



Peace in Sight

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD'S RESPONSE TO CONFLICT

JUN 2026



(Left) Awareness Session on Rumor Control. March, 2026. (Right) YPT Tree Planting Initiative. West Krovy. February, 2026. ©NP

Krovy's Bright Future



Iraqi Youth Leading a Village Out of Isolation

Nearly a decade after the ISIS invasion of northern Iraq, communities across the region continue to rebuild their lives. In Krovy village—home to Yazidi, Sunni, and Shia communities—the scars of mass displacement are still felt every day.

When residents began returning in recent years, they faced significant challenges: limited public services, damaged infrastructure, and a lack of structured engagement with authorities. For a long time, Krovy was described as a “neglected village” because so few organizations visited.

Today, that story is changing—led not by outside actors, but by the village’s own youth.

From Neglect to Agency

Determined to address the challenges facing

their community, a group of young people in Krovy village reached out to Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP) staff. They wanted to address the presence of war remnants (such as mines), limited access to water, and the absence of functioning government services, including schools.

Together, they formed the Krovy Youth Protection Team (YPT), bringing together Yazidi, Sunni, and Shia youth to strengthen community unity and create positive change.

“ We call our team ‘Bright Future’ to reflect our vision for the village, vibrant with awareness, positivity, and youth initiatives that create real change in the community. ”

Through a series of Unarmed Civilian Protection training sessions with NP,



these young leaders gained a better understanding of local conflict dynamics and learned practical approaches to preventing violence and reducing harm. They then conducted a participatory risk assessment, aimed at identifying the community's most pressing concerns and developed action plans to address them.

Some of those plans included leading awareness sessions for community members on digital protection, rumor control, and online blackmail prevention, creating safe spaces for community members to engage on issues affecting their daily lives.

"Our self-confidence as a team, along with our determination, was the key factor in building the community's trust in us," one YPT member shared.

Building an Ecosystem of Protection

As the Bright Future YPT grew, so did its ability to mobilize local resources and respond to community priorities.

The team secured funding for a tree-planting campaign to help combat desertification and strengthened relationships with local authorities and service providers.

"Through our communication and efforts, we were able to secure food baskets from Ninewa Governorate for the people of the village during the month of Ramadan. These initiatives did not exist before the establishment of our team," said another team member.

By building relationships with government officials, local security actors, and community members, the team began

transforming the village's sense of isolation. Krovy started receiving support from outside organizations and institutions, including dignity kits for women and girls and supplies for new agricultural initiatives.

Women in the community also began reaching out to the YPT, sharing their safety concerns and expressing interest in engaging in activities. In a context where women's engagement in public life had often been limited, this shift reflected growing trust in the YPT as a safe and accessible resource.

"We realized that responsibility towards the village had become our duty."

A Future Built by Youth

Since their establishment, the Bright Future YPT has met with other Youth Protection Teams across the region to learn from their different contexts and adapt successful approaches to meet Krovy's needs. Inspired by the advocacy efforts of other teams, members began engaging local authorities to push for the reconstruction of the village school.

Today, after sustained advocacy and coordination, the Krovy school reconstruction request has been approved, the site has been assessed, and the project is awaiting final budget allocation.

For a village once defined by neglect, these changes represent something much larger: a growing culture of local leadership, youth engagement, and hope. As one member said, "Peace is a collective responsibility." Through their dedication and action, they are helping build exactly that—a brighter future for Krovy.

Add Your Voice for Change

EXPLORE NP'S FEATURED ACTIONS. TOGETHER, OUR VOICES CAN BUILD A BETTER FUTURE.



Fund Humanitarian Aid

Since the closure of USAID and rescission of foreign aid funding in 2025, the future of U.S. humanitarian leadership is in question. Congress is currently deciding funding levels for Fiscal Year 2027 and lifesaving humanitarian and atrocity prevention funding is at risk.

Tell Congress: The U.S. Government must maintain its leadership by robustly funding humanitarian assistance in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget.



Protect Nonprofit Status

NP calls on U.S. Senators and Representatives to oppose language from H.R. 640, which would allow the Secretary of the Treasury unilateral authority to strip non-profits of tax-exempt status. If approved in the Senate, this bill would allow the executive branch to silence critics, curb free speech, censor nonprofit media outlets, target political opponents, and punish disfavored groups across the political spectrum.

Tell Congress: Oppose provisions that could threaten nonprofit tax-exempt status without due process. Protect free speech and prevent political censorship.

End the Global Gag Rule

The U.S. Government recently released an extensive list of qualifications for U.S. government aid that weaponizes foreign assistance and prohibits support for programs focusing on women's health, LGBTQ communities, or issues related to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Tell Congress: Overturn the Global Gag Rule today to prevent dangerous impacts on lifesaving programs.



Advocacy That Works for You

Eager to make a change? Here are three common forms of advocacy you can take part in to make your voice heard:



Call Your Reps

Scripts are helpful but, when possible, put things in your own words. Be kind & be clear.



Emails, Petitions, & Letters

Make it personal. Be clear you are in their district. If possible, send directly to the congressional office.



In-district Meetings

Identify who you want to speak to. Make a clear ask. Exchange contact info and follow up with a thank you.

For more information on contacting your representatives and actions you can take today, visit: nonviolentpeaceforce.org/call-congress



SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT



Carole Kent

Raised in a close-knit Quaker family in Menlo Park, CA, **Carole Kent** learned early the value of gentleness, connection, and peace. Those values stayed with her through decades of teaching families and caregivers how to support children to solve conflicts nonviolently and recognize the power this offers to us all.

Carole first connected with NP through David Hartsough, a founding member she met through Quaker community gatherings. "David generously shared many of his life's events, the courageous choices he made and the values he held," shared Carole. "When I found out he had been a founding member of NP, it not only felt so congruent with the David I knew, but an organization I wanted to support."

Today, as a sustaining donor, Carole continues her lifelong commitment to peace. "I love NP's work and feel so much a part of it. You too can have the deep happiness of supporting an organization doing the work we all are called to do."



I know that having steady, reliable funding means organizations like Nonviolent Peaceforce can plan more strategically and respond quickly when it matters most.



Invest in a Future of Peace

Visit nonviolentpeaceforce.org/make-a-gift for more information.

Whether it is training Youth Protection Teams like the 'Bright Future' group in Iraq, providing life-saving personal protective equipment to frontline volunteers in Ukraine, or preparing community groups on how to respond if U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement shows up at their office, every gift to Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP) builds an ecosystem of protection so communities live free from fear.

*Please note our U.S. Address has been updated to:
6440 Nicollet Ave, Richfield, MN 55423.*



For more information on ways to give, go to NonviolentPeaceforce.org or call +1 612-871-0005