



WOMEN IN PEACEMAKING

UNSC Resolution 1325 & Women's Meaningful
Participation in Conflict Resolution

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HOSTED BY:



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Foreword

On March 13, 2024, DPI hosted its annual Women's Day event at the Embassy of Switzerland in Türkiye, in Ankara. The title of this year's event was Women in Peacemaking: UNSC Resolution 1325 & Women's Meaningful Participation in Conflict Resolution.

For the event, DPI was joined by Antonia Potter Prentice, Director of Alliance and former technical advisor to the UN Secretary-General to the Yemen Peace Process, and Dr Esra Çuhadar, Associate Professor and member of the UN Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisors as keynote speakers.

The event brought together women from various political and professional backgrounds to discuss the role and position of women in democratisation and conflict resolution processes in Türkiye and aimed to foster unity and cooperation that goes beyond political barriers, with a specific focus on UN Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, and to strengthen the political and civil participation of women in Türkiye.

Corinna Seiberth, Acting Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Switzerland to Turkey, opened the meeting by welcoming the participants and highlighting Switzerland's commitment to promoting women's meaningful participation in conflict resolution efforts.

Antonia Potter Prentice's presentation delved into the historical significance and ongoing relevance of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, emphasising its transformative vision to centre women's experiences and agency in peace and security efforts. She highlighted achievements and persistent challenges in implementing the resolution, urging sustained efforts to address structural barriers and inequalities hindering women's meaningful participation in peace processes.

Meanwhile, Dr Çuhadar focused on the pervasive forms of resistance women encounter in peace processes, while also highlighting their resilient strategies to overcome these barriers and advance meaningful participation in conflict resolution efforts.

The insights and recommendations shared during both the presentations and the discussion underscored the urgent need for a comprehensive, well-funded, and gender-responsive approach to peacebuilding and conflict resolution. The development and application of a National Action Plan for the implementation of Resolution 1325, in close consultation with civil society organisations and women's groups, emerged as a critical priority for advancing the women, peace, and security agenda in Türkiye.

Our warm thank you to Acting Deputy Head of Mission Corinna Seiberth and the Swiss Embassy for hosting this event and making this conversation possible.

This event is part of a larger series of activities planned in the context of the project Supporting the Pro-Peace Agenda in Türkiye and the Region, supported by the Norwegian, Irish, and Swiss governments.

Kind regards,



Kerim Yıldız
Chief Executive Director
Democratic Progress Institute

Introduction

Women are often disproportionately affected by conflict, experiencing violence, including sexual violence, displacement, and loss of livelihoods. Their participation in peacemaking allows for a more comprehensive understanding of the root causes of conflict and effective strategies for addressing them. Studies have shown that peace agreements are more durable and effective when women are involved in their negotiation and implementation. International frameworks, such as UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, recognise the importance of women's participation in peace processes and call for their inclusion at all levels of decision-making related to peace and security.

On March 13, the Democratic Progress Institute (DPI) hosted an event titled Women in Peacemaking: UNSC Resolution 1325 & Women's Meaningful Participation in Conflict Resolution at the Swiss residence in Türkiye. The event, generously hosted by the Swiss Embassy, brought together a diverse group of participants, including academics, civil society representatives and political figures to engage in a meaningful dialogue on the crucial role of women in peace processes and the progress made since the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Corinna Seibold, the acting deputy head of the Swiss Embassy, opened the event by emphasising Switzerland's steadfast commitment to promoting women's active participation in conflict prevention and peace processes, recognising the vital importance of gender sensitivity in achieving sustainable and just peacemaking efforts. DPI will continue to focus on promoting women in peacemaking and conflict resolution processes.

Empowering Peace: Insights on UN Resolution 1325

Antonia Potter Prentice, Director of Alliance 2015, Co-Managing Partner of Athena Consortium, and DPI Board member, delivered a thought-provoking presentation on the history and significance of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the progress made since its groundbreaking adoption nearly 25 years ago. Prentice began by setting the stage with a quote from ancient Greek playwright Euripides "I would rather face the enemy three times over than bear a child once. Let no one think of me that I am humble, weak, or passive. Let them understand that I am of a different kind, dangerous to my enemies, loyal to my friends. To such a life, glory belongs" and another quote from a major general in the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces working in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2008 "I could now declare that it was more dangerous to be a woman in war than to be a soldier." , According to Prentice, these quotations, centuries apart, illustrate the timeless truth that women have always faced disproportionate dangers in times of war and have had to fight to be heard. She emphasised that the wisdom and energy of marginalised groups, particularly women, were the driving forces behind the creation of Resolution 1325, which was the result of the tireless efforts of women's civil society organisations.

Prentice underscored the radical and transformative vision of Resolution 1325, which sought to place women's experiences and agency at the very heart of peace and security issues. The resolution aimed to reshape the way conflict prevention, resolution, and post-conflict reconstruction are approached, moving beyond the mere inclusion of women in existing structures and instead advocating for a fundamental rethinking of these processes to reflect women's perspectives and gendered experiences. Prentice highlighted the resolution's four pillars – participation, protection, prevention, and relief and recovery – and the subsequent resolutions that have built upon its foundation to create a comprehensive women, peace, and security agenda.

Throughout her presentation, Prentice shed light on several noteworthy achievements since the adoption of Resolution 1325. These include increased knowledge and awareness of the critical importance of women's participation in peace processes, supported by a growing body of data and evidence demonstrating the positive impact of women's inclusion on the durability and quality of peace agreements. Prentice also noted the expansion of technical support and funding for women's organisations working on the ground, such as the UN Peacebuilding Fund and the United Nations Women, Peace and Humanitarian Fund, which directly support women's groups in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

Prentice provided concrete examples of progress in various contexts, such as the use of gendered conflict analysis in peace processes in Myanmar and Cameroon, and efforts to implement quotas for women's participation in peace talks, as seen in Yemen. She also highlighted the gradual increase in the presence of women in senior roles, particularly in international spaces, noting that the percentage of women briefing the Security Council had risen from 19% between 2013 and 2017 to 46% in 2022.



Figure 1: Antonia Potter Prentice giving her presentation

However, Prentice also drew attention to the persistent and deeply entrenched challenges that continue to hinder the full realisation of Resolution 1325's ambitious goals. She cited the alarming trend of increased militarisation, noting that global military spending had surpassed \$2 trillion in 2021, while the amount of bilateral aid spent on supporting feminist women-led women's rights organisations and movements in fragile and conflict-affected countries was a mere \$148 million – a staggering disparity that underscores the skewed priorities in global peace and security efforts.

