

Howard S. Brembeck Fellowship

THE FOURTH FREEDOM FORUM

Strong Cities Fellowship

Hosted at the Institute for Strategic Dialogue–US

The [Fourth Freedom Forum](#) invites interested candidates to apply for the full-time [Howard S. Brembeck Fellowship](#). This one-year, potentially renewable fellowship will be hosted as a full-time employee at the [Institute for Strategic Dialogue-US](#), where it will support the organization's [Strong Cities Network](#), while also receiving mentorship opportunities in other areas of ISD-US work and the broader ISD.

Howard S. Brembeck Fellowship

In its fourth year, the Howard S. Brembeck Fellowship is focused on promoting fair opportunities for aspiring young professionals early in their career to support them in continuing to build practical skills in the field of international peace and security. The founder Howard S. Brembeck had a vision of multigenerational engagement on international peace and security. This fellowship continues his legacy of promoting and supporting young professionals and future leaders whose work will also help to advance the Fourth Freedom Forum's mission. Given this focus, the fellowship works to promote equity in the field through supporting and prioritizing applications from young professionals who have historically faced marginalization..

Fellowship Objectives and Duties

The **Project Coordinator** will be a member of the Strong Cities North America Regional Hub and support Strong Cities engagement globally.

The post holder will have strong communication, administrative, and organizational skills and an eagerness to develop project management skills. They will bring energy to the role and possess a strong work ethic and attention to detail. They will have demonstrated in previous roles the ability to work both independently and as part of a dynamic team environment—one which requires timely action and response—and be motivated to contribute actively to the Strong Cities mission.

Responsibilities

- **Research assistance and communications (45%)**

- Conduct research on 1) city-level approaches to preventing/countering extremism and other threats to social cohesion; 2) emerging thematic priorities for Strong Cities members; 3) priority cities for Strong Cities to engage, particularly in Africa and MENA, 4) gaps, municipal stakeholders, potential partners, existing programs and donor opportunities.
- Help map city needs and priorities in select regions (including North America, Europe, and MENA) and their alignment with Strong Cities offerings and engagements.
- Identify and map relevant municipal associations, city networks, regional institutions and potential technical partners, particularly in regions or thematic areas where Strong Cities is looking to expand.
- Compile current research and opportunities related to thematic areas across the current work of Strong Cities, including 1) online harms and use of technologies such as AI to prevent and/or facilitate violence, 2) youth engagement, inclusion and radicalization 3) gender-based violence, 4) women in leadership, 5) violence against local elected officials, 6) national-local cooperation in prevention, and 7) city-wide approaches to building social cohesion and belonging (while engaging civil society organizations, law enforcement and other institutions).
- Conduct research for workshops, training modules, concept papers, and background materials as required.
- Support Strong Cities communications, including via its website and social media channels, and design of digital assets including impact summaries and event reports.
- **Event coordination and convenings support (30%):**
 - Support the execution of Strong Cities webinars and in-person convenings, including the Seventh Strong Cities Global Summit. Tasks might include, as appropriate, contributing to defining objectives and setting the agenda and preparing event material (e.g., concept notes, agendas, invitations, presentations); note taking and collating due outs; preparing event summaries; liaising event venues and organizers including external speakers.
- **Business development tracking and coordination (10%)**
 - Help pull together and maintain an overview of our business development efforts – whom Strong Cities has approached, what opportunity or idea was discussed, where things stand, and what follow-up is needed.
- **Administration (15%)**

- Maintain and regularly update a shared organizational calendar of webinars, events, and other key dates across all regions.
- Track and maintain the product pipeline dashboard for reports, toolkits, publications and other resources, monitoring key milestones, and supporting timely delivery.
- Utilize and help maintain Strong Cities CRM (Monday.com) and provide additional administrative and logistical support as requested.

Qualifications

Applicants who meet some, but not all, qualifications or have relevant lived experience are encouraged to apply.

