

# GLOBAL PEACE INDEX 2019 BRIEFING



INSTITUTE FOR  
ECONOMICS  
& PEACE

# 2019 GLOBAL PEACE INDEX BRIEFING

## MEASURING PEACE IN A COMPLEX WORLD

The Global Peace Index 2019 report finds that the average level of global peacefulness improved very slightly in the 2019 GPI. This is the first time the index has improved in five years. The average country score improved by -0.09 per cent, with 86 countries improving, and 76 recording deteriorations. The 2019 GPI reveals a world in which the conflicts and crises that emerged in the past decade have begun to abate, but new tensions within and between nations have emerged.

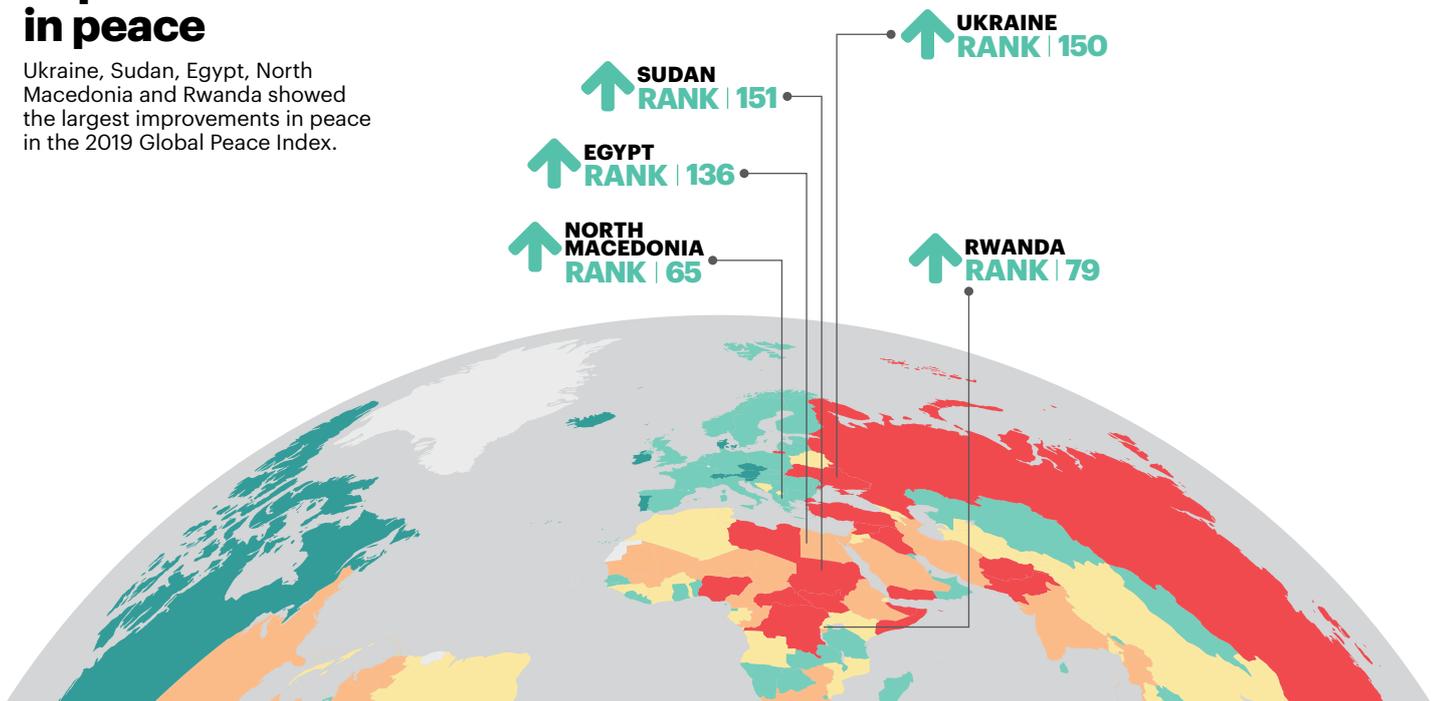
### 2019 key highlights

- The average level of global peacefulness improved very slightly for the first time in five years
- The average country score improved by -0.09% from last year's Global Peace Index
- Over the last ten years, the average level of global peacefulness has deteriorated by 3.78%
- Since 2008, the 25 least peaceful countries declined by an average of 11%, while the 25 most peaceful countries improved by an average of 1.8%
- The global economic impact of violence improved for the first time since 2012, decreasing by 3.3% from 2017 to 2018
- Seventy-two countries reduced their level of military expenditure as a percentage of GDP
- The Middle East and North Africa region remained the world's least peaceful region, while Europe remains the most peaceful region in the world