Prentice also highlighted the inadequate resources and funding allocated to women, peace, and security issues more broadly, the limited political will to prioritise these concerns, and the pervasive and deep-rooted gender stereotypes and discrimination that permeate societies worldwide. She noted that despite the progress made in some areas, women's participation in formal peace processes remains alarmingly low, with women making up only 16% of negotiators and delegates in UN-supported peace processes in 2022, and only one out of 18 peace agreements reached that year being signed or witnessed by a women's group or organisation.

Prentice underscored the critical importance of National Action Plans as a powerful tool for translating the women, peace, and security agenda into concrete and measurable actions at the country level. She emphasised the need for these plans to be well-funded, to have clear indicators and monitoring mechanisms, and to be backed by strong political will and accountability. Prentice noted that only 34% of existing National Action Plans include a budget, highlighting the gap between rhetorical commitments and actual investment in women's inclusion and gender sensitivity in peacebuilding efforts.

However, Prentice also stressed the potential for civil society and women's groups to use National Action Plans as a means to hold governments accountable and to push for the full implementation of the resolution's principles. She cited examples of countries that have used their National Action Plans to make progress on issues such as quotas for women's political participation, support for women's organisations, changing legal frameworks, and addressing structural inequalities and discrimination.

Throughout her presentation, Prentice provided a wealth of data, painting a nuanced and comprehensive picture of the current state of women's participation in peace processes. She highlighted the need for sustained efforts to address the structural barriers and inequalities that hinder women's meaningful engagement and called for a shift in mindset from viewing women as victims or passive beneficiaries to recognising their agency, expertise, and transformative potential as active agents of change.

Prentice concluded her presentation by emphasising the relevance of the women, peace, and security agenda for Türkiye, given its position as a country affected by regional conflicts and a major refugee host. She invited the audience to consider what a National Action Plan for Türkiye could look like and how it could help advance the agenda of women's inclusion and gender sensitivity in building and sustaining peace. Prentice stressed that while the challenges are significant and progress has been uneven, the tools and knowledge exist to push the agenda forward, and that the continued efforts of civil society, women's groups, and committed individuals are essential for realising the transformative potential of Resolution 1325.

Discussion Session I

Rich and engaging conversations marked the discussion session that followed Antonia Potter Prentice's presentation, as participants delved deeper into the challenges, opportunities, and strategies for advancing the women, peace, and security agenda in Türkiye and beyond. Esra Elmas moderated the session, encouraging participants to share their insights, experiences, and questions, fostering a dynamic and inclusive dialogue.

One of the key themes that emerged during the discussion was the lack of women's participation in formal peace negotiations and ceasefire talks, particularly in high-profile contexts such as Gaza. Participants raised concerns about the entrenched barriers that prevent women from accessing these decision-making spaces, including the prevailing assumption that political power and military expertise are prerequisites for a seat at the negotiating table. Prentice acknowledged the deep-rooted nature of these challenges, emphasising the need to build a pipeline of women with the necessary experience and credentials to effectively participate in these processes. She also highlighted the tendency for societies to revert to traditional, patriarchal patterns of decision-making during times of heightened conflict and insecurity, further marginalising women's voices and perspectives.



Figure 2: Participants during the discussion session.

Participants also explored the role of organisations like DPI in supporting women in conflict situations and promoting their meaningful participation in peacebuilding efforts. Prentice and Elmas emphasised the importance of facilitating dialogue, sharing knowledge and best practices, and fostering solidarity among women across diverse backgrounds and experiences. They highlighted DPI's efforts to bring together stakeholders from different sectors and regions to engage in comparative analysis and to learn from successful examples of women's participation in peace processes worldwide. However, they also acknowledged the limitations of external interventions and stressed the need for locally driven initiatives and the empowerment of women's groups and civil society organisations on the ground.

The discussion also touched upon the changing global landscape and the increasingly aggressive discourse surrounding war and conflict, and how these trends impact the prospects for advancing the women, peace, and security agenda. Participants emphasised the need for a comprehensive and holistic approach, one that addresses the root causes of conflict, challenges militarism and violence, and promotes inclusive, people-centred solutions. They highlighted the potential for Türkiye, with its strategic location and regional influence, to play a leading role in promoting women's participation in peacebuilding and conflict resolution, both within its borders and in neighbouring countries affected by conflict.

A recurring theme throughout the discussion was the importance of developing a robust and well-funded National Action Plan for the implementation of Resolution 1325 in Türkiye. Participants stressed the need for broad-based consultation and collaboration with civil society organisations, women's groups, and other key stakeholders in the development and implementation of such a plan. They emphasised the importance of setting clear goals, indicators, and accountability mechanisms, and of ensuring adequate resources and political will to support the plan's full realisation. Participants also highlighted the potential for collective action, mobilisation, and advocacy to push for change and to hold decision-makers accountable for their commitments to the women, peace, and security agenda.

The discussion also shed light on the specific challenges faced by women with disabilities in conflict situations, and the urgent need to incorporate their experiences, perspectives, and needs into peacebuilding efforts. Participants shared personal stories and insights, underlining the importance of inclusive and accessible education, empowerment, and solidarity among women across different backgrounds and identities. They called for a more intersectional approach to the women, peace, and security agenda, one that recognises and addresses the multiple and overlapping forms of discrimination and marginalisation faced by women in all their diversity.

Throughout the discussion, participants emphasised the transformative potential of women's meaningful participation in peace processes, highlighting the evidence that demonstrates the positive impact of women's inclusion on the durability and quality of peace agreements. They stressed the need for a fundamental shift in mindset, from viewing women's participation as a mere box-ticking exercise to recognising it as an essential prerequisite for sustainable peace and security. Participants also underscored the importance of creating environments that enable women's participation, by challenging gender stereotypes, promoting women's leadership and decision-making roles, and ensuring the protection and safety of women peacebuilders and human rights defenders.

Overcoming Obstacles: Advancing Women's Role in Peacebuilding

Associate Dr Esra Çuhadar, an academic and member of the UN Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisers, delivered a presentation on women's participation in conflict resolution efforts in Türkiye. The presentation shed light on the various forms of resistance women face when seeking inclusion in peace processes and the strategies they employ to overcome these barriers.

Drawing from her extensive research, which involved interviews with 30 women negotiators and mediators from diverse contexts, Çuhadar provided a comprehensive analysis of the implicit, explicit, and coercive behaviours that undermine women's meaningful participation in peace negotiations. She emphasised the importance of considering both the process and the outcomes when assessing women's inclusion, as token or symbolic inclusion does not equate to genuine participation and influence.