- Relevant master's degree, such as international relations/affairs, criminology, security studies, women's/gender studies, public health, public policy, or communications. Knowledge of hate, extremism, or violence prevention is highly desired.
- At least three years of progressive, relevant work experience, including in community-based, research or other non-profit organizations, local government, communications or universities.
- Excellent written and spoken communication skills in English (C1/C2).
- Policy analysis, including tracking developments, identifying trends, understanding and developing actionable recommendations.
- Experience and desire to implement diverse, equitable, and inclusive work practices; and have historically faced marginalization.
- Strong project management skills with the ability to manage multiple priorities, deadlines, and stakeholders simultaneously.
- Experience planning, coordinating, and managing webinars and in-person events.
- Highly motivated self-starter with the ability to effectively solve problems and thrive in a fast-paced environment.
- Proficiency and comfort in facilitating in-person and virtual meetings using Teams and other platforms.
- Familiarity with CRM such as Monday.com and design software like Canva, Adobe Photoshop, or Illustrator is desired.
- Strong competency and familiarity with Microsoft Office suite (Word, PowerPoint, Excel).
- Willingness to support general administrative and operational tasks for the wider organization as assigned.

Eligibility

The Fellowship requires candidates to have U.S. work authorization. **We are unable to sponsor visas at this time.**

Candidates must have completed their relevant master's degree by December 2026 or demonstrate they possess the equivalent knowledge and/or work experience in international affairs, public policy, local government, peacebuilding, women's studies, peace & security, or strategic communications.

Applicants must be able to write and edit quickly and effectively. As such, they may be subjected to testing to demonstrate during the interview process.

This is a remote position, though candidates in the DMV metro area are welcome to work from our Washington, D.C. offices if desired. Occasional travel in the U.S. and overseas may be required.

Compensation & Benefits

The selected fellow will receive an **annual salary of \$55,000 - 70,000** commensurate with experience, paid vacation and Federal holidays, and health insurance benefits.

How to apply

Interested applicants should submit (1) a cover letter that includes a discussion of the applicant's qualifications, professional experience, and career goals and how those interests and goals align with the mission and ethos of the Brembeck Fellowship and ISD-US' Strong Cities Network and ISD-US more broadly (see below); (2) a CV; and (3) contact information for three references- at least one should be from a non-academic source. Applications should be submitted via the ISD Vacancies [website](#).

Applications are due by **September 15th at 11:59 PM ET**. For roles with higher-than-average applications, our review process may take longer than expected. In these cases, our recruitment team may only reach out to candidates selected for a next stage interview. Requests for updates on the status of your application will not be answered.

Start Date: 4 January 2027

The Fourth Freedom Forum

The Fourth Freedom Forum is a nonprofit foundation established by Howard S. Brembeck to produce and support research and policy relevant recommendations for governments, non-governmental organizations, and multilateral institutions on a number

of international peace and security issues. For the past 40 years, we have worked on sanctions, incentives, and diplomacy; nuclear nonproliferation; counterterrorism and countering violent extremism; human rights and the rule of law; and international cooperation.

Our definition of security encompasses an integrated cooperative approach. The scope of work for this fellowship is not limited to traditional views of state-centric international security, rather we encourage applicants to embrace the concept of Integrated Cooperative Security. That is: the collective promotion and attainment of sustainable peace, dignity, and well-being for all of humanity including active measures to safeguard the health of the environment. It involves a holistic, inclusive, and multi-stakeholder approach to preventing and addressing threats from intimidation and violence in all forms and from humiliation and human rights violations. It requires providing civilian-led protection from economic, food, health, ecological, personal, community, digital, and political inequities and insecurities, through the use of good governance initiatives, diplomacy, peacebuilding, harm reduction, development, advocacy, technology, and other peaceful means of governmental and non-governmental action without overreliance on the use of military force.

The Fourth Freedom Forum requires that the Brembeck Fellow adhere to its institutional Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy (provided below).

