



DPI

Democratic
Progress
Institute



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2018**

Our mission

To broaden bases for public involvement in promoting peace and democracy. Our unique model combines expertise and research with practical inclusive platforms for dialogue.



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Introduction

by **Kerim Yildiz**, Chief Executive Officer



I am delighted to present the Democratic Progress Institute's Annual Report for 2018.

DPI has been closely monitoring the political and human rights developments in the region, which is still marred by instability. The July 2016 attempted military coup and subsequent developments, including the two-year state of emergency, consolidation of power following the April 2017 referendum, and the country's transition from a parliamentary system to an executive presidency, have all contributed to a challenging period in Turkey. The political, social, and economic climate remains volatile, with critical implications for democratic processes and prospects for conflict resolution in the country. At the same time, the ongoing conflict in Syria and the consequent refugee crisis have greatly affected regional dynamics. The spillover from the Syrian conflict is crucial in understanding emergent factors in negotiating a peace process in Turkey. As the prospect of a political settlement in Syria draws closer, Turkey's policy and strategy regarding the 'Kurdish issue' in Syria is inherently intertwined with prospects for settlement inside Turkey itself.

This inter-connected nature of conflict has demonstrated the continued importance of facilitating relevant dialogue and platforms even during challenging times. In 2018, DPI remained committed to its overall aim of broadening bases for public dialogue on issues of democratisation, conflict resolution, and human rights in the region. In doing so, DPI has successfully managed to keep dialogue alive among different key societal actors, encouraging continued discussions concerning the importance of conflict transformation, democratisation, and peacebuilding.

The purpose of this report is to provide a brief insight into our activities of 2018, a year in which we witnessed a growth in participation in our internationally-based activities, with productive events and activities in cities including Ankara, Belfast, Brussels, Dublin, Istanbul, London, and Oslo. Additionally, we have gathered key players, ranging from academics, researchers, and policy-makers, to journalists, civil society actors, and business actors, through our Roundtables (RT) and Comparative Study Visit (CSV) events; players who have enriched our discussions on resolution processes and peacebuilding.

Despite the challenges of the last year in Turkey, we have continued to work on and advance our planned panels of discussions under the title 'Dialogue in Difficult Times' with the aim of identifying and addressing the obstacles to the resumption of peace processes. DPI has continued to remain committed to its core goal of promoting the participation of women in peace processes, reflecting DPI's belief in both the necessity and benefit of the inclusion of women in sustaining dialogue and maintaining efforts to build peace, even in the most challenging times. This will continue to be an essential aspect of our work.

Our unique approach has enabled dialogue among a variety of actors through a wide range of activities. We engaged with different youth representatives who come from the most diverse backgrounds and span from religious schools to representatives of the main political parties and institutions in Turkey. Participants had the opportunity to engage in a CSV event in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland - an activity which provided participants with the opportunity to critically reflect on international situations that share commonalities with their own country and to absorb and elaborate on lessons from the past.

Looking ahead, 2019 offers interesting prospects for DPI and for Turkey in view of the upcoming local elections and their aftermath. We will continue to advance our projects across the region and internationally and to expand our platforms for inclusive and constructive dialogue in this pivotal moment of change and transformation.

I would like to thank DPI's staff, board members, council of experts, speakers, and interns, whose hard work, enthusiasm, and contributions have made DPI's success possible. In particular, I would like to thank DPI's funders and donors, namely the European Union, the United Nations, and the governments of Norway, the Netherlands, and Ireland, for their support for our projects and for sharing our goals. Without them we would not have the necessary resources to advance DPI's mission in promoting and advancing inclusive platforms and dialogue which are so essential in furthering peace and democracy.



Kerim Yildiz
Chief Executive Officer

ABOUT DPI

The Democratic Progress Institute (DPI) is an independent non-governmental organisation established in consultation with international experts in conflict resolution and democratic advancement. DPI seeks to promote peace and democracy-building through structured public dialogue and engagement. We provide a unique programme model which combines theoretical foundations and expertise-sharing with practical approaches such as round tables, workshops, comparative study visits and other platforms for exchange.