Figure 3: Esra Elmas and Esra Çuhadar during the presentation

Çuhadar identified three main categories of resistance behaviour: implicit, explicit, and coercive. Implicit resistance, rooted in unconscious biases and automatic reactions, often manifests through stereotyping and associating women with roles other than negotiators. One example shared was that of a Colombian negotiator who, upon arriving at a hotel for peace talks, was mistaken for a member of the service staff and asked where the coffee was located. This incident highlighted the pervasive assumption that women's presence in negotiation contexts is unusual and that they are often associated with supportive or service-oriented roles.

Explicit resistance, which is intentional, aims to diminish women's influence through direct confrontation, manipulation, or subtle tactics like restricting access to critical information. Çuhadar shared an example from Libya, where women were purposefully excluded from late-night meetings where crucial decisions were made, undermining their ability to contribute meaningfully to the negotiation process. Coercive resistance, the most severe form, involves threats of physical harm, sexual assault, and economic deprivation to deter women's participation. Çuhadar revealed that out of the 30 women interviewed, four reported direct physical attacks, while an additional seven experienced threats of violence. These harrowing accounts underscore the extreme measures some actors resort to to silence and exclude women from peace processes.



Figure 4: Esra Elmas, Kerim Yıldız and Antonia Potter Prentice with participants

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To overcome resistance, women negotiators and mediators employ a range of strategies, both confrontational and non-confrontational. These include organising nonviolent actions, creating alternative channels for information gathering, leveraging powerful allies, employing humour and communication skills, and building trust through calculated risks.

Çuhadar shared several compelling examples of women using innovative strategies to navigate resistance. In Northern Ireland, a female negotiator responded to a dismissive comment telling her to "go home and have babies" by singing the song "Stand by Your Man," using humour to challenge the sexist remark. In the Philippines, women negotiators brought boxes of chocolates to meetings on Valentine's Day, employing a non-confrontational approach to build rapport and create a more conducive environment for dialogue.

Another strategy employed by women mediators was taking calculated risks to build trust with conflict parties. Çuhadar shared the story of a mediator in Uganda who travelled to the jungle to meet with the Lord's Resistance Army, a notoriously brutal armed group. By listening patiently to the group's leader for hours, even when a significant portion of his dialogue lacked coherence, the mediator established a level of trust that led to her being requested specifically in future negotiations.

Çuhadar's presentation underscored the crucial role of recognising and addressing resistance to women's inclusion in peace processes, as it hinders the achievement of sustainable and inclusive peace. By understanding the forms, sources, and motivations behind resistance, stakeholders can develop targeted strategies to promote women's meaningful participation and influence in peace negotiations.

The presentation also highlighted the need for a multi-faceted approach to addressing resistance, one that combines efforts to challenge deeply entrenched gender norms and biases, build the capacity and expertise of women negotiators and mediators, and create an enabling environment for their meaningful participation. This requires the engagement and commitment of all stakeholders, including governments, civil society organisations, international actors, and men who are allies in the pursuit of gender equality and inclusive peace.

Çuhadar's presentation offered a comprehensive analysis of the resistance women face in peace processes and the strategies they employ to overcome these barriers. By shedding light on the implicit, explicit, and coercive forms of resistance, as well as the underlying motivations and sources of this resistance, the presentation provided valuable insights for those working to promote women's meaningful participation in conflict resolution efforts in Türkiye and beyond.

Discussion Session II

A dynamic discussion session followed the presentation. Participants sought clarification on various aspects of Çuhadar's research, including the methodology employed, the profile of the interviewed women, and their current involvement in peace processes. One participant inquired about the specific roles and levels of involvement of the women interviewed. Çuhadar explained that the women's participation varied, with some serving as lead negotiators or signatories to agreements, while others were involved in technical committees or advisory roles. She provided examples from Colombia, where women were involved in the negotiation process with the FARC guerrilla group, with some focusing on security-related issues, others on gender-specific concerns, and one serving as the right-hand person to the lead negotiator.

Another participant asked about the interviewed women's perspectives on gender and their connections to women's or feminist organisations. While the study did not specifically focus on these aspects, Çuhadar shared observations on the diverse backgrounds of the women, noting that some came from civil society and had prior experience working with women's groups or on gender-related issues, while others had military or government backgrounds.



Figure 4: Esra Elmas, Kerim Yıldız and Antonia Potter Prentice with a participant

Participants also raised questions about strategies for countering resistance in populist political contexts, where expertise may not be a persuasive factor. Çuhadar suggested employing non-confrontational approaches, such as raising awareness about unconscious biases in a less threatening manner and using insider strategies to protect the public image of populist leaders while promoting change. She emphasised the importance of understanding the motivations and interests of populist actors and finding ways to frame gender equality and women's inclusion as aligning with their goals and values.

The issue of vocabulary, particularly the resistance to the term "gender" in certain contexts, was also discussed. Çuhadar highlighted the use of "reframing" as a strategy, where language is adapted to the specific context while maintaining the intended meaning and purpose of promoting inclusivity. She provided examples from the Philippines, where the term "gender" was more acceptable to conservative Muslim groups than "sexual discrimination," and from Colombia, where references to LGBTQI+ rights were removed from the agreement text to make it more palatable to conservative audiences.

Participants emphasised the importance of involving men in conversations about women's issues and the need for a holistic approach that addresses shared problems and builds bridges across diverse political and societal groups. Several attendees shared personal anecdotes illustrating the challenges and successes of engaging men in these conversations and the necessity of challenging entrenched biases and cultural norms.

The discussion also touched upon the role of education in promoting gender equality, with a participant sharing their experience of teaching a gender studies course at a university and the positive impact it had on students' understanding of gender issues. Participants explored the potential of using literature and the arts as tools for addressing trauma and promoting understanding and empathy across different identities and experiences.

Throughout the discussion, participants actively contributed their insights, experiences, and perspectives, enriching the dialogue and fostering a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities in empowering women in local and national politics and decision-making processes in Türkiye.

The discussion highlighted the need for a multi-faceted, holistic approach to promoting women's meaningful participation in peace processes and decision-making roles. This approach should involve challenging gender norms and biases, engaging men as allies, finding culturally relevant ways to promote gender equality, and leveraging the power of education, literature, and the arts to foster understanding and empathy.

Participants also emphasised the importance of creating spaces for women to share their experiences, support one another, and collectively advocate for their rights and inclusion. Several attendees shared examples of women's networks and solidarity groups that have been effective in amplifying women's voices and pushing for change.

The discussion also underscored the need for continued research and data collection on women's participation in peace processes and decision-making roles in Türkiye. Participants noted that while progress has been made in recent years, there is still a significant lack of data and analysis on the specific challenges and opportunities women face in these contexts.

