

2018 DC Symposium On the New Frontiers of Peacebuilding July 14th – August 04th, 2018

In cooperation with [American University's School of International Service \(SIS\)](#), the inaugural *2018 DC Symposium on the New Frontiers of Peacebuilding* will provide advanced practical peacemaking and peacebuilding tools in a context where new and innovative approaches to peace are necessary to overcome current global and local challenges.

The occurrence and intensity of existing threats to peace urge us to look for creative answers to face those challenges. Emerging trends from various disciplines have proven to very useful at helping understand the new forms of violence, as well as giving insights on how to deal with them. Considering the value of these currents of thought, the *2018 DC Symposium* will expose its participants to the fundamental concepts and practices of conflict management, while linking them to the newest approaches to peace and peacebuilding.

Over a three-week period, participants will undergo an intensive training by the field's premier political leaders, academic experts, practitioners, and advocates in the practical skills necessary to foster peace and security in their communities and the world by applying new approaches to conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Not only participants will have the opportunity to **inquire** about the traditional and emerging theories and practices on peacebuilding, they will **implement** lessons-learned in dynamic experiential education exercises that simulate the challenges peacemakers face while dealing with the complexities of real violent conflicts. Participants will interact with the world's brightest minds on the peace field and will train on the core skills of conflict prevention, resolution, and reconciliation; this will give them the foundation to **innovate** as peacebuilders.

Participants will go deeply into practical concepts and programming priorities in the following areas:



Conflict Prevention: Deliver a thorough understanding of preventative diplomacy and its implementation, the role of multilateral institutions, prevention as more effective option for conflict management despite its lack of recognition.



Conflict Resolution: Train on crucial practical skills and concepts such as mediation, facilitation, and negotiation.



Reconciliation: Identify the limitations of reconciliation in post-conflict contexts and generate reflections on how to overcome such challenges.

Participants receive an **IPSI Post-Graduate Certificate in "International Conflict Management"** upon successful completion of the course. Participants who choose to undertake additional rigorous assignments will earn an IPSI Post-Graduate Certificate in **"International Conflict Management with Distinction."**

Program Overview

Conflict Prevention	Conflict Resolution	Reconciliation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frameworks for conflict diagnosis. • Concepts on prevention of intra/interstate conflict. • The role of multilateral institutions in conflict prevention. • Comprehensive intervention strategies for a specific conflict environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mediation Theory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mediation methodology/process. ○ Multitrack diplomacy. ○ Mediators/facilitators values, skills, and characteristics. • Mediation Training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Civil society inclusion in peace processes. • International Negotiations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Negotiation theories. ○ Peace process negotiations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Emotional intelligence and skills of a negotiator. ▪ Tactics of negotiation. ▪ Multi-party negotiations. ○ Intercultural communication. • Facilitation Training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Basic skills in facilitation of dialogues. ○ Effective dialogue processes. ○ Facilitation and dialogue tools that can be applied from inter-personal to political levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconciliation as a peacebuilding tool. • Forgiveness and reconciliation in divided societies. • New narratives to reframe the past. • The limits and challenges of reconciliation in peace negotiations. • Purpose and vision of leadership towards reconciliation (“Leadership for the Whole”): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Common humanity and interconnectedness. • Civil resistance as a method to overcome, transform, or circumvent adverse structural conditions. • Trauma Healing and Resilience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Space and time required to heal from trauma. ○ Resilience performance in the peace work/field. ○ Practical tools in psychological first aid.
<p>New Frontiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New thought, practice and paths to peace and peacebuilding. • Countering Violent Extremism: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Preventing violent radicalization. ○ Importance of community engagement, inclusion and intercultural dialogue. 	<p>New Frontiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faith-based peacemaking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Religion and spirituality as a catalyzer and facilitator of cooperation. ○ The myth of religion as a cause of violence. • The Value and Impact of Citizen Peacebuilders. • Conflict Cuisine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The connection between food and war. ○ The use of cuisine a soft power (Gastrodiplomacy). ○ Food as a tool of peacebuilding. 	<p>New Frontiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neuroscience and Reconciliation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emerging understandings on cognitive processes underlying experiences such as fear, trauma, memory, empathy, amongst others. • The role of business in reconciliation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How business sector can contribute to reduce uncertainty and rebuild trust. • The role of military in peacebuilding.

The Beladusham Simulation

Engage in a two-day simulation to experience the challenges peacemakers face when dealing with the complexity of real violent conflicts:

- Do **conflict mapping**.
- Use **facilitation, negotiation, mediation** techniques.
- Practice how to **negotiate creatively** in order to discover win-win outcomes.
- Experience how different **decisions and actions impact** the trajectory of a conflict.
- Experience how international and local actors in a conflict both **collaborate** with and **impede** one another.
- Recognize your own **communication style**.
- Learn how you respond to **stressful situations**.
- Experience the **complexity** of multilateral negotiations.
- Discover difficulties when trying to implement **theory** into **practice**.



Site Visits:



Washington DC Welcome



United States Institute of Peace



The Pentagon