

For Immediate Release

Contact: Jeannette O'Connor, t-9jocon@uchicago.edu, 202-302-3268

University of Chicago Pearson Global Forum, Tomorrow, Oct. 14, to Explore the Implications of Discrimination and Marginalization on Global Conflict

New Pearson Institute/AP-NORC Poll on Americans' Attitudes on Foreign Policy and Concern about Misinformation Released

CHICAGO (October 13, 2022) – Tomorrow, October 14, 2022, the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy's [Pearson Institute for Study and Resolution of Global Conflict](#) will gather global policymakers, leading scholars, and subject-matter experts at the [2022 Pearson Global Forum](#). Entitled "Discrimination and Marginalization," the Forum will explore how the international community is dealing with dozens of active conflicts, and quickly shifting relationships between and among nations.

The Forum's importance is particularly pronounced given that the world is currently experiencing the [highest number of violent conflicts since 1945, the year World War II drew to a close](#). This level of violent conflict and human rights violations has forcibly displaced an estimated 84 million people.

The Forum will be held in-person at the Harris School in Chicago and live streamed for those who cannot attend. It is free for the media and the public, but [registration is required](#). The full conference agenda is available [here](#).

A new Pearson Institute/AP-NORC poll released today in conjunction with the Forum found that a majority of Americans (78%) believe that the U.S. relationship with traditionally hostile nations such as Russia and North Korea will worsen over the next year, while the U.S. standing in the world and its relationship with traditional allies such as Canada and the European Union will improve or remain the same. These results stand in contrast to those from an [AP-NORC survey](#) conducted two years into the Trump administration. That 2018 survey found about half of Americans (53%) expecting our relationship with allies to worsen and just a quarter expecting those with traditionally hostile nations to worsen. This shift is tied to partisanship – Democrats, who four years ago expected worsening conditions, now see stability in the near future, while Republicans, who foresaw improvements in 2018, now expect the current administration to stumble.

"The rise of global conflict is historic," said Sheila Kohanteb, Forum Executive Director at the Pearson Institute for Study and Resolution of Global Conflict, which hosts of the annual [Pearson Global Forum](#) at the University of Chicago. "It is not yet known how these conflicts are influenced by international policies that address the threats of institutional distrust and the discrimination of oppressed groups. Reflecting on and reevaluating actions made by the U.S. to impact change could help improve outcomes for our own citizens and those struggling to deal with the fallout of conflicts across the globe."

Other key findings from the study include:

Foreign Affairs

1. Three-quarters say that the U.S. government and the United Nations have a responsibility for protecting the rights of women and minority groups around the world.
2. 78% of Americans believe foreign nations that fail to protect the rights of women & minorities should not receive financial support from the U.S.
3. Most believe that countries that regularly fail to protect the rights of women and minority groups should not receive financial support from the U.S. (78%) or international organizations like the World Bank (72%), not be allowed to join the U.N. (62%), nor be allowed to participate in the Olympics (62%).

Misinformation

4. 91% of adults say the spread of misinformation is a problem and most believe misinformation contributes to extreme political views and hate crimes.
5. Nearly three-quarters of Americans are at least somewhat concerned that they have been exposed to misinformation and just under half of Americans are worried they have spread misinformation.
6. The public believes misinformation is having serious consequences. About half of adults say misinformation increases political engagement, but more than 7 in 10 say misinformation increases extreme political views and increases hate crimes including violence motivated by race, gender, or religion.

For more information, please see the Pearson Institute/AP-NORC **report and press release on foreign policy**, [here](#) and [here](#), and the **report and press release on misinformation**, [here](#) and [here](#).

If you are interested in a pre-interview or additional information, please contact David Stone, Director of Communications and Public Affairs at Harris School at davestone@uchicago.edu or 312-206-4621.

Highlights of the [2022 Pearson Global Form](#) include:

- A keynote address by [Amina Mohammed](#), Deputy Secretary General, United Nations
- Social Cost of Discrimination: The panel will focus on the economic cost of gender and racial inequality, the long-term impact of trauma associated with the economic deprivation of families on the brain development of children, and the effect of gender discrimination on international peace and security. Speakers include: [Pablo Castillo Diaz](#) Policy Specialist, UN Women, United Nations; [Marianne Bertrand](#), University of Chicago; and [Caren Grown](#), World Bank Group.

- Discriminatory Bias in Media Coverage of Conflict: Panel will explore how and why certain decisions are made to cover conflicts: whether at the network or journalist level and take into consideration ratings and viewership, whether some conflicts are simply so protracted that the public no longer cares, how longstanding issues of racism come into play, and more. Speakers include: [Timour Azhari](#), Bureau Chief for Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan, Reuters; [Mark Bauman](#), President and CEO, Grid; [Katherine D. Kinzler](#), University of Chicago; and [Sasha-Ann Simons](#), Host, *Reset*, WBEZ Chicago.
- Case Study – A New Colombia: Following the 2016 peace agreement in Colombia, the country is now contending with issues of discrimination as it paves a new path forward. This panel will highlight economic development, comparative advantage, and economies of scale, in a manner compatible with the diverse and multicultural nature of the country. Speakers include: [Paula Gaviria Betancur](#), Executive Director, Compaz Foundation; [Paula Moreno Zapata](#), President, Manos Visibles and former Minister of Culture, Colombia; [James A. Robinson](#), Institute Director, The Pearson Institute; and [Juan Forero](#), South America Bureau Chief, The Wall Street Journal.
- Case Study – Crisis in Lebanon: A look back on the critical lessons learned from the past few tumultuous years in Lebanon, and a look ahead to the critical implications of the situation today. Focus on how fundamental change can be achieved between the political system and citizens, obstacles to reform, foreign powers, and the power imbalance with the ruling elite. Speakers include: [Kim Ghattas](#), Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; [Ambassador Elizabeth Richard](#), Senior State Department Fellow and Former U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon; [Randa Slim](#), Director of Conflict Resolution & Track II Dialogues Program, Middle East Institute; and [Rami Khouri](#), Director of Global Engagement, American University of Beirut.
- A conversation with [Christopher Blattman](#), Professor of Global Conflict Studies at the Harris School and author of [Why We Fight: The Roots of War and the Paths to Peace](#), and [Teny Gross](#), Executive Director, Institute for Nonviolence Chicago.

###

In 2015, the [University of Chicago](#) announced the creation of the [Pearson Institute for Study and Resolution of Global Conflict](#) at the Harris School of Public Policy, the first of its kind research institute dedicated to applying rigorous, evidence-based inquiry to the issues of peace and conflict. Established through a grant from The Thomas L. Pearson and The Pearson Family Members Foundation, and led by Institute Director James Robinson, co-author of *The Narrow Corridor* and *Why Nations Fail*, the Institute seeks to understand the complex causes and consequences of conflict by mobilizing the best minds and the most innovative tools and technology to drive new breakthroughs and understanding that informs policy and leads to a world more at peace. 2022 marks the fifth consecutive year of the Pearson Global Forum.