Overall, the discussion session provided an exploration of the themes raised in Çuhadar's presentation, with participants contributing valuable insights and experiences from their diverse backgrounds and perspectives. The session highlighted the importance of continued dialogue, research, and collaboration to promote women's meaningful participation in conflict resolution efforts and decision-making processes in Türkiye and beyond.

Conclusion

DPI's Women in Peacemaking: UNSC Resolution 1325 & Women's Meaningful Participation in Conflict Resolution event, hosted by the Swiss Embassy in Ankara, served as a powerful platform for dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and strategic reflection on the critical importance of women's participation in peace processes and the progress made since the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. The presentations and discussions highlighted the significant strides taken in raising awareness, providing support, and increasing women's representation in certain spaces, while also shedding light on the persistent challenges and obstacles that continue to hinder the full realisation of the resolution's transformative vision.

As Türkiye navigates the complex regional dynamics and the impact of conflicts both within its borders and in neighbouring countries, the insights and recommendations shared during the event underscore the urgent need for a comprehensive, well-funded, and gender-responsive approach to peacebuilding and conflict resolution. The development and implementation of a National Action Plan for the implementation of Resolution 1325, in close consultation with civil society organisations and women's groups, emerges as a critical priority for advancing the women, peace, and security agenda in Türkiye.

The event also highlighted the importance of fostering inclusive and intersectional dialogue, mobilising diverse actors, and advocating for change at both the grassroots and policy levels. By bringing together academics, civil society representatives, political figures, and other key stakeholders, DPI is aiming to create spaces for the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and strategies, and for the forging of alliances and solidarity networks that can drive progress towards more inclusive and sustainable peace.

As the event came to a close, participants were encouraged to continue engaging with the themes and insights discussed, to share their learnings with their respective networks, and to actively contribute to the ongoing efforts to promote women's meaningful participation in conflict resolution efforts in Türkiye and beyond.



DPI

Democratic
Progress
Institute

DPI Aims and Objectives

To contribute to broadening bases and providing new platforms for discussion on establishing a structured public dialogue on peace and democracy building.



To provide opportunities, in which different parties are able to draw on comparative studies, analyse and compare various mechanisms used to achieve positive results in similar cases.

To create an atmosphere whereby different parties share knowledge, ideas, concerns, suggestions and challenges facing the development of a democratic solution in Turkey and the wider region.



To support, and to strengthen collaboration between academics, civil society and policy-makers.

To identify common priorities and develop innovative approaches to participate in and influence democracy-building.



To promote and protect human rights regardless of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political persuasion or other belief or opinion.



DPI Aims and Objectives

DPI aims to foster an environment in which different parties share information, ideas, knowledge and concerns connected to the development of democratic solutions and outcomes. Our work supports the development of a pluralistic political arena capable of generating consensus and ownership over work on key issues surrounding democratic solutions at political and local levels.

We focus on providing expertise and practical frameworks to encourage stronger public debates and involvements in promoting peace and democracy building internationally. Within this context DPI aims to contribute to the establishment of a structured public dialogue on peace and democratic advancement, as well as to widen and create new existing platforms for discussions on peace and democracy building. In order to achieve this we seek to encourage an environment of inclusive, frank, structured discussions whereby different parties are in the position to openly share knowledge, concerns and suggestions for democracy building and strengthening across multiple levels.

DPI's objective throughout this process is to identify common priorities and develop innovative approaches to participate in and influence the process of finding democratic solutions. DPI also aims to support and strengthen collaboration between academics, civil society and policy-makers through its projects and output. Comparative studies of relevant situations are seen as an effective tool for ensuring that the mistakes of others are not repeated or perpetuated. Therefore we see comparative analysis of models of peace and democracy building to be central to the achievement of our aims and objectives.



Board Members



Kerim Yildiz (Chief Executive Officer)

Kerim Yildiz is an expert in conflict resolution, peacebuilding, international human rights law and minority rights, having worked on numerous projects in these areas over his career. Yildiz has received a number of awards, including from the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights for his services to protect human rights and promote the rule of law in 1996, and the Sigrid Rausing Trust's Human Rights award for Leadership in Indigenous and Minority Rights in 2005. Yildiz is also a recipient of the 2011 Gruber Prize for Justice. He has also written extensively on international humanitarian law, conflict, and various human rights mechanisms.



Nicholas Stewart KC (Chair)

Nicholas Stewart, KC, is a barrister and Deputy High Court Judge (Chancery and King's Bench Divisions) in the United Kingdom. He is the former Chair of the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales and former President of the Union Internationale des Avocats. He has appeared at all court levels in England and Wales, before the Privy Council on appeals from Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and the Bahamas, and in the High Court of the Republic of Singapore and the European Court of Human Rights. Stewart has also been the chair of the Dialogue Advisory Group since its founding in 2008.

Board Members



Owen Bowcott

Owen Bowcott, journalist, was The Guardian's legal affairs and Ireland correspondent. He has previously been a general news reporter, foreign news editor and was Ireland correspondent during The Troubles. He studied history at Birmingham University and journalism at Cardiff University. He started off working for the Birmingham Post and later joined the BBC, working as a researcher and producer for BBC News and the current affairs programme Panorama. He has also been a reporter on The Daily Telegraph. He is co-author of a book, *Beating the System*, about the early years of computer hacking and the criminalisation of online activity.



Priscilla Hayner

Priscilla Hayner is co-founder of the International Center for Transitional Justice and is currently on the UN Department of Political Affairs Standby Team of Mediation Experts. She is a global expert on truth commissions and transitional justice initiatives and has authored several books on these topics, including *Unspeakable Truths*, which analyses truth commissions globally. Hayner has recently engaged in the recent Colombia talks as transitional justice advisor to Norway, and in the 2008 Kenya negotiations as human rights advisor to former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the United Nations-African Union mediation team. Hayner has also worked significantly in the implementation stages following a peace agreement or transition, including Sierra Leone in 1999 and South Sudan in 2015.

Board Members



Arild Humlen

Arild Humlen is a lawyer and Director of the Norwegian Bar Association's Legal Committee. He is widely published within a number of jurisdictions, with emphasis on international civil law and human rights, and he has lectured at the law faculty of several universities in Norway. Humlen is the recipient of the Honor Prize of the Bar Association of Oslo for his work on the rule of law and in 2015 he was awarded the Honor Prize from the international organisation Save the Children for his efforts to strengthen the legal rights of children.



Antonia Potter Prentice

Antonia Potter Prentice is currently the Director of Alliance 2015 – a global network of humanitarian and development organisations. Prentice has extensive experience on a range of humanitarian, development, peacemaking and peacebuilding issues through her previous positions, including interim Senior Gender Adviser to the Joint Peace Fund for Myanmar and providing technical advice to the Office of the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General to the Yemen peace process. Prentice has also been involved in various international organisations including UN Women, Dialogue Advisory Group, and Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue. Prentice co-founded the Athena Consortium as part of which she acts as Senior Manager on Mediation Support, Gender and Inclusion for the Crisis Management Initiative (CMI) and as Senior Adviser to the European Institute for Peace (EIP).

