



**DPI Roundtable Meeting  
Incorporating and Integrating Women  
in Peace processes and Conflict Resolution  
15-17 July 2016, Ankara**

**Summary Report**



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## Foreword

The following is a summary of the DPI's roundtable meeting that took place in Kızılcahamam, Ankara, on the weekend of the 15-17 July 2016, addressing the topic of women's incorporation and integration in peace processes and conflict resolution. This meeting took place during extraordinary circumstances in Turkey, with the attempted military coup occurring on the first night of the activity (15 July) and related events unfolding in the days that followed. Despite this context, participants were unanimous in their desire to continue with the meeting, which proceeded as planned. Those present expressed the need for increased opportunities to broaden bases for constructive national dialogue at every level of society, and reiterated the unique position of DPI in terms of the open channels of communication it has with all groups and actors on the ground. In response to this, the Institute shall endeavour to continue to carry out relevant activities over the coming months.

As always with DPI's activities, this meeting was held under Chatham House Rule. In the interest of transparency, a full transcript and audio recording of the July Ankara Roundtable Meeting is available to the public. Please contact [info@democraticprogress.org](mailto:info@democraticprogress.org) for further information.

Links to DPI working papers relating the topic of this roundtable can be found at the end of this report. Other research papers on the subject of conflict resolution and democratic transition processes,

and all previous DPI activity reports, can be found on the Institute's website: [www.democraticprogress.org](http://www.democraticprogress.org)

### **Participants**

The Roundtable was attended by Members of Parliament; prominent members and chairs of Turkey's wise persons' commission; human rights lawyers; influential business leaders; civil society representatives; renowned academics, and policy makers and advisors to the parties to the process.

## **Context: Attempted military coup and an increased need for national dialogue at a time of crisis**

DPI's Roundtable Meeting on the topic of Incorporating and Integrating Women in Peace Processes and Conflict Resolution was held in Ankara on the weekend of 15-17 July 2016, at an historic time for Turkey, which was faced with an attempted military coup on the evening of DPI's opening dinner reception on 15 July. The activity continued despite the extraordinary events which unfolded, at the request of all present, who were eager to engage in dialogue with regard to the situation on the ground and to hear from the international speakers present.

The backdrop to the roundtable was a stark reminder of the ever increasing need for fully inclusive national dialogue in Turkey at present, and pointed to the increased levels of polarisation throughout

society. All those present emphasised the need for accessible platforms for constructive discussion on the themes and challenges currently being faced in the country, in order to decrease the risk of further deterioration of the present situation and to encourage the widest possible engagement with democratic progress at every level, and in particular the resolution of the Kurdish conflict.

In response to the continued need for broadened basis for dialogue in Turkey in the context of ongoing conflict and increased polarisation, the roundtable aimed to bring together participants representing the many diverse views and perspectives from across Turkey's political and cultural spectra, to consider relevant topics to the current context there and to focus in particular on the issue of incorporating and integrating women into peace processes and conflict resolution, a subject which is vital if longstanding peace and democratic advancement is to be achieved.

The roundtable provided experience and knowledge-sharing from international keynote speakers, drawing specifically on the case of Northern Ireland and allowing for in-depth review and exchange between the participants and expert speakers present. This activity followed on from the women's delegation Comparative Study Visit to Ireland which took place in March 2016, and which addressed the topic of "getting a process back on track" from a gendered perspective. Speakers shared on their personal experiences of the challenges faced in relation to gender and conflict and on the means by which these were overcome. They spoke on their first hand experiences including

in relation to the establishment of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition and its role in facilitating the inclusion of women at the negotiating table, and their incorporation into the process which led to the Good Friday Agreement of 1998.

The roundtable provided the opportunity for the issues currently relevant to Turkey to be addressed, most notably the attempted military coup which unfolded at the time of the meeting. The activity therefore allowed for a much needed space for dialogue on related topics, and united participants from very different political perspectives, at an extraordinary time in Turkey's history.

