



STEPHEN HECHT

Co-Founder & CEP, Million Peacemakers

Stephen Hecht is a global leader in constructive conflict transformation, social innovation, and peacebuilding. He is the Co-Founder and Chief Executive Peacemaker of Million Peacemakers, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping individuals, families, workplaces, schools, and communities transform conflict into connection through the Nonflict® way.

A former business leader with more than 35 years of experience across family, private, and public enterprises, Stephen's work today focuses on making peace a practical, scalable skill that can be learned and applied in everyday life. In 2016, he co-authored the #1 bestselling book *Nonflict: The Art of Everyday Peacemaking*, which has since become the foundation for training programs reaching millions of people worldwide.

Under his leadership, Million Peacemakers has trained more than 2.5 million people and positively impacted over 7.8 million lives. The organization was recognized with the YMCA Peace Medal for its contributions to peacebuilding and conflict transformation. Stephen is also a recipient of the Canada Award for Business Excellence, presented by the Prime Minister of Canada.

Stephen has held numerous leadership roles within the Young Presidents' Organization (YPO), including Chair of the YPO Impact Networks Council and Chair of the Peace Action Network, where he helped advance initiatives focused on peace, sustainability, social impact, and responsible leadership. He also serves as Director of the Garibay Institute for Systems Diplomacy, a global initiative that brings together leaders from government, business, technology, faith communities, academia, and civil society to address complex global challenges through collaborative systems-level solutions.

Stephen is one of the leaders behind the Youth Led Peace Collaboration, a global collaboration involving Million Peacemakers, JA Worldwide, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the YMCA, and the Family Enterprise Foundation. Together, these organizations are working toward an ambitious goal of equipping 250 million young people with peacemaking skills by 2035, based on research suggesting that engaging just 3.5 percent of a population can create a virtually unstoppable force for social transformation. Believing that technology can amplify humanity's highest aspirations, Stephen has also helped pioneer NonflictAI™, an AI-powered platform designed to help people navigate real-world conflicts with empathy, accountability, and understanding.

As a Global Ambassador for the Peace Innovation Initiative, Stephen works at the intersection of peace, technology, youth leadership, and systems change, helping build a future where peace is not the absence of conflict, but the ability to remain connected through our differences, listen to understand, and co-create a better future together.