Council of Experts

Bertie Ahern

Bertie Ahern is the former Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of Ireland, a position to which he was elected following numerous Ministerial appointments as well as that of Deputy Prime Minister. A defining moment of Mr Ahern's three terms in office as Taoiseach was the successful negotiation of the Good Friday Agreement in April 1998. Mr Ahern held the Presidency of the European Council in 2004, presiding over the historic enlargement of the EU to 27 member states. Since leaving Government in 2008 Mr Ahern has dedicated his time to conflict resolution and is actively involved with many groups around the world. Current roles include Co-Chair of The Inter Action Council; Member of the Clinton Global Initiative; Member of the International Group dealing with the conflict in the Basque Country; Honorary Adjunct Professor of Mediation and Conflict Intervention in NUI Maynooth; Member of the Kennedy Institute of NUI Maynooth; Member of the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy, Berlin; Member of the Varkey Gems Foundation Advisory Board; Member of Crisis Management Initiative; Member of the World Economic Forum Agenda Council on Negotiation and Conflict Resolution; Member of the IMAN Foundation; Advisor to the Legislative Leadership Institute Academy of Foreign Affairs; Senior Advisor to the International Advisory Council to the Harvard International Negotiation Programme; and Director of Co-operation Ireland.

Dermot Ahern

Dermot Ahern is a former Irish Member of Parliament and Government Minister and was a key figure for more than 20 years in the Irish peace process, including in negotiations for the Good Friday Agreement and the St Andrews Agreement. He also has extensive experience at the EU Council level, including as a key negotiator and signatory to the Constitutional and Lisbon Treaties. In 2005, he was appointed by the then UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, to be a Special Envoy on the issue of UN Reform.



Council of Experts

Prof. Dr. Mehmet Asutay

Professor Dr. Mehmet Asutay is a Professor of Middle Eastern and Islamic Political Economy & Finance at the Durham University Business School, UK. He researches, teaches and supervises research on Islamic political economy and finance, Middle Eastern economic development and finance, the political economy of the Middle East, including Turkish and Kurdish political economies. He is the Director of the Durham Centre for Islamic Economics and Finance and the Managing Editor of the Review of Islamic Economics, as well as Associate Editor of the American Journal of Islamic Social Science. He is the Honorary Treasurer of the BRISMES (British Society for Middle Eastern Studies); and of the IAIE (International Association for Islamic Economics).

Prof. Christine Bell

Professor Christine Bell is a legal expert based in Edinburgh, Scotland. She is Professor of Constitutional Law and Assistant Principal (Global Justice) at the University of Edinburgh, Co-director of the Global Justice Academy, and a member of the British Academy. She was chairperson of the Belfast-based human rights organization, the Committee on the Administration of Justice, from 1995–7, and a founder member of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission established under the terms of the Belfast Agreement. In 1999 she was a member of the European Commission's Committee of Experts on Fundamental Rights. She is an expert on transitional justice, peace negotiations, constitutional law and human rights law. She regularly conducts training on these topics for diplomats, mediators and lawyers, has been involved as a legal advisor in a number of peace negotiations, and acted as an expert in transitional justice for the UN Secretary-General, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and UNIFEM.



Council of Experts

Oral Çalışlar

Oral Çalışlar completed his studies at the Ankara University Faculty of Political Sciences. Was President of the Club of Socialist Thought at the university, as well as Secretary-General of the Ankara University Student Union. Wrote for Türk Solu journal which was launched in 1967 and for the Aydınlık journal which was launched in 1968. Was member of the editorial board of Aydınlık journal. Was arrested after the 12th of March 1971 military coup. Remained imprisoned for three years until the Amnesty law adopted in 1974. Was Editor in Chief for the Aydınlık daily newspaper launched in 1978. Was arrested again after the 12th of September 1980 military coup and released in August 1988 after four years in prison. Lived in Hamburg between 1990 and 1992 upon the invitation of the Senate of Hamburg. Worked for Cumhuriyet daily between 1992 and 2008. Broadcast television programmes on different channels, including TRT, 24TV, 360, and SKYTÜRK. Transferred from Cumhuriyet daily to Radikal daily in 2008. Between 2004-2007, he was in board of Turkish Journalists Association. He has a permanent press card. Became Editor in Chief for Taraf daily in 2013. Was part of the Wise People Committee in the same year. Later had to leave Taraf daily alongside Halil Berktay, Alper Görmüş, Vahap Coşkun, Erol Katircioğlu, Mithat Sancar, and Yıldırım Oğur, among others, after the intervention of the Gülen Congregation. Returned to Radikal daily. Started writing for Posta daily after 2016, when Radikal was discontinued. Continues work as a commentator on TV news channels. Has 20 published books, including The Leaders' Prison, Hz. Ali, Mamak Prison from the 12th of March to 12th of September, The Kurdish Issue with Öcalan and Burkay, My 68 Memoirs, The Alevis, When Deniz and Friends Were Executed, My Childhood in Tarsus, The History of Gulenism. Recipient of a large number of journalism and research awards. Married (1976) to author and journalist İpek Çalışlar. Father of author Reşat Çalışlar.



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Cengiz Çandar

Cengiz Çandar is currently a columnist for Al-Monitor, a widely respected online magazine that provides analysis on Turkey and the Middle East. He is a former war correspondent and an expert on the Middle East. He served as a special adviser to the former Turkish president, Turgut Ozal. Cengiz Çandar is a Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the Stockholm University Institute for Turkish Studies (SUITS).

Andy Carl

Andy Carl is an independent expert on conflict resolution and public participation in peace processes. He believes that building peace is not an act of charity but an act of justice. He co-founded and was Executive Director of Conciliation Resources. Previously, he was the first Programme Director with International Alert. He is currently an Honorary Fellow of Practice at the School of Law, University of Edinburgh. He serves as an adviser to a number of peacebuilding initiatives including the Inclusive Peace and Transition Initiative at the Graduate Institute in Geneva, the Legal Tools for Peace-Making Project in Cambridge, and the Oxford Research Group, London.