## **Women and gender inclusion at every level of conflict resolution as a key to change**

Two pivotal members of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition, Avila Kilmurray and Jane Morrice attended the roundtable as keynote speakers. Both spoke of their direct experience of conflict as women, and on the roles they played in the process of conflict resolution in Northern Ireland. Both speakers shared on the specific challenges faced by women in terms of their full participation in a peace process, as well as on the difficulties commonly experienced in incorporating gender perspectives at the negotiation table, and the steps that were taken to overcome such difficulties in the case of Northern Ireland.

## **Speakers**

**Avila Kilmurray** is Director of the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland and a founder member of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition, which played a key role in the talks leading to the Good Friday Agreement in 1998. Avila has written extensively on Community Development, Women's Issues and Conflict Transformation.

**Jane Morrice** is Vice President of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), a former politician in Northern Ireland and prominent member of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition. Jane was a member of the Standing Orders Committee which set the initial rules governing Assembly procedures post-devolution and was appointed Deputy Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly in 2000.

Speakers discussed their work in relation to women and conflict transformation and shared on the specific day-to-day challenges faced by women in conflict scenarios, including community expectations, perceptions of women as the foundation of family solidarity, the silencing of women in times of conflict, and at the political level, the obstacles often faced by women in terms of their participation



in peace processes and the incorporation of gender considerations into conflict resolution processes more generally. Discussion focused on women's role in the politics and political compromise, and in terms of community and intergenerational memory (in the context of transitional justice).

The Northern Ireland Women's Coalition was discussed in terms of the significant part it played in incorporating women into the political process surrounding conflict resolution in Northern Ireland. The technicalities of establishing and mobilising such a coalition, and its valuable function in terms of ensuring the concerns and experiences of women were brought to the fore despite their political differences was covered in detail. The ability of the Women's Coalition to bridge the political divide in Northern Ireland was also discussed, including the ways in which it challenged the simplicity of the "them" and "us" mentality often at play in polarised and divided societies, and the ability of the Coalition to offer creative approaches and to challenge accepted notions within a traditionally male environment, including with regard to questions asked during peace talks, drafting of peace agreements, communication lines and overcoming party political interests. Women's role as a trusted backchannel and as a line of communication with local communities throughout the Northern Ireland peace talks was also analysed as was the practical input women had in encouraging empathy through engagement across different political backgrounds in the context of Northern Ireland. The importance of encouraging peace language and positive narratives within the media in order to prepare society for peace and positive

change was also encouraged. The experiences of key women actors in the Northern Ireland context were drawn on in this regard, including then Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Mo Mowlam. This was seen to be of particular importance at times of challenge or at times of deadlock in the progress of a peace process. Also discussed in this regard was the opportunity often presented by crises and impediments to a process, for new ways of thinking, and for women to play a more central role in the progression of dialogue and public engagement. The attempted military coup and related events which continued to unfold at the time of the roundtable led to rich discussion on this topic, with participants from all perspectives sharing the view that the current crisis has the potential to lead to renewed support for a resolution process and democratic advancement in Turkey at this extraordinary moment in time, and that the opportunity must be taken at this stage, to galvanise the support of local actors in order to broaden bases for dialogue on the topics in question.



*Participants and speakers at Kızılcahamam in Ankara during the DPI roundtable meeting*



*Participants and speakers Jane Morrice and Avila Kilmurray*



*Avila Kilmurray, founder member of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition with Professor Dr Sevtap Yokuş, an Academic from Istanbul Kemerburgaz University*



*Jane Morrice, prominent member of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition and former Deputy Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly, and Deputy Director of Political and Legal Affairs and Member, CDAC, Justice and Development Party (AK Party)*

Key points of discussion in relation to women's integration and incorporation in peace processes include:

- The specific experiences of women in relation to conflict
- Obstacles and challenges often experienced by women in participating in conflict resolution processes
- The role of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions in promoting women's incorporation into peace processes and in bringing a gendered perspective
- The technicalities and mechanics of establishing and mobilising support for a cross party Women's Coalition – the experiences of Northern Ireland
- Women's role as backchannel and cross party communicators, and as links to local communities
- The opportunities that crises can bring about in terms of overcoming obstacles to progress and in allowing greater involvement of women in peace processes
- The importance of the media in encouraging a positive narrative and the adoption of "peace language" in times of crisis
- The gendered approaches of women to conflict in different cases and the role of empathy and symbols brought by women to a peace process.

