

# GLOBAL PEACE INDEX 2022 BRIEFING

Measuring peace in  
a complex world

# 2022 GLOBAL PEACE INDEX BRIEFING

## Measuring peace in a complex world

The 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual Global Peace Index (GPI) report, the world's leading measure of global peacefulness, reveals that the average level of global peacefulness deteriorated by 0.3% in 2021. This is the eleventh deterioration in peacefulness in the last fourteen years, with 90 countries improving, and 71 deteriorating, highlighting that countries deteriorate much faster than they improve.

Iceland remains the most peaceful country, a position it has held since 2008. It is joined at the top of the index by New Zealand, Ireland, Denmark and Austria. For the fifth consecutive year, Afghanistan is the least peaceful country, followed by Yemen, Syria, Russia and South Sudan. Seven of the ten countries at the top of the GPI are in Europe, and Turkey is the only country in this region to be ranked outside the top half of the index.

## 2022 key highlights

- Deaths from external conflict recorded a sharp deterioration driven by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- Despite recent commitments, militarisation has improved in 113 countries since 2008.
- Terrorism continued to improve, with 70 countries recording no attacks in 2021. This is the best result since 2008.
- The rise in costs has increased food insecurity and political instability globally, with Africa, South Asia and the Middle East under greatest threat.
- The political terror scale, political insecurity, neighbouring country relations, refugees and IDPs reached their worst score since the inception of the GPI.
- The global economic impact of violence was \$16.5 trillion in 2021, equivalent to 10.9% of global GDP, or \$2,117 per person.
- Two of the five countries with the largest deteriorations in peacefulness were Russia and the Ukraine.
- Social media is changing the way intelligence is gathered - it is now shared instantaneously, raw and with little analysis.
- In contrast to the global trend, positive sentiment in the Ukraine was rising in 2021. Support for the West was strong, with 58% wanting to join a Western economic union, and 54% supporting joining NATO.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
SEE THE 2022 REPORT,  
SECTION 1: RESULTS

## 2022 regional overview

### EUROPE

Europe remains the most peaceful region in the world. The region is home to four of the five most peaceful countries, and only one country in Europe is ranked outside the top half of the index.

### MENA

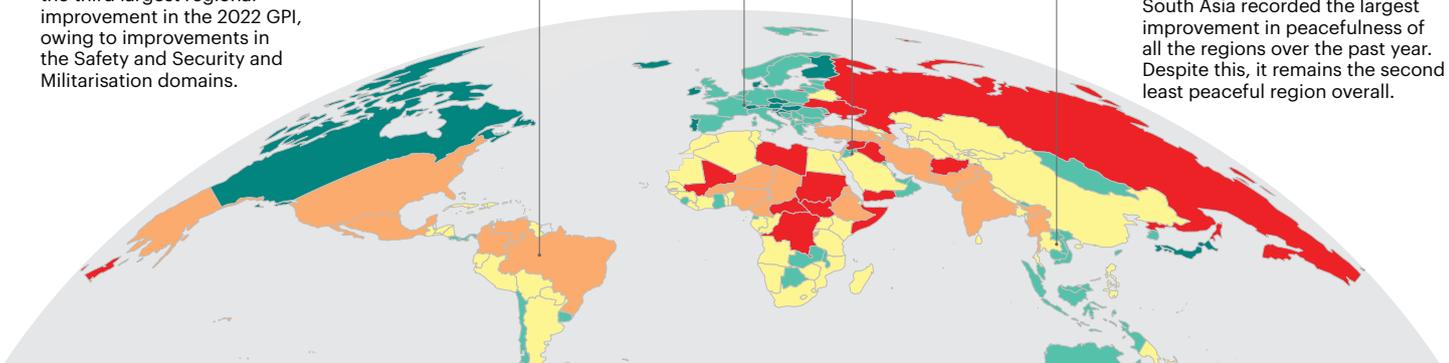
The Middle East and North Africa region remained the world's least peaceful. It is home to two of the five least peaceful countries in the world. However, it recorded the second largest regional improvement over the past year.

### SOUTH AMERICA

South America experienced the third largest regional improvement in the 2022 GPI, owing to improvements in the Safety and Security and Militarisation domains.

### SOUTH ASIA

South Asia recorded the largest improvement in peacefulness of all the regions over the past year. Despite this, it remains the second least peaceful region overall.



## Global Trends

### MILITARISATION

The improving trend in Militarisation since 2008 was widespread, with 113 of the 163 countries covered in the GPI improving. Ninety-four countries reduced their military expenditure as a percentage of GDP, although military spending increased in absolute terms.



### VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS

Violent demonstrations recorded the largest deterioration, rising by 49 per cent since 2008. This indicator deteriorated in 126 countries of the 163 nations assessed in the GPI. MENA was the only region not to deteriorate.