Ayşegül Doğan

Ayşegül Doğan is a journalist who has conducted interviews, created news files and programmes for independent news platforms. She studied at the Faculty of Cultural Mediation and Communications at Metz University, and Paris School of Journalism. As a student, she worked at the Ankara bureau of Agence-France Presse (AFP), the Paris bureau of Courier International and at the Kurdish service of The Voice of America. She worked as a programme creator at Radyo Ekin, and as a translator-journalist for the Turkish edition of Le Monde Diplomatique. She was a lecturer at the Kurdology department of National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations in Paris. She worked on political communications for a long time. From its establishment in 2011 to its closure in 2016, she worked as a programmes coordinator at IMC TV. She prepared and presented the programme "Gündem Müzakere" on the same channel.



Council of Experts

Dr Esra Çuhadar

Dr Esra Çuhadar currently works on the United Nations standby team of senior mediation advisers as a process design and inclusion expert. She has worked with various civil society and governmental actors and supported numerous dialogue and mediation initiatives in S. Caucasus, Ukraine, Turkey, Cyprus, and between Israel-Palestine, Greece-Turkey, Turkey-Armenia, and Somalia-Somaliland. She has more than twenty years of experience in researching, teaching, and practicing dialogue facilitation, mediation, and conflict assessment. She is a thought leader on designing inclusive peace processes with her extensive research and applied work in this area. She worked to advance the inclusion of civil society and women in places including Afghanistan, Cameroon, Turkey, and Venezuela. She contributed to women's capacity building in peacebuilding and co-founded the Turkey antenna of the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network in 2019. Prior to joining the stand-by team, Esra worked as a senior expert on dialogue and inclusion at the United States Institute of Peace, as a regional mediator for the World Bank, advisor to the mediation support unit of the OSCE, senior research fellow at Inclusive Peace, and associate professor at Bilkent University in Turkey. Esra received and managed numerous research grants, received awards and fellowships, and published extensively in leading journals and books on inclusive peace process and dialogue design, and evaluation of peacebuilding. Esra Cuhadar received her MA and Ph.D. from Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs of Syracuse University in the USA. She speaks English and Turkish.

Dr. Vahap Coşkun

Dr. Vahap Coşkun is a Professor of Law at University of Dicle in Diyarbakır where he also completed his bachelor's and master's degrees in law. Coşkun received his PhD from Ankara University Faculty of Law. He has written for Serbestiyet and Kurdistan24 online newspaper. He has published books on human rights, constitutional law, political theory and social peace. Coşkun was a member of the Wise Persons Committee in Turkey in the team that was responsible for the Central Anatolian Region.

Council of Experts

Vegard Ellefsen

Vegard is a Norwegian diplomat who retired 31 August 2019 from the foreign service when he left his last posting as ambassador to Ankara. He has been twice posted to NATO both as Permanent representative on the North Atlantic Council and deputy to the same position. He has earlier been posted to the Norwegian mission to the U.N. in New York and to the Embassy in Ottawa. In the Norwegian Ministry of foreign affairs he has been Political Director, Director General for the Regional division, Director of the Minister's secretariat and special envoy to the Sudan peace talks and special envoy to Syria and Iraq. Mr. Ellefsen has a Master in Political Science from the University of Oslo.

Prof. Dr. Fazıl Hüsnü Erdem

Professor Dr. Fazıl Hüsnü Erdem is Professor of Constitutional Law and Head of the Department of Constitutional Law at Dicle University, Diyarbakır. In 2007, Erdem was a member of the commission which was established to draft a new constitution to replace the Constitution of 1982 which was introduced following the coup d'état of 1980. Erdem was a member of the Wise Persons Committee in Turkey, established by then Prime Minister Erdoğan, in the team that was responsible for the South-eastern Anatolia Region.

Prof. Dr. Salomón Lerner Febres

Professor Dr. Salomón Lerner Febres holds a PhD in Philosophy from Université Catholique de Louvain. He is Executive President of the Center for Democracy and Human Rights and Professor and Rector Emeritus of Pontifical Catholic University of Peru. He is former President of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Peru. Prof. Lerner has given many talks and speeches about the role and the nature of university, the problems of scholar research in higher education and about ethics and public culture. Furthermore, he has participated in numerous conferences in Peru and other countries about violence and pacification. In addition, he has been a speaker and panellist in multiple workshops and symposiums about the work and findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Peru. He has received several honorary doctorates as well as numerous recognitions and distinctions of governments and international human rights institutions.



Council of Experts

Prof. Mervyn Frost

Professor Mervyn Frost teaches International Relations, and was former Head of the Department of War Studies, at King's College London, UK. He was previously Chair of Politics at the University of Natal, Durban, South Africa and was President of the South African Political Studies Association. He currently sits on the editorial boards of International Political Sociology and the Journal of International Political Theory, among others. He is an expert on human rights in international relations, humanitarian intervention, justice in world politics, democratising global governance, the just war tradition in an era of New Wars, and ethics in a globalising world.

David Gorman

David has more than 25 years of experience in the field of peacemaking. He started his career in the Middle East and he went on to work for international organisations on a wide range of conflicts around the world. David has been based in the Philippines, Indonesia, Liberia, Bosnia as well as the West Bank and Gaza and has been working in Eurasia for the last several years. He graduated from the London School of Economics, was featured in the award winning film 'Miles and War' as well as several publications and has published several articles on mediation.

Martin Griffiths

Martin Griffiths is a senior international mediator and currently the UN's Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) after previously serving as the UN's Envoy to Yemen. From 1999 to 2010 he was the founding Director of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue in Geneva where he specialised in developing political dialogue between governments and insurgents in a range of countries across Asia, Africa and Europe. He is a co-founder of Inter Mediate, a London based NGO devoted to conflict resolution, and has worked for international organisations including UNICEF, Save the Children, Action Aid, and the European Institute of Peace. Griffiths has also worked in the British Diplomatic Service and for the UN, including as Director of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (Geneva), Deputy to the Emergency Relief Coordinator (New York), Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Great Lakes, Regional Coordinator in the Balkans and Deputy Head of the Supervisory Mission in Syria (UNSMIS).



Council of Experts

Kezban Hatemi

Kezban Hatemi holds an LL.B. from Istanbul University and is registered with the Istanbul Bar Association. She has worked as a self employed lawyer, as well as Turkey's National Commission to UNESCO and a campaigner and advocate during the Bosnian War. She was involved in drafting the Turkish Civil Code and Law of Foundations as well as in preparing the legal groundwork for the chapters on Religious Freedoms and Minorities and Community Foundations within the Framework Law of Harmonization prepared by Turkey in preparation for EU accession. She has published articles on women's, minority groups, children, animals and human rights and the fight against drugs. She is a member of the former Wise Persons Committee in Turkey, established by then Prime Minister Erdoğan, and sits on the Board of Trustees of the Technical University and the Darulacaze Foundation.

