

## The world is 0.28% more peaceful than a year ago

3rd June, 2017



A new report says the world is slightly more peaceful than it was a year ago. The report was made by an organization called the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP). The IEP has reported on world peace for the past 10 years. Every year, it publishes a document called the Global Peace Index (GPI). This index

ranks 163 countries and territories on their level of peacefulness. It also offers advice on how to develop peaceful societies. The latest report found that the world became 0.28% more peaceful over the past year. Iceland is the most peaceful country in the world. It has been number one on the GPI since 2008. The next four most peaceful countries are New Zealand, Portugal, Austria and Denmark.

The report says that in the past year, 93 countries have become more peaceful, while 68 have got more violent. Researchers measured many things to work out the level of peace in each country. They measured the murder rate, how easy it was to get weapons, terrorism and terror attacks, and the number of soldiers or police each country had. The IEP said Syria is the least peaceful country in the world. Syria has now been bottom of the list for five years in a row. The next four most violent countries are Afghanistan, Iraq, South Sudan and Yemen. The chairman of the IEP warned that: "The world is still [stuck] with conflict in the Middle East, political turmoil in the US, refugee flows, and terrorism in Europe."

Sources: [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [visionofhumanity.org](http://visionofhumanity.org) / [telegraph.co.uk](http://telegraph.co.uk)

## Writing

Write about three things countries can do for world peace. Will countries do these things? Why / Why not?

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

report / slightly / world peace / document / index / countries / advice / peaceful / one the past year / violent / weapons / soldiers / terrorism / bottom / conflict / refugee

## True / False

- The Global Peace Index is written by the United Nations. T / F
- The Global Peace Index is 10 years old. T / F
- Researchers looked at levels of peace in 163 countries and territories. T / F
- Iceland has been the most peaceful country since 2008. T / F
- The report said 68 countries became more peaceful in the past year. T / F
- Researchers did not include murder rates in their research. T / F
- Syria has been the least peaceful country for five years. T / F
- The researchers said the USA was very peaceful. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. <b>slightly</b>   | a. war        |
| 2. <b>publishes</b>  | b. guidelines |
| 3. <b>ranks</b>      | c. first      |
| 4. <b>advice</b>     | d. issues     |
| 5. <b>number one</b> | e. running    |
| 6. <b>work out</b>   | f. a little   |
| 7. <b>in a row</b>   | g. trouble    |
| 8. <b>warned</b>     | h. calculate  |
| 9. <b>conflict</b>   | i. orders     |
| 10. <b>turmoil</b>   | j. cautioned  |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- What makes a country peaceful?
- What needs to happen for terrorism to disappear?
- How peaceful will the world be in 10 years from now?
- Why are the bottom five countries the least peaceful?
- How can the world help the bottom five countries?
- Will the world ever live in peace?
- What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

## Phrase Match

- |                                   |                            |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. the world is slightly          | a. and territories         |
| 2. This index ranks 163 countries | b. Middle East             |
| 3. It also offers                 | c. most peaceful countries |
| 4. It has been number one on      | d. become more peaceful    |
| 5. The next four                  | e. advice                  |
| 6. 93 countries have              | f. the list                |
| 7. work out the level             | g. more peaceful           |
| 8. bottom of                      | h. turmoil                 |
| 9. conflict in the                | i. the GPI since 2008      |
| 10. political                     | j. of peace                |

## Discussion – Student B

- Is it important for organizations to measure peace?
- Why is the world more peaceful now?
- How could your country get into the top five most peaceful countries?
- What can leaders do to develop peaceful societies?
- How peaceful is your country?
- How can you make the world more peaceful?
- Why do you think Iceland is so peaceful?
- What good things come from peace?

## Spelling

- glslyti more peaceful
- made by an giztinoraona
- it lhueissbp a document
- 163 countries and etrstoiirer
- It also offers edivca
- olpvede peaceful societies
- 68 have got more nleivot
- Researchers esardume many things
- the eumdr rate
- get pneawos, terrorism and terror attacks
- cfnltoic in the Middle East
- refgeue flows

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. c
6. h	7. e	8. j	9. a	10. g

## Role Play

### Role A – Terrorism

You think terrorism is the biggest barrier to world peace. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't such big barriers. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these to hurt peace (and why): world leaders, greed or weapons.

### Role B – World Leaders

You think world leaders are the biggest barrier to world peace. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't such big barriers. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these to hurt peace (and why): terrorism, greed or weapons.

### Role C – Greed

You think greed is the biggest barrier to world peace. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't such big barriers. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these to hurt peace (and why): world leaders, terrorism or weapons.

### Role D – Weapons

You think weapons are the biggest barrier to world peace. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't such big barriers. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these to hurt peace (and why): world leaders, greed or terrorism.

## Speaking – Barriers to peace

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| • political turmoil | • drugs     |
| • terrorism         | • conflicts |
| • world leaders     | • weapons   |
| • crime             | • greed     |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.