## **Broadening bases for dialogue across society**

The experiences shared by the international speakers present, on their specific experiences of conflict, and in relation to women's inclusion and incorporation into peace processes, drawing specifically on their first hand experience in the case of Northern Ireland, allowed for narrowed down and focused discussion among the group on these topics, and in relation to Turkey.

The context in which the roundtable meeting took place, which witnessed an attempted military coup in Turkey, meant that much of the discussion that took place was understandably focused on the current situation and on analysing the developments that were unfolding within the country.

The roundtable was seen to be extremely timely, and more necessary than ever in light of the ongoing events in Turkey. Participants expressed their eagerness for DPI to continue its work in the area of broadening bases for national dialogue and public engagement, in order to address the challenge of increasing polarisation across society and to provide platforms for inclusive dialogue among all groups.

The case of Northern Ireland was seen by participants to be of continued relevance to Turkey, providing many parallels and offering many learnings with regard to conflict resolution process and in particular, the experiences of women in conflict and in conflict

resolution processes. The learnings gained from the experiences of women in Northern Ireland were seen to be of particular value, and the means by which obstacles to women's inclusion and incorporation in the process leading to the Good Friday Agreement were key points of focus.

The roundtable was therefore successful in bringing together diverse groups in Turkey at a time of extraordinary challenge, to focus on their commonalities and shared perspectives and to learn from the experiences of other cases. It also laid the foundations for continued discussion on the topics most relevant to Turkey today and for further activities of this kind to take place in the coming months.

## Contents: Annexes

### Annex 1 Participants and speakers

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
<b>Ayla Akat</b>	Chairwoman, Free Women Congress and Former Member of Parliament, Batman	People's Democratic Party (HDP)
<b>Zeynep Alkış</b>	Deputy Director of Political and Legal Affairs and Member, CDAC, Justice and Development Party (AK Party)	Justice and Development Party (AK Party)
<b>Filiz Bedirhanoğlu</b>	Deputy Chairwoman	DİSİAD, Business persons Association, Diyarbakir
<b>Fatma Bostan Ünsal</b>	Founder Member of Justice and Development Party (AK Party), and Academic	Muş Alparslan University
<b>Esra Elmas</b>	Turkey Programme Coordinator at DPI and Co-founder of İstanbul Bilgi University Centre for Conflict Resolution Studies and Research	Democratic Progress Institute and İstanbul Bilgi University Centre for Conflict Resolution Studies and Research
<b>Camille Grujon</b>	Scribe	Democratic Progress Institute



<b>Kezban Hatemi</b>	Lawyer, and Member, Wise Persons Committee	Turkey's Wise Persons Committee
<b>Selma Irmak</b>	Member of Parliament, Şırnak	Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP)
<b>Avila Kilmurray</b>	Founder member of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition and Director	Community Foundation for Northern Ireland
<b>Jane Morrice</b>	Former politician in Northern Ireland and prominent member of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition, and Vice President	European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), a
<b>Şenal Sarıhan</b>	Member of Parliament, Ankara	Republican People's Party (CHP)
<b>Prof. Dr. Sevtap Yokuş</b>	Academic and Professor of Constitutional Law	Istanbul Kemerburgaz University
<b>Özlem Zengin</b>	Chief Advisor to President Erdoğan and Former Head, AK Party Women's Branch, Istanbul	Justice and Development Party (AK Party)

## **Annex 2**

### **DPI Paper: Good Friday Agreement Overview**

[http://www.democraticprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/  
The-Good-Friday-Agreement-An-Overview.pdf](http://www.democraticprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/The-Good-Friday-Agreement-An-Overview.pdf)

### **DPI Paper: A Study into the Ways to Better Incorporate Women into Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution Through the Implementation of UNSCR 1325**

[http://www.democraticprogress.org/wp-content/  
uploads/2015/02/1325-paper-25-nov-20141.pdf](http://www.democraticprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/1325-paper-25-nov-20141.pdf)

## DPI Board Members

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### **Kerim Yildiz (Director):**

Kerim Yildiz is Chief Executive Officer of DPI. He is an expert in international human rights law and minority rights, and has written extensively on international human rights mechanisms and international humanitarian law. Kerim is the recipient of a number of awards, including from the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights for his services to protect human rights and promote the rule of law in 1996, the Sigrid Rausing Trust's Human Rights Award for Leadership in Indigenous and Minority Rights in 2005, and the Gruber Prize for Justice in 2011.