Nazan Haydari

Nazan Haydari is Professor of Media Department at İstanbul Bilgi University, Turkey. Her research area consists of intercultural communication, feminist media studies, and critical media pedagogy with a particular interest in communication for peace building, community media, participatory action research and gendered radio histories. She is the director of Center for Conflict Resolution Studies and advisory board member for the Center for Intercultural Dialogue (<https://centerforinterculturaldialogue.org/>) She was involved in the development of various participatory media projects with street-involved children, and disadvantaged youngsters. She is the co-editor of Case Studies in Intercultural Dialogue (2015, Kendal Hunt). Currently working towards the completion of a co-authored book manuscript on an oral history project with women radio broadcasters of 1970s in Turkey. She holds a PhD in Telecommunications and MAIA in Communications and Development from Ohio University.

Dr. Edel Hughes

Dr. Edel Hughes is a Lecturer in Law at the School of Law, National University of Ireland, Galway. Prior to joining NUI Galway, Dr. Hughes was a Senior Lecturer in Law at Middlesex University and previously worked at the University of East London and the University of Limerick. She was awarded an LL.M. and a PhD in International Human Rights Law from the National University of Ireland, Galway, in 2003 and 2009, respectively. Her research interests are in the areas of international human rights law, public international law, and conflict transformation, with a regional interest in Turkey and the Middle East. She has published widely on these areas.



Council of Experts

Kadir İnanır

Kadir İnanır was born in 1949 Fatsa, Ordu. He is an acclaimed actor and director, and has starred in well over a hundred films. He has won several awards for his work in Turkish cinema. He graduated from Marmara University Faculty of Communication. In 2013 he became a member of the Wise Persons Committee for the Mediterranean region.

Prof. Dr. Ahmet Insel

Professor Ahmet Insel is a former faculty member of Galatasaray University in Istanbul, Turkey and Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne University, France. He is Managing Editor of the Turkish editing house, *Iletisim*, and member of the editorial board of monthly review, *Birikim*. He is a regular columnist at *Cumhuriyet* newspaper and an author who published several books and articles in both Turkish and French.

Aleka Kessler

Aleka Kessler works as Project Officer at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD). Having joined HD in 2017 to work on Syria, Aleka has been coordinating mediation project in complex conflict settings. Previously, Aleka also worked with Médecins Sans Frontières and the United Nations Association Mexico. She holds a degree in International Relations from the University of Geneva and a Master's degree in Development Studies from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, where she specialized in humanitarian affairs, negotiation and conflict resolution.

Prof. Ram Manikkalingam

Professor Ram Manikkalingam is founder and director of the Dialogue Advisory Group, an independent organisation that facilitates political dialogue to reduce violence. He is a member of the Special Presidential Task Force on Reconciliation in Sri Lanka and teaches politics at the University of Amsterdam. Previously, he was a Senior Advisor on the Sri Lankan peace process to then President Kumaratunga. He has served as an advisor with Ambassador rank at the Sri Lanka Mission to the United Nations in New York and prior to that he was an advisor on International Security to the Rockefeller Foundation. He is an expert on issues pertaining to conflict, multiculturalism and democracy, and has authored multiple works on these topics. He is a founding board member of the Laksham Kadirgamar Institute for Strategic Studies and International Relations, Colombo, Sri Lanka.



Council of Experts

Avila Kilmurray

Avila Kilmurray is a founding member of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition. She was part of the Coalition's negotiating team for the Good Friday Agreement and has written extensively on community action, the women's movement and conflict transformation. She serves as an adviser on the Ireland Committee of the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust as well as a board member of Conciliation Resources (UK) and the Institute for British Irish Studies. She was the first Women's Officer for the Transport & General Workers Union for Ireland (1990-1994) and from 1994-2014 she was Director of the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland, managing EU PEACE funding for the re-integration of political ex-prisoners in Northern Ireland as well as support for community-based peace building. She is a recipient of the Raymond Georis Prize for Innovative Philanthropy through the European Foundation Centre. Kilmurray is working as a consultant with The Social Change Initiative to support work with the Migrant Learning Exchange Programme and learning on peace building.

Bejan Matur

Bejan Matur is a renowned Turkey-based author and poet. She has published ten works of poetry and prose. In her writing she focuses mainly on Kurdish politics, the Armenian issue, minority issues, prison literature and women's rights. She has won several literary prizes and her work has been translated into over 28 languages. She was formerly Director of the Diyarbakir Cultural Art Foundation (DKSV). She is a columnist for the Daily Zaman, and occasionally for the English version, Today's Zaman.

Prof. Monica McWilliams

Professor Monica McWilliams teaches in the Transitional Justice Institute at Ulster University in Northern Ireland. She currently serves on a three-person panel established by the Northern Ireland government to make recommendations on the disbandment of paramilitary organisations in Northern Ireland. During the Northern Ireland peace process, Prof. McWilliams co-founded the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition political party and was elected as a delegate to the Multi-Party Peace Negotiations, which took place in 1996 to 1998. She was also elected to serve as a member of the Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly from 1998 to 2003. Prof. McWilliams is a signatory of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement and has chaired the Implementation Committee on Human Rights on behalf of the British and Irish governments. For her role in delivering the peace agreement in Northern Ireland, Prof. McWilliams was one recipient of the John F. Kennedy Leadership and Courage Award.



Council of Experts

Roelf Meyer

Meyer is currently a consultant on international peace processes having advised parties in Northern Ireland, Sri Lanka, Rwanda, Burundi, Iraq, Kosovo, the Basque Region, Guyana, Bolivia, Kenya, Madagascar, and South Sudan. Meyer's experience in international peace processes stems from his involvement in the settlement of the South African conflict in which he was the government's chief negotiator in constitutional negotiations with the ANC's chief negotiator and current South African President, Cyril Ramaphosa. Negotiating the end of apartheid and paving the way for South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994, Meyer continued his post as Minister of Constitutional Affairs in the Cabinet of the new President, Nelson Mandela. Meyer retired as a Member of Parliament and as the Gauteng leader of the National Party in 1996 and co-founded the United Democratic Movement (UDM) political party the following year. Retiring from politics in 2000, Meyer has since held a number of international positions, including membership of the Strategy Committee of the Project on Justice in Times of Transition at Harvard University.

Mark Muller QC

Mark Muller, QC, is a senior advocate at Doughty Street Chambers (London) and the Scottish Faculty of Advocates (Edinburgh) where he specialises in public international law and human rights. Muller is also currently on the UN Department of Political Affairs Standby Team of Mediation Experts and is the UN Special Envoy to Syria in the Syrian peace talks. He has many years' experience of advising numerous international bodies, such as Humanitarian Dialogue (Geneva) and Inter-Mediate (London) on conflict resolution, mediation, confidence-building, ceasefires, power-sharing, humanitarian law, constitution-making and dialogue processes. Muller also co-founded Beyond Borders and the Delfina Foundation.