Our values

DPI was founded on the principles of inclusive dialogue and open exchange of knowledge to promote peace, democracy and human rights. Our work is rooted in our deeply held values of respect and equality, through which we seek to foster strong relationships and an environment in which new ideas and established expertise can together advance democracy. At every level of our work and organisation, we are committed to professionalism, integrity and impartiality.

Our aims and objectives

DPI aims to foster an environment in which different parties share information, ideas, knowledge, and concerns connected to the development of democratic solutions and outcomes. Our work supports the development of a pluralistic political arena capable of generating consensus and ownership over work on key issues surrounding democratic solutions at national and local levels.

We focus on providing expertise and practical frameworks to encourage stronger public debate and involvement in promoting peace and democracy building internationally. Within this context, DPI aims to contribute to the establishment of a structured public and private dialogue on peace and democratic advancement, as well as to create new platforms and widen existing platforms for discussions on peace and democracy building. In order to achieve this, we seek to encourage an environment of inclusive, frank, and structured discussions whereby different parties are in the position to openly share knowledge, concerns, and suggestions for democracy building and strengthening across multiple levels.



Throughout this process, DPI strives to identify common priorities and develop innovative approaches to participate in and influence the process of finding democratic solutions. DPI also aims to support and strengthen collaboration between academics, civil society, and policy-makers through its projects and output. Comparative studies of relevant situations are seen as an effective tool for ensuring that the mistakes of others are not repeated or perpetuated. Therefore, we see comparative analysis of examples of peace and democracy-building to be central to the achievement of our aims and objectives.

Our aims include:

- Contributing to broadening bases and providing platforms for discussion on establishing a structured public dialogue on peace and democracy building.
- Providing opportunities in which different parties are able to draw on comparative studies, analyse, and compare various mechanisms used to achieve positive results in comparable cases.
- Creating an atmosphere whereby different parties share knowledge, ideas, concerns, suggestions, and challenges facing the development of a resolution in Turkey and the wider region.
- Supporting and strengthening collaboration between academics, civil society, and policy-makers.
- Identifying common priorities and developing innovative approaches in order to participate in and influence democracy-building.
- Promoting respect for and protection of human rights regardless of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political persuasion, or other belief or opinion.

Our methods

DPI focuses on providing expertise and practical frameworks to encourage stronger public debates and involvement in promoting peace and democracy-building. To achieve this, DPI seeks to foster an environment of inclusive, frank, structured discussions whereby a range of actors can share knowledge and concerns and offer suggestions for resolving conflict and building and strengthening democracy across multiple levels of society.

DPI programming is underpinned by commitment to learning lessons from regional, national and international examples and the value of comparative study as a tool for understanding and equipping stakeholders and stakeholder institutions. This informs our activities across all focus areas and helps to ensure that preparations are made for the change required to support a resolution to the conflict in Turkey.

DPI activities include participants who are selected to represent their respective constituencies in consultation with our DPI expert advisers on the ground, in an effort to address the need for equal representation and participation across all groups and perspectives. Events (Roundtables and Comparative Study Visits) engage diverse viewpoints and are structured so as to facilitate interaction both between participants and between participants and leading international experts.

A balance of attendees of past events as well as new participants ensures continuation of memory and knowledge transmitted from previous DPI activities, while also broadening bases for wider involvement in promoting peace and democratisation.

Our key themes

Gender, peace and security

Support for women's roles in conflict resolution and in fostering transitions to peace and security is a key aspect of DPI's work. Women and girls are among the individuals rendered most vulnerable by war and conflict, but they are also often best placed to enable mechanisms for resolving conflict and advancing peace. Moreover, gender interacts with violence and post conflict reconstruction in complex ways, and the experiences of men and women in conflict can therefore diverge. DPI's work in providing opportunities for women to share practical approaches and experiences is guided by UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

Governance and constitutional arrangements

Questions of governance and constitutional arrangements can be particularly challenging in post-conflict societies. Governance, which refers to the various ways and processes through which social life is coordinated, produces norms and rules which govern social life.

