



# A · BETTER · WORLD

BSU CENTER FOR PEACE and CONFLICT STUDIES | STUDENT PEACE CONFERENCE

**March 25 (Tuesday) 12:30pm to 4pm**

**Ball State University**

**L.A. Pittenger Student Center: Student Center Room 302**

**Muncie, Indiana, USA**

## **Welcome to the Conference!**

The Ball State Center for Peace & Conflict Studies is thrilled to welcome you to the *2025 Student Peace Conference: A Better World!* We have much to learn from each other about how to make our world more peaceful, joyful, and beautiful. The way we think about a better world is shaped by our lived experiences, so each of us has something unique to share about what a better world might look like and how to make that world a reality.

This fourth BSU Student Peace Conference features spoken presentations from undergraduate students across a wide range of disciplines at the university.

We are deeply grateful to the Peace Center Advisory Board, and other BSU faculty and instructors who encouraged their students to participate. Finally, we thank you for attending this conference. We hope that your experience at the conference expands your view of the many possible avenues to a better world.

peace, The BSU Center for Peace & Conflict Studies  
[www.bsu.edu/peacecenter](http://www.bsu.edu/peacecenter)



2025 BSU Center for Peace & Conflict Studies Student Conference: *A Better World*  
March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Tuesday – March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Student Center Room 302**  
**All Times are EDT (New York Time)**

**Registration Opens: 12:30pm**

**Opening Remarks: Building a Better World**

DeFord Cope – Graduate Assistant, Center for Peace & Conflict Studies; Clinical Mental Health Counseling

**1:00-1:50pm**

**Lightning Round – Infrastructure and Well-Being in Peacebuilding**

**Program Chair:** Eva Thomson – Intern, Center for Peace & Conflict Studies; Studio Art; Peace Studies

**Program Co-Chair:** Emma Bradford – Intern, Center for Peace & Conflict Studies; Psychological Science

Water Conflict in Central Asia: Addressing the Amu Darya Crisis and Regional Stability  
Jemima Williams-Phillips – Political Science

Third Places: A Solution to Social Isolation  
Lily Bushey – Architecture

Alone, Addicted, Alive: Navigating the Journey to Wellness  
Angel Esquivel Vazquez – Biology

Exploring Community Supported Agriculture as a Remedy to Regional Conflict  
Ava Hiatt – Natural Resources and Environmental Management

Our Warming World: An Architectural Solution  
Kai Catalyst – Environmental Design

**2:00 – 2:50pm**

**Lightning Round – Media and Politics in Peacebuilding**

**Program Chair:** Abigail Troy – Intern, Center for Peace & Conflict Studies; General Studies; Peace Studies

**Program Co-Chair:** Mazie Wathen – Intern, Center for Peace & Conflict Studies; Political Science

Activism in the News: Media Literacy's Role in Peacebuilding  
Colin Brown – Journalism and Political Science

Suicide Prevention: How Bangladesh Can Protect Its People  
Md. Sumon Ali – Communication Studies  
Syma Islam – Journalism and Media Studies

Political Linguistic Divide: Analyzing Congressional Tweets  
Holley Hannegan – Psychological Science; Peace Studies  
Jenna Kelly – Psychological Science  
Miguel Ortega – Psychological Science  
Isabella Castillo – Pre-Medicine

Reconciling Differences Between Far-Right Christians and Politics  
Eva Thomson – Studio Art; Peace Studies

Combating Sexual Violence Resulting from Nationalistic Ideologies and Policies  
Madison Pierce-Holtzman – Psychological Science

**3:00 – 3:50pm**

**Lightning Round – Systemic Factors of Peacebuilding**

**Program Chair:** Hunter Case – Intern, Center for Peace & Conflict Studies; Political Science; Peace Studies

**Program Co-Chair:** DeFord Cope – Graduate Assistant, Center for Peace & Conflict Studies; Counseling

A Transformative Approach to Resolving Global Conflict  
Sophie Hill – Sociology and Anthropology

UNIFY: Fostering Peaceful Communities of Change with Social Movement Networking  
Finn Byrd – Sociology

Working Towards Peace by Ending Exclusion in Workplaces  
Keaton Hunter – General Studies

Femicide in Brazil: A Call for Justice and Change  
Afton Vanek – Photo-Journalism

**Closing Remarks: Moving Towards Peace**

DeFord Cope – Graduate Assistant, Center for Peace and Conflict Studies; Clinical Mental Health Counseling



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## **Conference Committees and Volunteers**

*Thanks to all the volunteers that made this Conference possible!*

### **Program Scheduling Committee**

Chair: DeFord Cope  
Emma Bradford  
Hunter Case  
Lawrence Gerstein  
Eva Thomson  
Abigail Troy  
Mazie Wathen

### **Program Proposal Review Committee**

Chair: DeFord Cope  
Elizabeth Agnew  
Aashna Banerjee  
Lindsey Blom  
Emma Bradford  
Hunter Case  
Michael Daehn  
Anna Farello  
Joshua Fisher  
Lawrence Gerstein  
Mackenzie Gordon  
James Green  
Maria Hernandez-Finch  
Lauren Shaffer  
Steven Hall  
Melinda Messineo  
Brandon Miller  
Madison Pavone  
Nathanael Snow  
Abigail Troy  
He Wang  
Kiesha Warren-Gordon

### **Media, Publicity, and Design Committee**

Chair: DeFord Cope  
Hunter Case  
Lawrence Gerstein  
Eva Thomson  
Abigail Troy