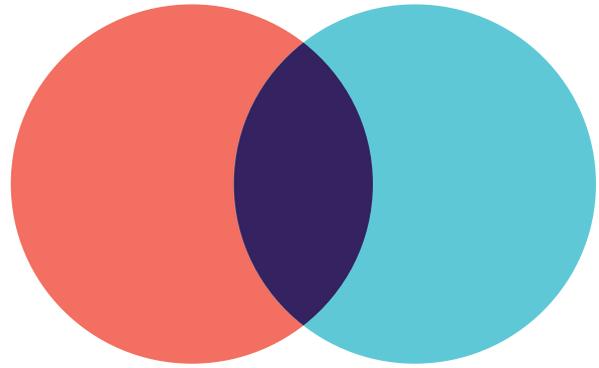




3 Cs: COLLABORATION

Being a peacemaker isn't about what you do — it's about who you are. Peacemakers stand out because they speak up for their values and make commitments to help the world. There are three values that define peacemakers and peacemaking projects: compassion, courage, and collaboration.

Use this toolkit to help you explore ways to lead with collaboration in your peacemaking work.



What is collaboration?

Collaborative peacemakers develop a vision for what they can accomplish working together with other people, and they inspire others to get involved, mobilizing others to create lasting positive change.

Collaboration in Action: Peace First Fellow Stories

Jeremiah

Jeremiah was concerned about the bullying that took place at his high school — and he wanted to do something about it. His idea was to start an anonymous twitter account to share compliments — real, genuine compliments — with people at his school. But because these compliments needed to be sincere, he couldn't do it on his own — he didn't know everyone well enough to give them an honest compliment. So Jeremiah recruited other partners from outside of his friend group — in some cases, students he barely even knew! — that could contribute to his @WestHighBros twitter. He brought together people from different social groups, sports teams, clubs, and backgrounds, and asked them if they'd consider tweeting a compliment to the person they disliked the most. If they said yes — they were in. With the help of a diverse group of students, @WestHighBros tweets spread like wildfire across the school — and soon, people were following Jeremiah's example, sharing compliments and positive messages online and off.

Collaboration means asking others to be part of the solution — and often, the best kind of collaboration comes from bringing together people with very different perspectives.



Brennan

Brennan grew up in Apex, North Carolina, where there were very few services for LGBTQ young people like them. So Brennan took matters into their own hands, and worked with their friends to create a group – QueerNC – where LGBTQ young people could come together, support one another, build community, and be themselves. Soon, the group grew beyond what Brennan had imagined – there were so many LGBTQ young people who wanted to connect with each other, but hadn't had the space to do so. Brennan knew that QueerNC needed more resources to support their expanding membership and in-person meetups, but they weren't sure where to go. Brennan and their team decided to contact the LGBT Center of Raleigh, but were concerned about how to ask for help - they expected not to be taken seriously because they were so young. When the team visited the LGBT Center's offices, the staff was friendly, supportive, and wanted to help – and now the LGBT Center helps fund and support QueerNC's programs for students around the state! Collaboration means reaching out to others, asking for help, and building alliances.



Omid & Kakooza

Omid & Kakooza were both in their last year of high school, and both really concerned about access to healthcare – especially the high rates of cardiovascular disease in under-resourced countries. They had a big idea for how they could work together to improve access to healthcare, but there was one challenge – Omid lived in Italy, and Kakooza lived in Uganda. Omid and Kakooza worked across thousands of miles to invent and build a small, inexpensive, portable heart monitor that fed results into a web app, which patients would use to communicate with a doctor – perfect for people living in under-resourced and remote areas without access to quality medical care. They made the distance work to their advantage by each building partnerships in their home countries – Kakooza with the Ugandan Heart Institute and Omid with medical researchers in Italy.

Collaboration means working across lines of difference, and using those differences to your advantage.



How to Put Collaboration Into Action

In your peacemaking project	In your daily life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage others: Great peacemakers never do the work alone. Reach out to lots of people - especially people who may not have been involved in a project like this before - and give them a clear (and meaningful!) role to play. Their support will be important! • Ask for help: When you face challenges, think about people or organizations in the community that have resources or know-how you need — and be bold about asking them to help. • Build alliances: Find ways that your project can partner with and support other projects. When teams come together to form a coalition, they become much more powerful and effective! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find common ground: Every day, you navigate disagreements and conflicts with your family and peers. The choices you make in those conflicts - to listen, to help others find common ground, to compromise - are peacemaking choices (and have long-term impacts on how others think about working with you.) • Invite others in: Think about the things you do and the things you're passionate about. Is there an opportunity to bring someone new to the table? Reach out and invite them in. • Practice gratitude: Part of what builds strong teams — and strong relationships — is recognizing and valuing the contributions that others make, and being sure to thank someone when they've helped you out.

Your Collaborative Commitments

Think about a time you've practiced collaboration — or seen others collaborate. Then make a commitment to practice collaboration in your daily life.

An example of a collaborative commitment might be: "I commit to asking other people 'how can I help?' when I might have something to offer their project."

Making specific commitments to put your values into action is an important part of peacemaking. Share your commitments with a friend, a mentor, or on your profile on [PeaceFirst.Org](https://www.peacefirst.org).

As a collaborative peacemaker, I commit to.....

1: _____

2: _____

3: _____

Collaboration in Action: Right Now

Now it's time to take action and show the Peace First community your collaboration.

Go to peacefirst.org/projects and find a project that is working on an injustice or cause that matters to you. Check out their page – what questions are they asking? What strategies are they trying? Where have they asked for help? Where might you be able to support them?

Then, leave a collaborative comment that helps the team with their project. You might answer a question they have. You might suggest a way to deal with a challenge they're facing. You might share some of your own experiences around a particular issue or share a strategy that's worked really well for you in the past. Collaboration comes in many forms – so post anything that will be helpful to the team in some way.

Little actions have huge impacts, because they can touch people's hearts in powerful ways. By showing collaboration within a community, you inspire and influence others to show collaboration as well.

'Instead of saying 'I'm going to build the perfect wall,' say, 'I'm going to lay the perfect brick.' Peacemaking isn't the goal, it is the step; it is every single step.' – Jeremiah