and "reputational" resources are contingent on the extent to which local nonprofits assimilate the norms, practices and procedures of their Western counterparts. As a result, governments or state actors increasingly have to share power and influence with NGOs, and some of the NGOs become wholly dependent on foreign aid and international philanthropy without developing their own base of grassroots support.

In [*Fixing a Failed Strategy in Afghanistan*](#), Gilles Dorransoro explains that more troops alone will not fix a flawed approach and details what a new, successful U.S. strategy should look like. He recommends securing key cities and roads, redistributing coalition troops, redistributing development aid, and building an Afghan partner.

Jobs

The [United States Institute of Peace \(USIP\)](#) seeks an individual to serve as a Program Officer in the Jennings Randolph Fellowship Program and seeks an individual to serve as Program Officer in the Institute's Grant Program.

The [Ploughshares Fund](#) seeks a [Director of Government Affairs](#).

The [Stanley Foundation](#) seeks a [Program Officer for Policy and Outreach](#).

The [Skoll Urgent Threats Fund](#) seeks a [Business Manager, Chief Scientist, a Chief Alliances Officer and a Chief Advocacy Officer](#).

The [Funding Exchange](#) seeks an [Executive Director](#).

Refugees International seeks a [President](#).

To submit a newsletter story idea or subscribe, email PSFG Director Katherine Magraw at kmagraw@peaceandsecurity.org or Carah Ong at cong@peaceandsecurity.org.