### **Nick Stewart QC (Chair):**

Nicholas Stewart, QC, is a barrister and Deputy High Court Judge (Chancery and Queen's Bench Divisions) in the United Kingdom. He is the former Chair of the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales and Former President of Union Internationale des Avocats.



**Prof. Penny Green (Secretary):**

Professor Penny Green is Professor of Law and Globalisation at Queen Mary University of London, UK, and Director of the International State Crime Initiative (ISCI), UK. She joined Queen Mary University in September 2014 following seven years as Professor of Law and Criminology at King's College London, UK. Professor Green has published widely on state crime, state-corporate crime, natural disasters, Turkish criminal justice and politics, transnational crime and asylum and forced migration.



**Priscilla Hayner:**

Priscilla Hayner is co-founder of the International Center for Transitional Justice. She is a global expert on truth commissions and transitional justice initiatives and has authored several books on these topics. She is former consultant to the Ford Foundation, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and numerous other organisations.



**Arild Humlen:**

Arild Humlen is a lawyer and Director of the Norwegian Bar Association's Legal Committee. He is widely published within a number of jurisdictions, with emphasis on international civil law and human rights, and he has lectured at the law faculty of several universities in Norway. Arild is the recipient of the Honor Prize of the Bar Association of Oslo for his work on the rule of law and in 2015 he was awarded the Honor Prize from the international organisation Save the Children for his efforts to strengthen the legal rights of children.



**Jacki Muirhead:**

Jacki Muirhead was appointed Chambers Administrator at Devereux Chambers, London, UK, in November 2015. Her previous roles include Practice Director at FJ Cleveland LLP, Business Manager at Counsels' Chambers Limited and Deputy Advocates Clerk at the Faculty of Advocates, UK.



**Prof. David Petrasek:**

Professor David Petrasek is Associate Professor at Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Ottawa, Canada. He is former Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of Amnesty International. He has worked extensively on human rights, humanitarian and conflict resolution issues, including for Amnesty International (1990-96), for the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (1997-98), for the International Council on Human Rights Policy (1998-02) and as Director of Policy at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (2003-07).



**Antonia Potter:**

Antonia Potter Prentice has wide ranging experience on a range of humanitarian, development, peacemaking and peacebuilding issues. She has lived and worked extensively in, and on, conflict and post-war environments; increasingly specialised in women's empowerment she has worked directly with women and peace process actors in countries including Afghanistan, Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Libya, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal and Philippines, South Sudan, Timor-Leste, Yemen, and at the global policy level. She has also published widely on these topics. Antonia co-founded the Athena Consortium as part of which she acts as Senior Manager on Mediation Support, Gender and Inclusion for the Crisis Management Initiative (CMI) and as Senior Adviser to the European Institute for Peace (EIP).

## DPI Council of Experts

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### **Dermot Ahern**

Dermot Ahern is a former Irish Member of Parliament and Government Minister and was a key figure for more than 20 years in the Irish peace process, including in negotiations for the Good Friday Agreement and the St Andrews Agreement. He also has extensive experience at EU Council level, including as a key negotiator and signatory to the Constitutional and Lisbon Treaties. In 2005, he was appointed by the then UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to be a Special Envoy on the issue of UN Reform.



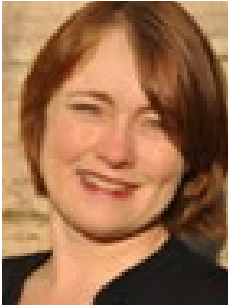
### **Dr Mehmet Asutay**

Professor Mehmet Asutay is a Professor of Middle Eastern and Islamic Political Economy & Finance at the Durham University Business School, UK. He researches, teaches and supervises research on Islamic political economy and finance, Middle Eastern economic development and finance, the political economy of Middle East, including Turkish and Kurdish political economies.



