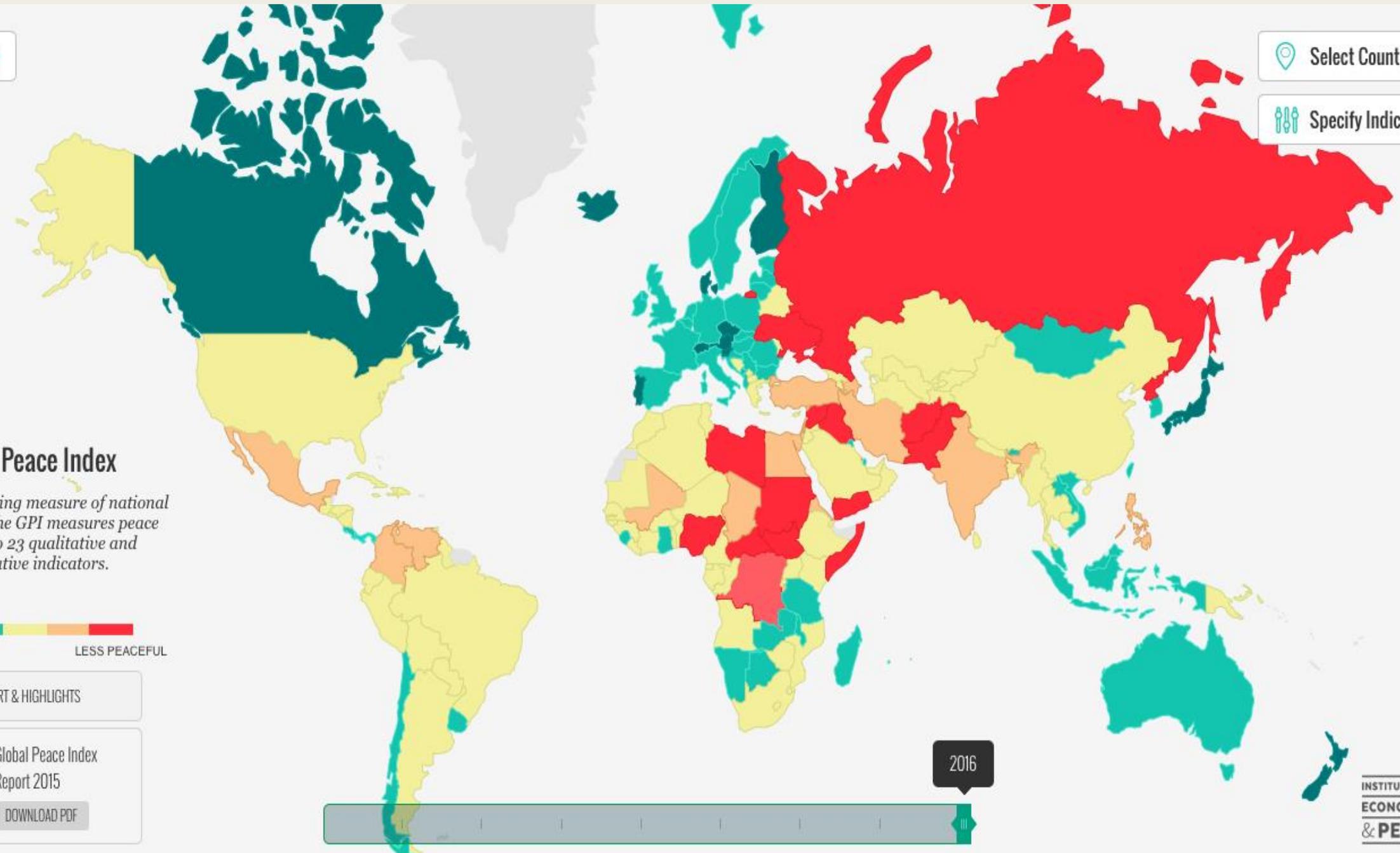




KEEP YOURSELF SAFE: FEET ON THE GROUND WITH AN OPEN MIND

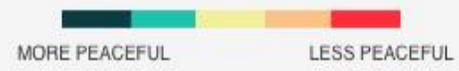
Dr. Élise Féron (Tampere Peace Research Institute)

- Most of the countries you will be travelling to are perfectly or reasonably safe
- Very few parts of the world are actually considered as dangerous, but it is good to be aware of the general security situation, especially because globalization means that conflicts happening in a distant place may be affecting “peaceful” countries
- It is also important to respect some basic safety principles, even in countries that are generally deemed “safe”



Global Peace Index

The world's leading measure of national peacefulness, the GPI measures peace according to 23 qualitative and quantitative indicators.



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 Global Peace Index Report 2015

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2016

Current Geopolitical Trends

Trends for Last Month

March 2017

↘ Deteriorated Situations

Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya,
Macedonia, Belarus, Venezuela, Paraguay,
Libya

↗ Improved Situations

None

Outlook for This Month

April 2017

⚡ Conflict Risk Alerts

Yemen, Libya

↩ Resolution Opportunities

None

General Rules

- Before travelling, consult Ministry of Foreign Affairs' website, or other reliable sources such as Crisis Watch in order to get updates about the latest security/political developments
- Check whether the travel warning has been recently updated, whether it applies to the whole country of destination or to some specific locations, etc.
- As a rule, the authorities of the country of destination are responsible for the safety of their own citizens but also for the safety of foreigners staying in their territory => you must follow and observe instructions provided by authorities in the country of destination
- Keep yourself updated, while abroad, on the security/political situation
- If you live abroad on a permanent or long-term basis, you should send your contact details to the mission and to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs: matkustusilmoitus.fi

A Few Tips

- Enter in your phone a few emergency numbers for your country of destination: police, firemen, hospital... so that you are ready in case of an emergency
- Before leaving, try at least to learn a few common phrases of the local language
- Travel with colored photocopies of your passport and other important documents, and keep them in separate bags/places
- Don't forget travel insurance, but also vaccinations, etc.
- Don't forget that many countries prefer cash than credit card payment (and inform your bank that you will be travelling)
- Prefer official public transportation (e.g. well marked cabs)
- Consider carefully which valuables you are taking with you, and which might attract attention

Be Culturally Sensitive

- Do your homework about the country you are going to, and avoid discussing sensitive topics
- Be careful with how you dress, especially in religious places. What is perfectly standard in Finland might be considered insulting or disrespectful in other countries
- Be extra careful with (local) alcohol and drugs: keep your wits about you!
- Laki on laki: inform yourself about what is allowed or not, and don't think that local legal rules don't apply to you
- If unsure: ask!