PEACETECH LAB
WORKING TO REDUCE VIOLENT CONFLICT USING TECHNOLOGY, MEDIA, AND DATA

NO ORDINARY PURPOSE
NO ORDINARY PLACE
GOAL

Identify, develop, and share the technologies that build and promote more peaceful and just societies – and make sure that they get to the people who can best utilize them. Tech disrupts everything. It has changed how we make vaccines, how we move money and information, and how we interact with each other. And as we have seen over the past few years, it has become very efficient at spreading hate, prejudice and violence. PeaceTech Lab was founded to do the opposite: relentlessly gather and share innovative technologies and strategies that help build just and accountable societies – in the process becoming a go-to resource for those thought leaders and world-class innovators working to promote social justice and non-violent social change. We are a Lab because we develop and share new ideas so that we (and others) can identify and scale what works best.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Identify and drive advances in data science that can help anticipate and prevent violent conflict before it happens. Consistent with our role as a Lab, we will drive greater innovation in the development of the next generation of early warning and early action analytics. We will build off of our Hate Speech and COVID-19 Violence Tracker programs to identify and refine these data models while providing their insights to individuals and organizations positioned to reduce violence.

2. Build a world-class online hub where activists and community leaders can find and share technologies and tech strategies for tackling the drivers of violence in their communities. Helping innovators develop great ideas is an important start, but it’s equally critical that they have a place where they can learn from each other. That is why we are committed to building a ‘GitHub for Peace’ – an open-source platform where changemakers, community leaders, social entrepreneurs, and visionaries can come share innovative approaches to peacetech, find ways to develop them further, and work collaboratively to adapt and apply them to their own circumstances.

3. Start expanding our network of self-sustaining PeaceTech Labs. As part of our commitment to putting the power of peacetech into everyone’s hands, we are building a global network of local Labs that will give activists, community leaders, and NGOs the opportunity to develop and refine approaches and solutions to defusing violence. Over the next three years, we will build on our experience in Kenya and the Netherlands to develop at least two new labs, starting with the Middle East. Each will bring together civil society organizations, technologists, journalists, and the private sector to explore how low-cost technologies can respond to and address the drivers of conflict.
GOAL

Inspire and support a movement dedicated to using peacetech in pursuit of more stable and prosperous communities. We live in a world where, for the first time in human history, anyone with a cell phone or an internet connection can use technology to promote nonviolent solutions to the world's most pressing problems. To this end, we support, work with, and train leaders, activists as well as everyday citizens to better use technology for social good.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Train social advocates, community organizations, and local government leaders through best-in-class online and in-person learning. Through our work in everything from divided neighborhoods to conflict zones, we've learned that there are significant gaps in community-level skills and knowledge. Our PeaceTech Exchange (PTX) program will continue to fill that need by offering opportunities to learn about and experiment with low-cost, easy-to-use, and accessible tech that gives community leaders the tools they need to counter the drivers of violence that undermine social well-being.

2. Provide US-based activists and communities the tools, tech, and data they need to accelerate and amplify their fight for justice and equality. If we are to continue inspiring a global movement, we need to apply the same standard to the crisis at home. To that end, we will build on our Road to Equal Justice initiative to support the continued development of an energetic peacetech movement in the United States. We will work with local partners and communities across the country to identify key issues and develop the tech, tools, and trainings people need to peacefully confront racism, inequality, and injustice.

3. Share with everyday citizens the knowledge and skills they need to use peacetech to promote just and more secure communities. We believe that everyone can use low-cost, easy-to-use, and highly accessible technology to make a difference. We will work to build a movement that inspires individuals around the world to do so, leveraging the reach of broad appeal events such as our International Peace Honors.

4. Use our experience with peacetech entrepreneurs to promote the role of peacetech in expanding economic development. Challenging and overcoming inequality and poverty through sustainable and equitable economic growth are critical to fostering stable and peaceful societies. We will build on our first-ever PeaceTech Accelerator to expand our work with the private sector to provide mentoring, training, and access to capital to entrepreneurs and innovators. We will work with them to develop, build, and scale companies and organizations that create jobs and build social capital. We will encourage the private sector to prioritize partnerships for peacebuilding based on our shared interests in building secure, just and prosperous communities.