**Ali Bayramoğlu:**

Ali Bayramoğlu is a writer and political commentator. He is a columnist for the Turkish daily newspaper *Yeni Safak*. He is a member of the former Wise Persons Commission in Turkey, established by then Prime Minister Erdoğan.



**Prof. Christine Bell:**

Professor Christine Bell is a legal expert based in Edinburgh, Scotland. She is Professor of Constitutional Law and Assistant Principal (Global Justice) at the University of Edinburgh and a Fellow of the British Academy. She is an expert on transitional justice, peace negotiations, constitutional law and human rights law. She regularly conducts training on these topics for diplomats, mediators and lawyers, and has been involved as a legal advisor in a number of peace negotiations.



**Cengiz Çandar:**

Cengiz Çandar is a senior journalist and columnist for Turkish newspaper *Radikal Daily News*. He is an expert on the Middle East and former war correspondent. He served as special adviser to former Turkish president Turgut Ozal.





**Yılmaz Ensaroğlu:**

Yılmaz Ensaroğlu is the former Director of Law and Human Rights Studies at SETA Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research in Ankara, Turkey. He is a member of the Executive Board of the Joint Platform for Human Rights, the Human Rights Agenda Association (İHGD) and Human Rights Research Association (İHAD). He is also Chief Editor of the Journal of the Human Rights Dialogue and member of the former Wise Persons Commission in Turkey, established by then Prime Minister Erdoğan.



**Prof. Mervyn Frost:**

Mervyn Frost is Professor of International Relations in the Department of War Studies at King's College London, UK. He was previously Chair of Politics at the University of Natal, Durban, South Africa and was President of the South African Political Studies Association. He is an expert on human rights in international relations, humanitarian intervention, justice in world politics, democratising global governance, the just war tradition in an era of New Wars, and, ethics in a globalising world.



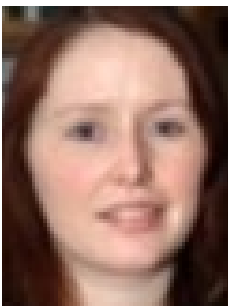
### **Martin Griffiths:**

Martin Griffiths is a senior international mediator and Executive Director of the European Institute of Peace (EIP). From 1999 to 2010 he was the founding Director of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue in Geneva where he specialised in developing political dialogue between governments and insurgents in a range of countries across Asia, Africa and Europe. He is a co-founder of Inter Mediate, a London based NGO devoted to conflict resolution, and has worked for international organisations including UNICEF, Save the Children and Action Aid. Martin has also worked in the British Diplomatic Service and for the UN, including as Director of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (Geneva), Deputy to the Emergency Relief Coordinator (New York), Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Great Lakes, Regional Coordinator in the Balkans and Deputy Head of the Supervisory Mission in Syria (UNSMIS).



**Kezban Hatemi:**

Kezban Hatemi holds an LL.B. from Istanbul University and is registered with the Istanbul Bar Association. She has worked as a self employed lawyer, with Turkey's National Commission to UNESCO as well as a campaigner and advocate during the Bosnian War. She was involved in drafting the Turkish Civil Code and Law of Foundations as well as in preparing the legal groundwork for the chapters on Religious Freedoms, Minorities and Community Foundations within the Framework Law of Harmonization prepared by Turkey in preparation for EU accession. She has published articles on human rights, women's rights, minority rights, children's rights, animal rights and the fight against drugs. She is a member of the former Wise Persons Commission in Turkey, established by then Prime Minister Erdoğan, and sits on the Board of Trustees of the Technical University and the Darulacaze Foundation.



**Dr. Edel Hughes:**

Dr Edel Hughes is Senior Lecturer at University of East London, UK. Prior to joining the University of East London, Edel was awarded an LL.M. and a PhD in International Human Rights Law from the National University of Ireland, Galway, in 2003 and 2009, respectively. Between 2006 and 2011 she was a Lecturer in Law at the School of Law, University of Limerick, Ireland.



**Prof Dr Ahmet Insel:**

Professor Ahmet Insel is a former faculty member of Galatasaray University in Istanbul, Turkey and Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne University, France. He is Managing Editor of the Turkish editing house Iletisim and member of the editorial board of monthly review Birikim. He is a regular columnist at Cumhuriyet newspaper and an author who published several books and articles in Turkish and French languages.



