Call for Papers: Expert Workshop on Internal Displacement and Transitional Justice

Expert Workshop organised by swisspeace in collaboration with the UN Special Rapporteur for the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Mrs. Cecilia Jimenez-Damary
11-12 December 2017 at the University of Basel, Switzerland

1.1 Conference theme

Today, the world experiences the highest levels of displacement ever recorded, with 65.6 million of people having been forced from their homes at the end of 2016. This includes 40.3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 22.5 million refugees.¹ Scholars and practitioners have increasingly called for the inclusion of IDPs, diaspora communities and refugees in transitional justice processes. The 2004 report of the United Nations Secretary General on the rule of law and transitional justice² has also stressed that comprehensive transitional justice strategies need to pay specific attention to the groups most affected by conflict, including displaced persons and refugees, and to develop transitional measures which address their specific needs on the basis of consultation. The inclusion of displaced persons in transitional justice has also been acknowledged as having a transformative potential.

However, the roles of IDPs in transitional justice processes remain a relatively new field of research, policy and practice. This workshop seeks to explore and critically engage with the following questions:

— How can transitional justice support durable solutions to displacement? How can a transitional justice approach to durable solutions be defined?
— How can IDPs be included in transitional justice processes? What are the lessons learnt and best practices in this regard?
— What roles can IDPs play in transitional justice processes?
— What are inhibiting and enabling environments for the agency of IDPs with regards to transitional justice processes?

1.2 Main objectives

This conference aims to bring together scholars and practitioners working on internal displacement and transitional justice in order to discuss the current state of knowledge and identify lessons learnt, best practices and recommendations for improving policies and practices in this field. It will serve as a dialogue platform between experts and the UN Special Rapporteur for the human rights of IDPs, Mrs. Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, who will dedicate her 2018 report to the UN General Assembly to the theme of IDPs and transitional justice.
1.3 Deadline

We invite papers from researchers and presentations from practitioners to address one or more of these questions either with a focus on one country case study or from a comparative perspective.

Please send an abstract of max. 400 words and a short biography (max. 5 sentences) to Aurora.Martinez@swisspeace.ch by Friday, **November 3rd 2017**. You will receive notification by Monday, **November 6th 2017**.

---

1 See UNHCHR (June 2017) *Global Trends. Forced Displacement in 2016*.