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
SEE THE 2019 REPORT,  
SECTION 1: RESULTS

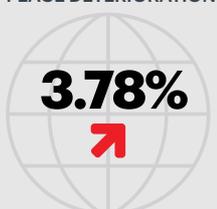
### Five largest improvements in peace

Ukraine, Sudan, Egypt, North Macedonia and Rwanda showed the largest improvements in peace in the 2019 Global Peace Index.



### Global trends

#### PEACE DETERIORATION



The average level of global peacefulness has deteriorated by 3.78 per cent since 2008.



#### DETERIORATION IN MENA

**75%**

Percentage of MENA countries that have deteriorated in peacefulness since 2008.

#### IMPROVEMENTS IN OVERALL PEACEFULNESS

**20%**

Only one country - Georgia - is more than 20 per cent more peaceful in 2019 than it was in 2008.

# Global overview

The average level of global peacefulness improved very slightly last year. This was the first time that the index improved in the last five years. The average country score improved by -0.09 per cent, with 86 countries improving and 76 recording deteriorations.

Despite this improvement, the world remains considerably less peaceful now than a decade ago, with the average level of peacefulness deteriorating by 3.78 per cent since 2008. Global peacefulness has only improved for three of the last ten years. The fall in peacefulness over the past decade was caused by a wide range of factors, including increased terrorist activity, the intensification of conflicts in the Middle East, rising regional tensions in Eastern Europe and northeast Asia, and increasing numbers of refugees and heightened political tensions in Europe and the United States.

This deterioration was partially offset by improvements in many of the measures of the Militarisation domain. There has been a consistent reduction in military expenditure as a percentage of GDP for the majority of countries, as well as a fall in the armed

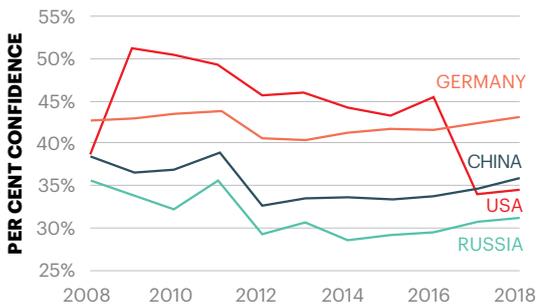
services personnel rate for most countries in the world. The Middle East and North Africa remained the world's least peaceful region. It is home to four of the ten least peaceful countries in the world, with no country from the region ranked higher than 30th on the GPI. However, despite ongoing armed conflict and instability in the region, it did become marginally more peaceful last year. The bulk of the improvement occurred in the Safety and Security domain, with average improvements in score for the homicide rate, incarceration rate, terrorism impact, Political Terror Scale, and violent crime indicators.

Europe remains the most peaceful region in the world and it recorded a very slight improvement in peacefulness after several years of deterioration. Twenty-two of the 36 European countries recorded improvements in 2018, with the largest improvements occurring for political terror, terrorism impact, refugees and internally displaced people, and homicide rate indicators. However, despite these improvements, the broader political environment in Europe remains uncertain, and resurgent nationalism and terrorism remain significant threats to peace.

## Perceptions of global leadership

### Approval of US, Russian, German, and Chinese leadership, 2008-2018

Global confidence in US leadership has fallen 17 percentage points since 2009.