**Avila Kilmurray:** A founder member of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition and was part of the Coalition's negotiating team for the Good Friday Agreement. She has written extensively on community action, the women's movement and conflict transformation. Serves on the Board of Conciliation Resources (UK); the Global Fund for Community Foundations; Conflict Resolution Services Ireland and the Institute for British Irish Studies. Avila was the first Women's Officer for the Transport & General Workers Union for Ireland (1990-1994) and became Director of the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland in 1994. Avila was awarded the Raymond Georis Prize for Innovative Philanthropy through the European Foundation Centre.



**Joost Legendijk:**

Joost Legendijk is a columnist for the Turkish dailies Zaman and Today's Zaman and a lecturer at the Suleyman Shah University, Istanbul, Turkey. He has authored and edited a number of books on the EU, European policies and modern Turkey. From 1998 to 2009 he was a member of the European Parliament (EP) for the Dutch Green-Left party. In the EP he focused on foreign policy and EU enlargement and served as the chairman of the parliaments' Turkey Delegation and as rapporteur for the parliament on the Balkans and Kosovo. From 2009 to 2012 he worked as a senior adviser at the Istanbul Policy Center in Istanbul, Turkey.



**Dr Salomón Lerner Febres:** Professor Salomón Lerner Febres holds a PhD in Philosophy from Université Catholique de Louvain. He is Executive President of the Center for Democracy and Human Rights at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru and Rector Emeritus of Pontifical Catholic University of Peru. He is former President of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Peru. Professor Lerner has given many talks and speeches about the role and the nature of the university, the problems of scholar research in higher education and about ethics and public culture. Furthermore, he has participated in numerous conferences in Peru and other countries about violence and pacification. In addition, he has been a speaker and panellist in multiple workshops and symposiums about the work and findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Peru.



**Prof. Ram Manikkalingam:**

Professor Ram Manikkalingam is Visiting Professor at the Department of Political Science, University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. He served as Senior Advisor to the President of Sri Lanka. He is an expert on issues pertaining to conflict, multiculturalism and democracy, and has authored multiple works on these topics. He is founding board member of the Laksham Kadirgamar Institute for Strategic Studies and International Relations, Colombo, Sri Lanka.



**Bejan Matur:**

Bejan Matur is a renowned Turkey-based author and poet. She has published ten works of poetry and prose. In her writing she focuses mainly on Kurdish politics, the Armenian issue, minority issues, prison literature and women's rights. She has won several literary prizes and her work has been translated into over 28 languages. She was formerly Director of the Diyarbakır Cultural Art Foundation (DKSV).



**Monica McWilliams:** Professor of Women's Studies, based in the Transitional Justice Institute at the University of Ulster. Was the Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission from 2005-2011 and responsible for delivering the advice on a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland. Co-founder of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition political party and was elected to a seat at the Multi-Party Peace Negotiations, which led to the Belfast (Good Friday) Peace Agreement in 1998. Served as a member of the Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly from 1998-2003 and the Northern Ireland Forum for Dialogue and Understanding from 1996-1998. Publications focus on domestic violence, human security and the role of women in peace processes.



**Mark Muller QC:**

Mark Muller QC is a senior advocate at Doughty Street Chambers (London) and the Scottish Faculty of Advocates (Edinburgh). He specialises in public international law and human rights. He has many years' experience of advising on conflict resolution, mediation, ceasefire and power-sharing and first-hand experience of a number of conflict zones, including Afghanistan, Libya, Iraq and Syria. Since 2005 he is Senior Advisor to the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Beyond Conflict and Inter Mediate. He is also a Harvard Law School Fellow and former Chair of the Bar Human Rights Committee and Head of Rule of Law for the Bar Council. He is the founder of Beyond Borders – a Scottish initiative dedicated to fostering peace and international understanding through cultural dialogue. He currently acts as Senior Mediation Expert for the Standby Team of Mediators of the UN Department of Political Affairs.