Strong Cities Network

Launched at the United Nations in 2015 and hosted by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, Strong Cities is an independent global network of over 295 cities and other local governments dedicated to addressing all forms of hate, extremism and polarization at a local level. The Network fills a critical gap in efforts that have traditionally overlooked the unique roles that sub-national governments can play in preventing and responding to these threats, complementing both existing security-led measures and grassroots efforts led by civil society stakeholders,

This includes:

- Strengthening interaction among cities within and across different country and regional contexts to allow for local leaders and governments with shared interests to learn from each other;
- Promoting effective national-local coordination to ensure that relevant national policies and programs are informed by local government needs and priorities and facilitate more local ownership and thus local application of them;
- Supporting cities to develop or strengthen mandates and programs to prevent and respond to hate, extremism and polarization, which leverage the range of local services, interests, networks and skills that exist within

cities;

- Enhancing engagement between cities and young people so that youth have the skills, confidence and opportunity to engage with local governments and that cities in turn have the frameworks, understanding and tools for policy and practice that is participatory and representative; and
- Elevating the voices and leadership of mayors and other local leaders at regional and international levels, so that national and multilateral approaches are connected to and better understand the realities on the ground.

Institute for Strategic Dialogue–US

ISD is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to safeguarding elections, freedom, national security, public safety and individual rights by reversing the rising global tide of polarization, extremism, foreign interference and authoritarianism.

For 20 years, ISD has been at the forefront of analyzing, exposing and combatting all forms of terrorism, extremism, foreign interference, digital manipulation and authoritarianism, helping equip institutions, communities and the private sector with the tools, policies and skills to achieve impact at scale. Combining research and analysis with government advisory work and the design and delivery of training, education and communications programs, ISD works to implement real-world, evidence-based responses to these challenges.

ISD–US expects all staff, consultants and volunteers to:

- Commit to ISD’s vision, mission and [Guiding Principles](#)
- Foster diversity, inclusivity and equality of opportunity at ISD
- Demonstrate respect for others and safeguard those who are vulnerable
- Carry out their duties in accordance with ISD’s policies and procedures
- Adhere to risk management and security instructions at all times

ISD-US Commitment to Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

We endeavor to recruit a range of candidates into ISD, to strengthen our team and contribute to our inclusive organizational culture. We particularly welcome applications from candidates currently underrepresented across ISD – including those from diverse ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds, those with disabilities, and members of the LGBTQ+ community. We have tried to make this recruitment process as accessible as possible, but please let us know if you have any access requirements that you would like us to be aware of during this process.

ISD-US Competencies

These reflect ISD’s [Guiding Principles](#) which we expect all members of the team to embody, regardless of seniority and role. How these competencies are assessed is outlined in ISD’s Performance Review Process.

Guiding Principles	Competencies
Integrity	• Personal integrity • Focus on quality
Collaboration	• Respect for others • Commitment to the team
Agility	• Efficiency and effectiveness • Problem Solving
Courage	• Strategic thinking • Growth Mindset

Fourth Freedom Forum AI Policy

The Fourth Freedom Forum is committed to academic integrity and original scholarship. This commitment is fundamental to our mission to encourage discussion, development, and dissemination of practical, policy-relevant ideas that will help to free humanity from the fear of terrorism and war. We take full responsibility for all of our published works and as such rely upon our human experts and their expertise to support our mission and support original content creation. While we may on occasion use artificial intelligence (AI) tools for basic language editing or grammar correction, improving sentence structure or readability, formatting or stylistic suggestions, or minor copyediting assistance, any usage which could generate text, research findings, or data, or alter the author's original voice is in violation of our professional ethics and strictly prohibited.

This policy is provided in advance to any author publishing under the Fourth Freedom Forum or its affiliated entities which includes staff, fellows, and contractors. Where the Forum publishes or disseminates work produced in partnership with third parties over whom it cannot contractually enforce this commitment, the Forum will issue a disclaimer clearly noting that this policy may not have applied to the production of that work.

As AI is an evolving technology this policy is subject to periodic review and change.

5 May 2026