

# PEACE IN OUR CITIES

[Peace In Our Cities](#) congratulates Mayor Óscar Escobar of Palmira, Colombia, its city staff, and partners in the Peace and Opportunities for Palmira Strategy (PAZOS) for receiving this year's United Cities and Local Government (UCLG) [Peace Prize](#).

[PAZOS](#) interrupts cycles of violence and transforms challenges into opportunities to strengthen both the individual development of its citizens as well as local and community resilience. It focuses on young people and areas affected by high levels of violence. The PAZOS strategy is designed to consolidate peace in Palmira and demonstrates the potential to set a national and international standard.

Palmira has been one of the longest-serving and most active members of Peace in Our Cities, a growing network of 23 cities and 36 community-based and international partners working together to halve urban violence by 2030. By sharing their expertise with other members, taking advantage of research resources, and connecting with global networks including UCLG, Palmira's violence prevention work has both been strengthened by and contributed to a more robust global network of violence prevention and urban peace experts.

PAZOS has been funded by the Peace in Our Cities [Peace Incentive Fund](#), a grant fund distributed to eight cities across six countries encouraging mayors and local civil society organizations to use evidence-based solutions for violence reduction programs. Mayor Escobar also elevates city-based strategies to address violence through the high-level [Halving Global Violence Task Force](#), which works to accelerate action on [SDG 16.1](#).

Peace in Our Cities and the UCLG are aligned in their beliefs that cities and local governments are essential to creating transformational change by integrating a "whole-of-society" approach to violence prevention. The recognition Palmira has earned further showcases the important role cities and local governments play in efforts to reduce violence and build peace.

We congratulate other finalists for the Peace Prize - Mersin, Turkey; Mishiha, Burundi; Monterrey, Mexico; and Recife, Brazil - and invite them to join our network of city champions for peace.

## Peace in Our Cities Secretariat