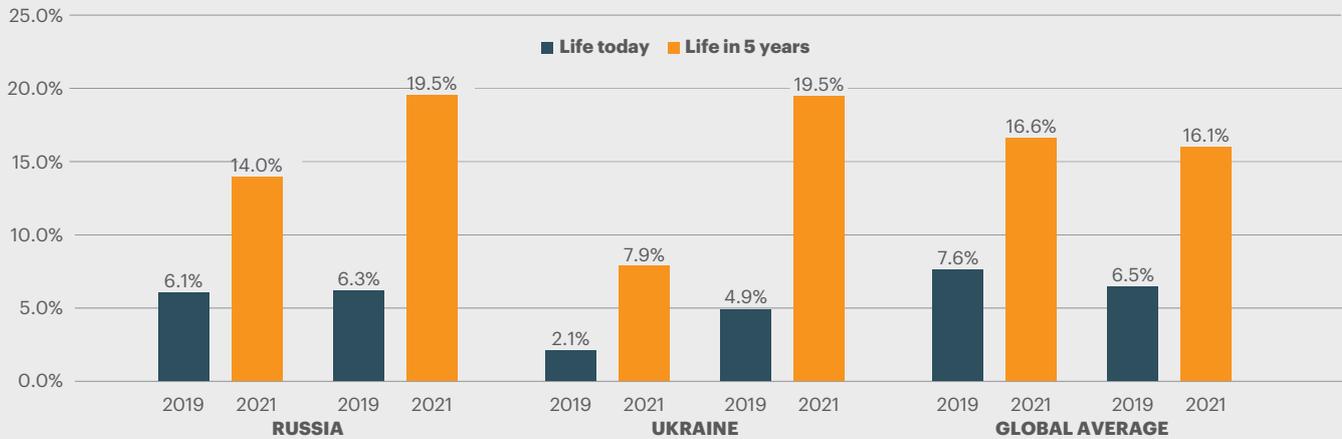
### REFUGEES AND IDPS

**5%**

There are now 17 countries where at least five per cent of the population are either refugees or internally displaced.

# Optimism about the present and the future, 2019 and 2021

Russians' overall life satisfaction was higher than Ukrainians'. However, the percentage of Ukrainians rating their life as the "best possible" more than doubled between 2019 and 2021, rising from 2.1 to 4.9 per cent. During the same period, the percentage rating their lives positively overall rose from 28.7 to 41.3 per cent. While the change was also positive among Russians, it was much smaller. The percentage of Russians rating their life conditions as the best possible rose from 6.1 to 6.3 per cent, and the percentage rating their lives positively overall increased from 42.2 to 46.4 per cent.

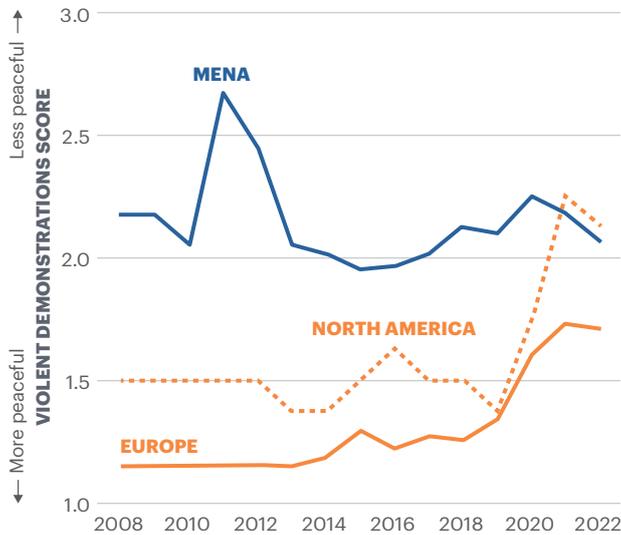


Source: Gallup

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
SEE THE WORLD RISK POLL: SPOTLIGHT  
ON UKRAINE AND RUSSIA BRIEFING

## Violent demonstrations by region, MENA, North America and Europe, 2008–2022

MENA was the only region not to record a large deterioration since 2008, despite the upheaval of the Arab Spring in 2011.

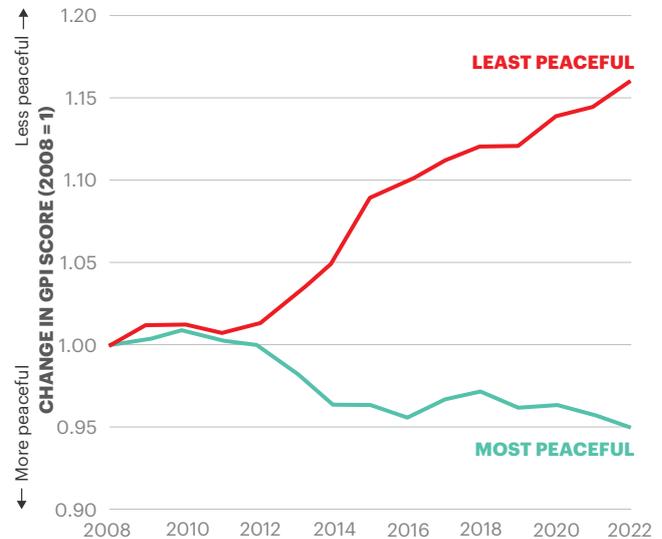


Source: ACLED, IEP calculations

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
SEE THE 2022 REPORT,  
SECTION 2: TRENDS

## Trend in peace, 25 most and 25 least peaceful countries, 2008–2022

The 25 least peaceful countries deteriorated in peacefulness by an average of 16 per cent, while the most peaceful improved by 5.1 per cent.



