



# Peace Mediation Course 2013

A specialised training for practitioners  
by the Swiss Federal Department  
of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)

[www.peacemediation.ch](http://www.peacemediation.ch)



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
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Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA  
**Directorate of Political Affairs DP**

Human Security Division:  
Peace, Human Rights, Humanitarian Policy, Migration

# 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 peace negotiations that include the top leadership of conflict parties and a mediator or a facilitator.

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:

- *Topics:* What are the relevant topics in today's peace processes?
- *Micro-skills:* How does one deal with the nuts and bolts of negotiating and mediating peace agreements?
- *Process management:* 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?

# Participation

**Target public:** The Peace Mediation Course targets 24 experts who want to engage in the support of peace mediation: staff from the Swiss 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. Diversity in terms of gender, geographic and professional background will be sought for. The age limit of the participants is set at 55 years. 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:** The final selection of participants will be made by the Swiss FDFA.



# Training Methodology

## Trainers

## Dates and Venue

## Fees

## Application

**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, Somalia, or Uganda. 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 6th Peace Mediation Course held by the Swiss FDFA. The course trainers are either practicing mediators or renowned experts in the relevant areas. Some trainers in the past have been:

- **Ben Hoffman:** President of the Canadian International Institute of Applied Negotiation
- **Meredith Preston McGhie:** Acting Director for Africa, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue
- **Jeremy Brickhill:** Senior Advisor for Security Sector Planning
- **Julian T. Hottinger:** Senior Expert in Mediation and Constitutionalism, Swiss FDFA
- **Nicole Toepperwien:** UN Mediation Standby Team

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

The Peace Mediation Course 2013 begins on **2 June 2013 at 12.30 and ends on 14 June 2013 at 18.30**. There will be one day off on the 8th of 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 2013: [application@peacemediation.ch](mailto:application@peacemediation.ch)**

Further information can be obtained from the Swiss FDFA:

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# Opinions



“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)*

# Organisation

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

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