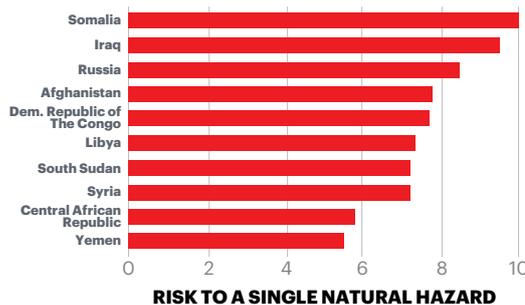


Source: Gallup World Poll

## Climate change & peace

### 10 least peaceful countries and corresponding risk of climate hazards, 2018

Somalia, the sixth least peaceful country, has the highest risk of drought of all recorded countries.



Source: INFORM Global Risk Index 2019; IEP calculations

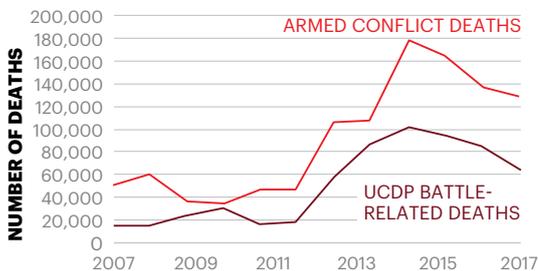


An estimated 971 million people live in areas with high or very high exposure to climate hazards. Of this number, 400 million or 41%, reside in countries with already low levels of peacefulness.

## Deaths from conflict

### Conflict deaths, UCDP and Armed Conflict Database, 2006-2017

Deaths from conflict peaked in 2014, at the height of the Syrian Civil War.

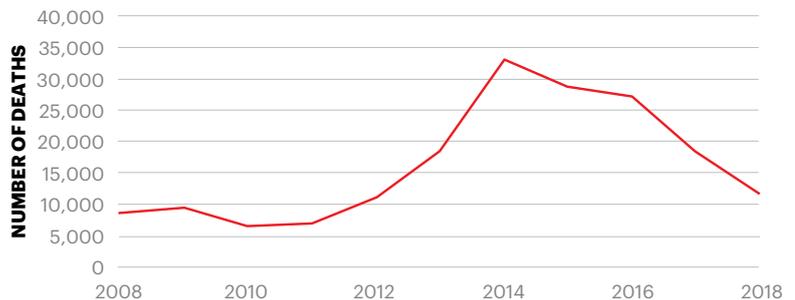


Source: UCDP and IISS

## Deaths from terrorism

### Deaths from terrorism, 2008-2018

There were over 32,000 deaths from terrorism in 2014, a 287 per cent increase from 2006.



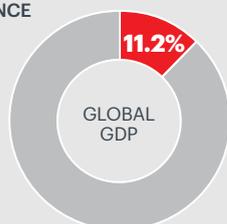
Source: START Global Terrorism Database

## Economic impact of violence

### GLOBAL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF VIOLENCE

The global economic impact of violence was \$14.1 trillion PPP in 2018, equivalent to 11.2 per cent of global GDP, or \$1,853 per person.

**\$1,853** PER PERSON OR



### TEN MOST VS LEAST AFFECTED COUNTRIES

**35%** VS **3.3%**  
AVG GDP VS AVG GDP

The average economic cost of violence was equivalent to 35 per cent of GDP in the ten countries most affected by the impact of violence, compared to 3.3 per cent in the ten most peaceful countries.

### THREE MOST AFFECTED

Syria, Afghanistan and Central African Republic incurred the largest economic cost of violence as a percentage of their GDP at 67, 47 and 42 per cent of GDP, respectively.

