Mitigating the Effects of War on Vulnerable Populations
How can governments and international organizations better protect the security and mental health of civilians, refugees, displaced persons, and wounded soldiers during armed conflict?
Problem Statement

• There are currently more than forty inter-state conflicts and civil wars being fought in every region of the world

• Advancements in military technology increase detrimental effects on civilians, wounded soldiers, and displaced migrants

• 100 million people have fled their homes due to war in 2022 and 15% of soldiers experience post-traumatic stress disorder

• Indirect effects from attacks on the survival and well-being of populations are hidden but are more serious than direct effects

• Governments lack an integrated plan to address this
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team Member</th>
<th>Expertise</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bruce Cronin (principal investigator)</td>
<td>International law, civilian casualties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adeyinka Akinsulure-Smith</td>
<td>Forced migration, psychological trauma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kyle McDonald</td>
<td>Remote sensing to rebuild post-war societies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dirk Moses</td>
<td>Genocide and crimes against humanity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maritsa Poros</td>
<td>Migration, Displacement of populations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irina Carlota Silber</td>
<td>Rebuilding postwar societies, Migration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Sohler</td>
<td>Healthcare for disadvantaged, trauma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Danielle Zach</td>
<td>Human rights, civil wars</td>
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Objectives

• Develop an integrated strategy to mitigate the effects of war on vulnerable populations

• Build a comprehensive approach to rebuilding towns and cities destroyed during armed conflicts

• Determine how best to treat civilians and former soldiers suffering from physical and psychological effects of war

• Establish what legal agreements and government policies need to be updated, changed or initiated
Management Plan and Technical Approach

- Research, Practice and Policy
- Create an International Center for Victims of Armed Conflict
  - Conduct interdisciplinary research, policy analysis, advocacy
- Podcast series
- Seminar series
- Policy paper series
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Deliverables</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establish the Center</td>
<td>Secure and set up the office</td>
<td>12/01/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellowship Program</td>
<td>Recruitment, search, hire</td>
<td>09/01/23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Podcast</td>
<td>Set up studio, create annual schedule, first broadcast</td>
<td>02/21/23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Symposium</td>
<td>Set topics, set first year schedule, recruit presenter</td>
<td>02/01/23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy Paper Series</td>
<td>Choose editor, set topics, solicit papers</td>
<td>10/01/23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>Draft business plan, outreach to donors</td>
<td>10/01/23</td>
</tr>
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Team Qualifications I

• Forced migration and displaced persons: Maritsa Poros and Irina Carlota Silber collaborate on researching the experiences of war and conflict-affected communities

• International law of armed conflict: Bruce Cronin and Dirk Moses study civilian casualties and mass state violence

• Infrastructure damage: Kyle McDonald works with UNDP identifying areas in Ukraine requiring infrastructure rebuilding

• Podcast and Symposium: Danielle Zach hosts “Rights Talk;” has extensive experience organizing conferences & symposia
Team Qualifications II

• Psychological trauma, PTSD:
  • Adeyinka Akinsulure-Smith is co-founder of an organization created to respond to war survivors from the African Diaspora and staffperson at Bellevue Program for Survivors of Torture
  • Nancy Sohler: studies barriers health care for underserved populations and is the Director of Research Education at the Haiti Medical Education Project in Haiti
Sample of Kyle McDonald’s work

Assessment of structural damage for Kharkiv, Ukraine, and surrounding regions using remote sensing.
Graphic Representation of the Team

- Forced Migrants / Rebuilding Postwar Society
  - Maritsa Poros
  - Irina Silber

- Forced Migrants and Refugees
  - Maritsa Poros
  - Nancy Sohler

- Victims of Trauma
  - Adeyinka Akinsulure-Smith
  - Danielle Zach

- Civilian Infrastructure
  - Kyle McDonald

- Protection of Civilians / Mass Atrocities
  - Dirk Moses
  - Bruce Cronin

- Human Rights
  - Danielle Zach
Future Funding Prospects

• Private Foundations who support human rights projects:
  • Andrew Mellon; Robert Wood Johnson; Carnegie Corporation of New York; Annie E. Casey; Ford; Bill and Melinda Gates, Heising-Simons, MacArthur, and Rockefeller

• George Soros:
  • Open Society Foundation has granted more than $1 billion to human rights organizations since 2010
Thank you for watching