Peace Mediation Course 2015

A specialized training for practitioners by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

www.peacemeditation.ch
Goal

The goal of the Peace Mediation Course is for participants to deepen their understanding of peace mediation and acquire the skills, knowledge and attitudes to support mediation processes effectively. Moreover it aims to enhance the exchange and networking between participants.

Focus

The course focuses on how to support track 1 peace mediation. A comprehensive approach to mediation is the basis of the course. Such an approach takes into account the different phases, relevant actors and topics of peace negotiations. Key questions addressed in the Peace Mediation Course include:

*Micro-skills:* How does one deal with the nuts and bolts of negotiating and mediating peace agreements?

*Process design:* How does one design a peace process? Who participates in peace negotiations, and how should their diverse agendas be included? When is which third party best suited to play an effective role? How do you integrate topics in a mediation process?

Participation

*Target public:* The Peace Mediation Course targets 24 experts who want to engage in the support of peace mediation: staff from the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), international organizations, Ministries of Foreign Affairs of other countries, nongovernmental organizations, individuals from the mediation and peacebuilding community, and negotiators in ongoing peace processes.

*Conditions:* Participants must have sound skills, knowledge and experience in peace mediation, or several years of field experience related to peace processes. Priority will be given to participants who are, or will be, working in support of peace processes. Excellent command of English is required to follow the course. Diversity in terms of gender, geographic and professional background will be sought for. Participants are expected to have a high degree of motivation and commitment, to stay for the entire duration of the course, and to read the background material carefully.

*Selection:* Participants will be selected by the Swiss FDFA.
Experience oriented: The Peace Mediation Course is experience driven: the basic learning tools will be past and ongoing mediation cases – for example in Burundi, Colombia, Indonesia, Kenya, Myanmar, Nepal, Northern Ireland, South Africa, Sudan, South Sudan, or Somalia. Conceptual frameworks are used to help grasp these experiences.

Interactive learning: All the training sessions are highly interactive.

Head, heart, and hands: Attitudes and values are as important in mediation as knowledge and ‘technical’ skills. The course aims at a comprehensive and self-reflective approach to mediation.

This will be the 8th Peace Mediation Course held by the Swiss FDFA. The course trainers are either practicing mediators or renowned experts in the relevant areas. This year’s trainers include:

- **Jeremy Brickhill**: Senior Advisor for Security Sector Planning (tbc)
- **Ben Hoffman**: President of the Canadian International Institute of Applied Negotiation
- **Julian Thomas Hottinger**: Senior Mediator, Swiss FDFA
- **Simon Mason**: Head of Mediation Support Team, Center for Security Studies, ETH Zurich
- **Thania Paffenholz**: Senior Researcher, Centre on Conflict, Peace-building and Development, Graduate Institute
- **Meredith Preston McGhie**: Regional Director for Africa, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue
- **Matthias Siegfried**: Head of Mediation Program, swisspeace

For details on this year’s trainers, please see the website [www.peacemediation.ch](http://www.peacemediation.ch)

The Peace Mediation Course 2015 begins on **7 June 2015 at 12.30** and ends on **19 June 2015 at 18.30**. There will be one day off on the 13 June. The course will take place in Switzerland, in the Parkhotel Oberhofen, [www.parkhoteloberhofen.ch](http://www.parkhoteloberhofen.ch)

The training will be held in English. Details of the program can be found at: [www.peacemediation.ch](http://www.peacemediation.ch)

The Peace Mediation Course is offered by the FDFA free of charge. Participants have to pay for their own transport.

Applications (a CV and a letter of motivation) should be sent by email to the following address by 31 January 2015: application@peacemediation.ch

Further information can be obtained from the Swiss FDFA:

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"The Swiss Peace Mediation Course offered a unique and most comprehensive menu of skills even for people with professional experience in the field. While mediation is turning into a recognized discipline within international conflict resolution, this course equips you with the highest standards in the trade."

Kai Sauer, Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Helsinki)

“The course experience was immensely helpful and enriching; I must say it was one of the highlights of my work in this field, and it was hands-down the best training course I have ever attended.”

Dawn Peebles, United Nations Mission (Sudan)

“The Peace Mediation Course was a great learning experience. In my opinion, it would be very useful for all diplomats who support mediation processes in their daily work.”

Guillaume Scheurer, Swiss FDFA (Bern)

“For me, the contributions of qualified trainers, practitioners and participants from all over the world as well as the perfect mix of theory and practice were the key to success. What I learned during the Peace Mediation Course is extremely useful for me and is directly applicable in my day-to-day work in Kosovo, particularly with regard to our dialogue projects sponsored by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland (FDFA).”

Norbert Ruetsche, Swiss FDFA (Kosovo)

“The Peace Mediation Course gave me inspiration to create bridges between track 1 and track 2 & 3 in the Myanmar peace processes. The “Civil Society Forum for Peace” (CSFoP) that we are now implementing is a direct result of this course.”

Ja Nan Lahtaw, Shalom Foundation (Myanmar)

The Peace Mediation Course is organized by the Swiss FDFA in collaboration with the Mediation Support Project (swisspeace / Center for Security Studies, ETH Zurich)

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