Source: IEP

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
SEE THE 2022 REPORT,  
SECTION 2: TRENDS

## Economic Impact of Violence

### GLOBAL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF VIOLENCE

The global economic impact of violence was \$16.5 trillion in 2021, equivalent to 10.9 per cent of global GDP, or \$2,117 per person.

**\$2,117** OR PER PERSON



## War in Ukraine

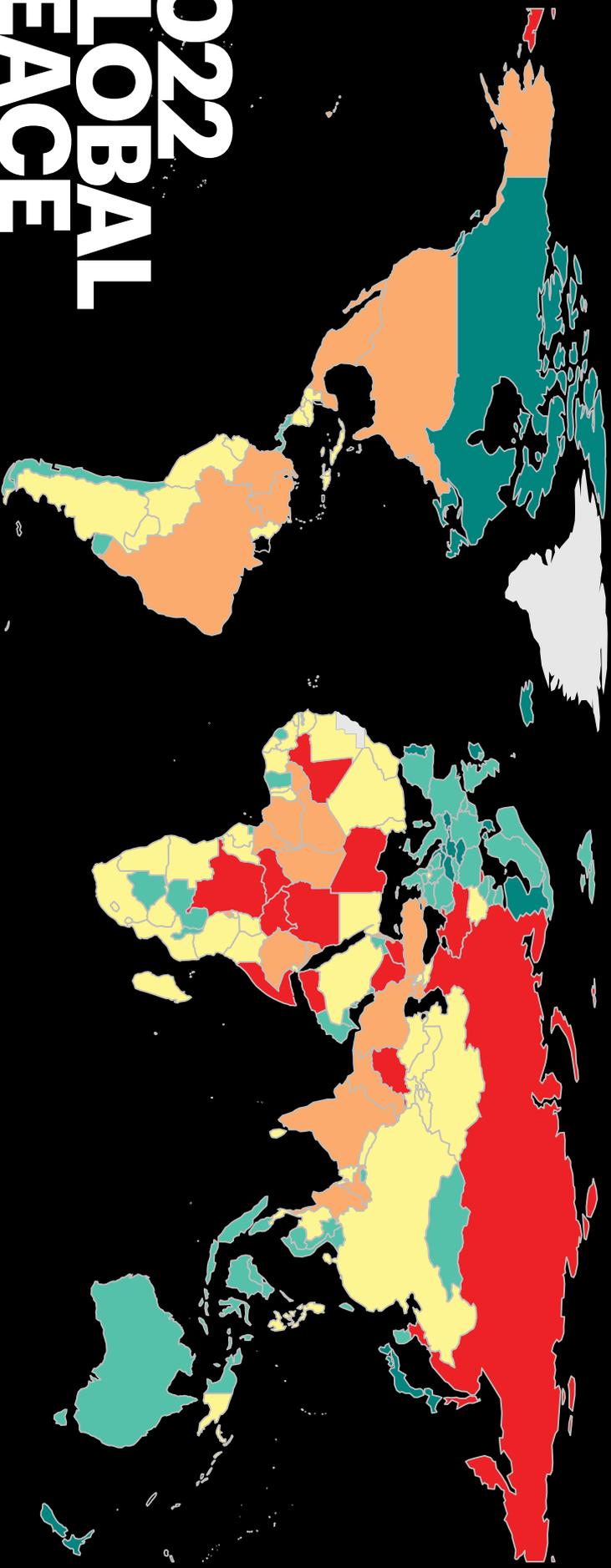
### DEFENCE POSTURES

Global military spending, which had been increasing at a moderate pace since 2014, received a boost in 2022. Many NATO countries have pledged to raise their defence budgets to levels closer to or above the NATO's recommended two per cent of GDP threshold by 2024.

### DUAL-USE TECHNOLOGY AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

In the Ukrainian conflict, fifth generation (5G) mobile technologies, the social media revolution, artificial intelligence, and the greater affordability of drones have changed warfare.





# 2022 GLOBAL PEACE INDEX

A SNAPSHOT OF THE  
GLOBAL STATE OF PEACE

## THE STATE OF PEACE



### IMPROVEMENTS

**90**

countries recorded  
improvements in  
peacefulness

### DETERIORATIONS

**71**

countries were less  
peaceful in 2022  
than in 2021

### OVERALL AVERAGE CHANGE (%)

**+0.3**

The average level of global  
peacefulness deteriorated by 0.3 per  
cent in the 2022 Global Peace Index

## ABOUT

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, Brussels, The Hague, Mexico City and Harare. It works with a wide range of partners internationally and collaborates with intergovernmental organisations on measuring and communicating the economic value of peace.



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