Avni Özgürel

Mehmet Avni Özgürel is a Turkish journalist, author and screenwriter. Having worked in several newspapers such as Daily Sabah and Radikal, Özgürel is currently the editor in chief of the daily Yeni Birlik and a TV programmer at TRT Haber. He is the screenwriter of the 2007 Turkish film, Zincirbozan, on the 1980 Turkish coup d'état, Sultan Avrupa'da (2009), on Sultan Abdülaziz's 1867 trip to Europe; and Mahpeyker (2010): Kösem Sultan, on Kösem Sultan. He is also the screenwriter and producer of 2014 Turkish film, Darbe (Coup), on the February 07, 2012 Turkish intelligence crisis. In 2013 he was appointed a member of the Wise Persons Committee in Turkey established by then Prime Minister Erdoğan.



Council of Experts

Prof. John Packer

Professor John Packer is Associate Professor of Law and Director of the Human Rights Research and Education Centre (HRREC) at the University of Ottawa in Canada. Prof. Packer has worked for inter-governmental organisations for over 20 years, including in Geneva for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Labour Organisation, and for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. From 1995 to 2004, Prof. Packer served as Senior Legal Adviser and then the first Director of the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities in The Hague. In 2012 – 2014, Prof. Packer was a Constitutions and Process Design Expert on the United Nation's Standby Team of Mediation Experts attached to the Department of Political Affairs, advising in numerous peace processes and political transitions around the world focusing on conflict prevention and resolution, diversity management, constitutional and legal reform, and the protection of human rights.

Jonathan Powell

Jonathan Powell is the founder and CEO of Inter Mediate, an NGO devoted to conflict resolution around the world. In 2014, Powell was appointed by former Prime Minister David Cameron to be the UK's Special Envoy to Libya. He also served as Tony Blair's Chief of Staff in opposition from 1995 to 1997 and again as his Chief of Staff in Downing Street from 1997 to 2007. Prior to his involvement in British politics, Powell was the British Government's chief negotiator on Northern Ireland from 1997 to 2007 and played a key part in leading the peace negotiations and its implementation.

Sir Kieran Prendergast

Sir Kieran Prendergast is a former British diplomat who served as the Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs at the United Nations from 1997 to 2005 and as High Commissioner to Kenya from 1992 to 1995 and to Zimbabwe from 1989 to 1992. During his time at the UN, Prendergast stressed the human rights violations and ethnic cleansing that occurred during the War in Darfur and was involved in the 2004 Cyprus reunification negotiations. Since his retirement from the UN, he has conducted research at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs (United States) and is a member of the Advisory Council of Independent Diplomat (United States). Prendergast also holds a number of positions, including Chairman of the Anglo-Turkish Society, a Trustee of the Beit Trust, and Senior Adviser at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue.



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Rajesh Rai

Rajesh Rai was called to the Bar in 1993 with his areas of expertise including human rights law, immigration and asylum law, and public law. He has been treasurer of 1MCB Chambers (London) since 2015 and has also been a Director of an AIM-listed investment company where he led their renewable energy portfolio. Rai is a frequent lecturer on a wide variety of legal issues, including immigration and asylum law and freedom of expression (Bar of Armenia), minority linguistic rights (European Parliament), and women's and children's rights in areas of conflict (cross-border conference to NGOs working in Kurdish regions). He is also Founder Director of HIC, a community centred NGO based in Cameroon.

Sir David Reddaway

Sir David Reddaway is a retired British diplomat currently serving as Chief Executive and Clerk of the Goldsmiths' Company in London. During his previous career in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, he served as Ambassador to Turkey (2009–2014), Ambassador to Ireland (2006–2009), High Commissioner to Canada (2003–2006), UK Special Representative for Afghanistan (2002), and Charge d'Affaires in Iran (1990–1993). His other assignments were to Argentina, India, Spain, and Iran, where he was first posted during the Iranian Revolution.

Prof. Naomi Roht-Arriaza

Professor Naomi Roht-Arriaza is a Distinguished Professor of Law at the Hastings College of Law, University of California (San Francisco) and is renowned globally for her expertise in transitional justice, international human rights law, and international humanitarian law. She has extensive knowledge of, and experience in, post-conflict procedures in Latin America and Africa. Roht-Arriaza has contributed to the defence of human rights through legal and social counselling, her position as academic chair, and her published academic works.



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Ahmet Mümtaz Taylan

Ahmet Mümtaz Taylan is a well-known Turkish actor and director. He graduated from the Hacettepe University State Conservatory of Theater's Department. He also worked at the Diyarbakir State Theatre from 1989 to 1993. He later worked in theatres with Roberto Cioli and Der Ruhr in Germany from 1993 to 1994. Since then, he has been in a number of dramas alongside Yucel Erten. He rose to the rank of general secretary of Devlet Tiyatrolar Sanatçılar Derneği, or DETS (Association of State Theater Artists), which he held until 2006.

He also appeared in a number of well-known films. He starred in Nuri Bilge Ceylan's film "Once Upon A Time In Anatolia," which earned the Cannes Film Festival's highest honour, the Golden Pam. At the 15th Golden Ball Film Festival in 2007, Talan won the Film Writers' Association Award for Best Supporting Actor for his role in Inan Temelkuran's "Made in Europe". In addition, in 2002, he received the Ismet Küntay Award for Best Director for the play "Misafir". In 2018, he won the "Best Actor in Drama" award at the 23rd Sadri Alışık Theater & Film Awards.

Dr. Mehmet Ufuk Uras

Mehmet Ufuk Uras is a co-founder and member of social liberal Greens and the Left Party of the Future, founded as a merger of the Greens and the Equality and Democracy Party. He was previously a former leader of the now-defunct University Lecturers' Union (Öğretim Elemanları Sendikası) and was elected the chairman of Freedom and Solidarity Party in 1996. Ufuk resigned from the leadership after the 2002 general election. Ufuk ran a successful campaign as a "common candidate of the Left", standing on the independents' ticket, backed by Kurdish-based Democratic Society Party and several left-wing, environmentalist and pro-peace groups in the 2007 general election. He resigned from the Freedom and Solidarity Party on 19 June 2009. After the Democratic Society Party was dissolved in December 2009, he joined forces with the remaining Kurdish MPs in the Peace and Democracy Party group. On 25 November 2012, he became a co-founder and member of social liberal Greens and the Left Party of the Future, founded as a merger of the Greens and the Equality and Democracy Party. Ufuk is a member of the Dialogue Group and is the writer of several books on Turkish politics.





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