

**The US Institute of Peace, SIL International, the Center for Applied Linguistics,
and the Alliance for Peacebuilding**

Cordially invite you to a symposium on

Language, Peace, and Security

Date: Friday, February 21, 2014, *International Mother Language Day*
Time: 1:00–5:00 p.m. Registration at 12:45
Location: United States Institute of Peace, 2301 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20037
RSVP: **Required.** Please confirm your attendance by Friday, February 14, 2014
briank@allianceforpeacebuilding.org

About the Symposium

Across the world, nations and societies are in crisis. Peace between nations and peoples is under threat; civil strife and injustice breed insecurity for individuals and social groups. Threats to peace and security proliferate, and solutions are elusive. At the center of both the problem and the solution are matters of language. Language is a defining factor in social and cultural identity, within and between groups. Language use and language choice are pivotal in both crisis and crisis resolution. Communication across and within groups is essential to maintaining peace and security.

These two roles of language—as medium of communication and as expression of identity—are vital considerations for any serious discussion of peace and security. But how exactly can such discussions lead to solutions? How do issues of language, language complexity, and communication play out in peace-building efforts and ongoing security? How can language issues be identified and addressed effectively in policy planning and execution? In this session, keynote presentations will address these questions, drawing on relevant scholarship, and field practitioners will describe related experience in a panel discussion.

About the Keynote Presenters

Patricia Friedrich, Associate Professor of Global Languages and Cultures, Arizona State University
Suwilai Premsrirat, Professor of Linguistics and Founder of the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia, Mahidol University, Thailand
Terrence Wiley, President, Center for Applied Linguistics
Zeena Zakharia, Assistant Professor of International and Comparative Education, University of Massachusetts, Boston

About the Panel

Perspectives from the Grassroots. Community-based practitioners reflect on the relevance of language to peace and security. Panel participants from SIL International, World Vision, Save the Children, and Mahidol University of Thailand.

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