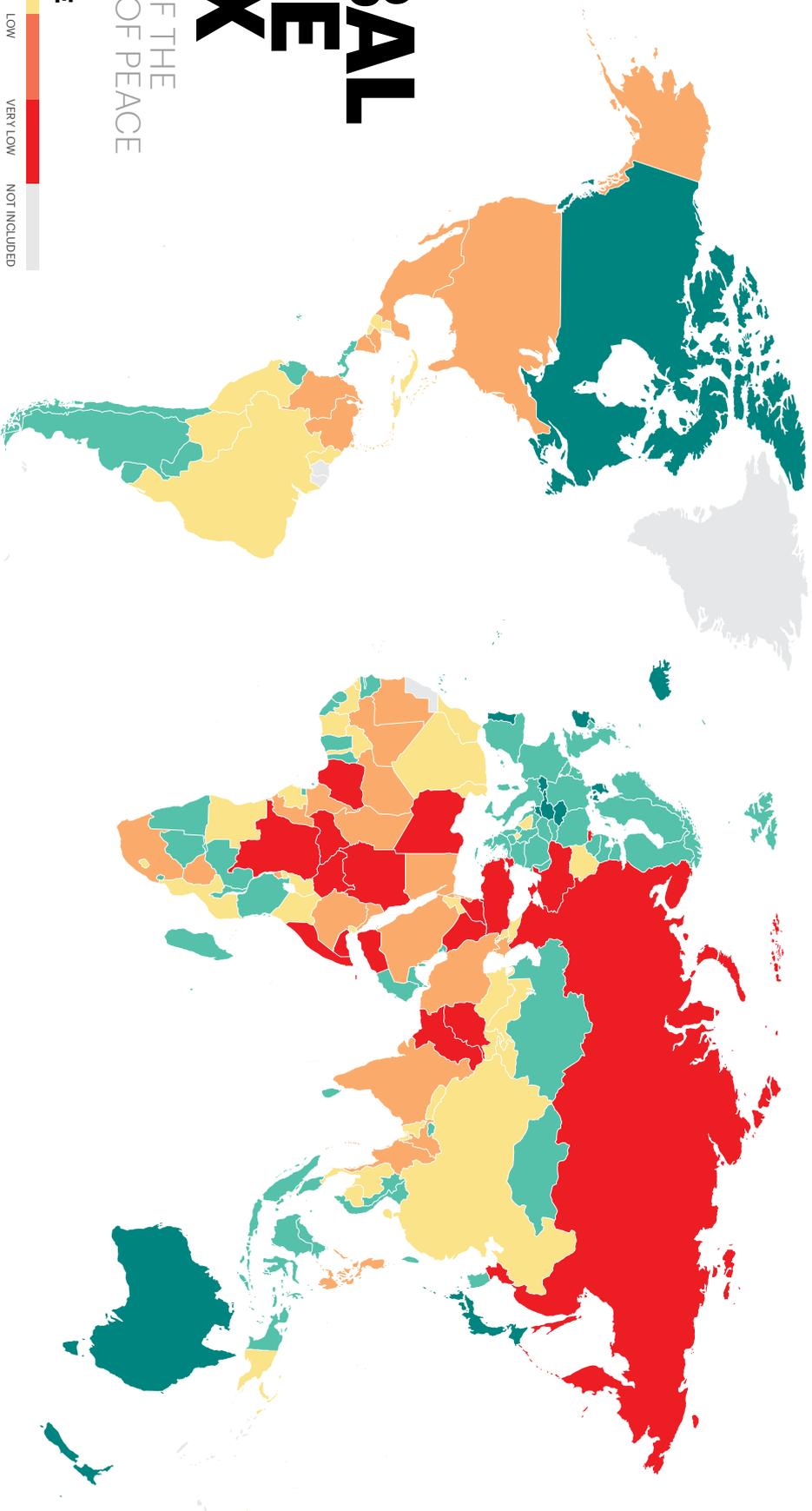
# 2019 GLOBAL PEACE INDEX

A SNAPSHOT OF THE  
GLOBAL STATE OF PEACE

**THE STATE OF PEACE**



VERY HIGH   HIGH   MEDIUM   LOW   VERY LOW   NOT INCLUDED



The Global Peace Index, produced by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP), ranks 163 countries (99.7% of the world's population) according to 23 qualitative and quantitative indicators of peace.

See the full list of rankings and explore the data on the interactive map at [visionofhumanity.org](http://visionofhumanity.org). Click on a country to see the levels of peacefulness, compare two or more countries and use the timeline to see the changes in levels of peacefulness since 2008.

The GPI is developed by the Institute for Economics & Peace, an independent, non-partisan, non-profit think tank dedicated to shifting the world's focus to peace as a positive, achievable and tangible measure of human wellbeing and progress.

IEP is headquartered in Sydney with offices in New York, The Hague, Mexico City and Brussels. It works with a wide range of partners internationally and collaborates with intergovernmental organisations on measuring and communicating the economic value of peace.



[economicsandpeace.org](http://economicsandpeace.org)  
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