



# Peace Mediation Course 2020

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

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



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

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 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?

*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 participants:** The PMC targets 24 experts engaged 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, non-governmental 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. 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 taking into account diversity in terms of gender, geographic and professional background.



**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, Kenya, Myanmar, Nepal, Northern Ireland, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, or Syria. Conceptual frameworks are used to help contextualize 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 13th Peace Mediation Course held by the Swiss FDFA. **Christoph Fuchs**, Deputy Head Peace Policy IV with the FDFA, will act as course director. The course trainers are experienced mediators and renowned experts in the relevant areas. Trainers in the 2020 edition of the PMC include:

- **Julian Thomas Hottinger:** Senior Mediator, Swiss FDFA
- **David Lanz:** Co-Head of Mediation Program, swisspeace
- **Bill Marsh:** Business Mediator, Mediator of the Year 2019
- **Simon Mason:** Head of Mediation Support Team, Center for Security Studies (CSS), ETH Zurich
- **Meredith Preston McGhie:** Secretary General of the Global Centre for Pluralism
- **Georg Stein:** Mediation Adviser, Swiss FDFA
- **Valerie Sticher:** Senior Program Officer, Mediation Support Team, CSS, ETH Zurich
- **Marie-Joëlle Zahar:** Professor of Political Science, Director of the Research Network on Peace Operations at the Université de Montréal

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

The Peace Mediation Course 2020 **begins on 28 June 2020 at 16.00 and ends on 10 July 2020 at 16.00**. There will be one day off. The course will take place in the Huus Hotel Gstaad, Switzerland: [www.huusgstaad.com/en](http://www.huusgstaad.com/en)

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 arrange and pay for their own transport.

**Applications (a CV and a letter of motivation) must be uploaded online at <http://peacemediation.ch/course-2020/application-2020> at the latest by 14 February 2020.** For questions regarding the application, contact [application@peacemediation.ch](mailto:application@peacemediation.ch).

Further information on the course can be obtained from:  
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## Training Methodology

## Trainers

## Dates and Venue

## Fees

## Application

# Opinions



“The Peace Mediation Course is a valuable contribution by Switzerland to enhance prospects for peace by professionalizing mediators from various backgrounds. The course is of very high quality in its learning methods, comprehensive in covering mediation issues and generous in sharing insider understanding.”

*Sirpa Mäenpää, Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

“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*

“The Swiss Peace Mediation Course was an outstanding opportunity to learn and deepen my knowledge in a field that is more than ever needed. The balance between theory and practice including the final role play truly provided a glimpse into mediation and negotiation. Putting us in the shoes and making us feel the difficulties, emotions, tensions and sensitivity of such fragile but critical processes.”

*Paul Picard, OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre*

“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 Swiss Peace Mediation Course is the best training available in our field of work.

*Olai Voionmaa, EEAS, Mediation Support Team*

# Organization

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

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

Center for Security Studies, ETH Zurich  
[www.css.ethz.ch](http://www.css.ethz.ch)