**Giles Portman:**

Giles Portman is an experienced British and EU diplomat, having worked for the UK Foreign Office in Brussels, New York, Prague and as Deputy Head of Mission in Ankara; and for the EU's External Action Service as an Adviser to the High Representative, Head of Division for Turkey and Eastern Neighbourhood strategic communications adviser.



**Jonathan Powell:** Jonathan Powell is founder and CEO of Inter Mediate, an NGO devoted to conflict resolution working in the Middle East, Latin America, Africa and Asia. He was appointed as the UK Official Envoy to Libya by Prime Minister David Cameron in 2014. Jonathan was Chief of Staff to Tony Blair from 1995 to 2007, and from 1997 he was also Chief British Negotiator on Northern Ireland. From 1978 to 79 he was a broadcast journalist with the BBC and Granada TV, and from 1979 to 1994 a British Diplomat.



**Sir Kieran Prendergast:** Sir Kieran Prendergast served in the British Foreign Office, including in Cyprus, Turkey, Israel, the Netherlands, Kenya and New York. He was later head of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office dealing with Apartheid and Namibia. He is former UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs. He was also Convenor of the Secretary General's Executive Committee on Peace and Security and engaged in peacemaking efforts in Afghanistan, Burundi, Cyprus, the DRC, East Timor, Guatemala, Iraq, the Middle East, Somalia and Sudan.



**Rajesh Rai:**

Rajesh Rai was called to the Bar in 1993. His areas of expertise include Human Rights Law, Immigration and Asylum Law and Public Law. He is Founding Director of HIC, a community centred NGO based in Cameroon, and of Human Energy (Uganda) Ltd. He was previously Director of The Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI). He lectures on a wide variety of legal issues, both for the Bar Human Rights Council and internationally in India, Africa, Asia and the USA.



**Sir David Reddaway:**

Sir David Reddaway now works as an adviser, board member and consultant in the private and university sectors. He previously served as British Ambassador to Turkey and to Ireland; High Commissioner to Canada; UK Special Representative for Afghanistan; and Charge d’Affaires in Iran, where he had first worked during the Iranian Revolution. He has also worked in Argentina, India and Spain. He was a Fellow at Harvard University and a volunteer teacher in Ethiopia. He read History at Cambridge and Persian at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London.



**Prof. Naomi Roht-Arriaza:**

Professor Naomi Roht-Arriaza is Distinguished Professor of Law at, San Francisco, USA. She is an expert on transitional justice, human rights violations, international criminal law and global environmental issues, and has authored several works on these issues.



**Prof. Dr. Mithat Sancar:**

Professor Dr Mithat Sancar was formerly Professor of Law at the University of Ankara, Turkey. He is an expert on constitutional citizenship and transitional justice. He has written extensively on international human rights law and constitutional issues. He is a member of the former Wise Persons Commission in Turkey, established by then Prime Minister Erdoğan. In Turkey's 2015 general election he was elected as an MP for Mardin Province.



**Catherine Woollard:**

Catherine Woollard is an independent consultant based in Brussels. Previously she served as the Director of the Brussels Office of Independent Diplomat, and from 2008 to 2014 she was the Executive Director of the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) – a Brussels-based network of not-for-profit organisations working on conflict prevention and peacebuilding. She previously held the positions of Director of Policy, Communications and Comparative Learning at Conciliation Resources, Senior Programme Coordinator (South East Europe/CIS/Turkey) at Transparency International and Europe/Central Asia Programme Coordinator at Minority Rights Group International. She has also worked as a consultant advising governments on anti-corruption and governance reform, as a lecturer in political science, teaching and researching on the EU and international politics, and for the UK civil service.



**Prof. Dr. Sevtap Yokuş:**

Professor Dr Sevtap Yokuş is a Professor of Law at the University of Kemerburgaz, Istanbul, Turkey. She holds a PhD in Public Law from the Faculty of Law, Istanbul University, awarded in 1995 for her thesis which assessed the state of emergency regime in Turkey with reference to the European Convention on Human Rights. She is a widely published expert in the areas of Constitutional Law and Human Rights and has multiple years' experience of working as a university lecturer at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral level. She also has experience of working as a lawyer in the European Court of Human Rights. Since 2009 she has been contributing to the ongoing work to prepare a new constitution in Turkey.



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