We aim to research and share insights into the many different forms of inter- and intra-state conflicts in existence, through a focus on international case studies. The nature and the complexity of today's conflicts render finding the right form of governance and constitutional arrangements in post-conflict scenarios problematic. This situation may be even aggravated in case of intervention of external actors in the name of political or humanitarian reasons.

Human rights and access to justice

The intertwined areas of human rights and access to justice are crucial during and in the aftermath of violent conflict. Defined as a system enabling individuals to vindicate their rights and resolve disputes under the general auspices of the state, just results for individuals and society can only be gained when access to justice is equally accessible to all.

Recognising that genuine and effective democratic reform needs to be underpinned by human rights, equality, and the rule of law, we work to promote those principles through our International Law and Human Rights programme and these principles underpin DPI's work.

Equally, addressing issues of language and identity is often key to resolving conflict, as well as to the building and sustaining of stable democracies. DPI closely examines the role language and identity play in conflicts by drawing from contemporary and past international examples, with the conviction that understanding these dynamics is vital to building and maintaining peace and stable democracies.

Mediation and negotiation

Mediation by third parties, particularly in protracted conflicts, along with negotiation which brings together all parties to a conflict, are vital to securing lasting peace and democracy in many of the countries and regions on which DPI focuses its work.

We conduct research into effective methods of mediation and negotiation and provide a forum for individuals from various countries and backgrounds to exchange their views and share experiences regarding approaches and best-practice in the field.

DDR and SSR

The disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration (DDR) of armed groups and their members into the community, and security sector reform (SSR), are essential for a successful transition from conflict to a peaceful, democratic society, where state security serves, rather than oppresses, its citizens and contributes to long-lasting peace. Both processes are mutually reinforcing and integral to the success of peace processes.

DPI examines examples of DDR and SSR carried out worldwide through the study of various international cases and brings together key figures involved in these vital processes to share, contrast, and communicate experiences.

The role of civil society and media in conflict resolution

Civil society has been increasingly considered to be vital to conflict resolution and democracy building. This is particularly true for a number of the countries and regions on which DPI focuses its work. In areas where official instruments of solving conflict, such as truth and reconciliation commissions, prove to have limited effectiveness, civil society can play a vital role in supplementing the process.

The media form a closely related institution, playing an important role in reporting on, reflecting, and ultimately influencing processes of conflict resolution. The increasing importance of social media and the rapid spreading of information and individual access to publishing content has focused attention on the complex role that the media plays both throughout conflict and peace-building, a role that DPI has focused on.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice refers to a set of judicial and non-judicial practices, mechanisms and measures arising after (or sometimes during) a period of conflict, civil strife, or repression, and is aimed at addressing and redressing the legacy of past violations of human rights. DPI researches and provides a platform for discussing transitional justice measures, such as criminal prosecutions, truth and reconciliation commissions, reparations programmes, and institutional reforms. We also look at transitional justice and its potential to achieve accountability, provide recognition of the rights of victims, promote civic trust, strengthen the rule of law, and thereby aid democratic advancement.

Democracy-building

Democracy-building refers to the process of creating, strengthening, and sustaining democracy, and is one of the areas at the core of DPI's mission. In particular, it involves the consolidation of democratic institutions, ranging from the justice system and security services, to the constitution and the development of civil society.

For democracy building to be effective, it must ensure the participation of the entire spectrum of stakeholders within a society and will often place emphasis on the education and engagement of disparate groups. Through all of DPI's activities, we strive to broaden bases for public support of peace processes, at all levels of society.

OUR IMPACT IN 2018

2018 saw significant developments in Turkey, including the ending of the state of emergency following the consolidation of executive power by the President after the June 2018 elections. During 2018, DPI continued to work effectively in pursuit of our mission to provide a forum for participants and the wider community in Turkey to engage with peace processes and conflict resolution mechanisms.

In 2018, DPI held seven Roundtable (RT) events, two Comparative Study Visits (CSV) and three assessment meetings, engaging 190 prominent actors from across a broad spectrum of society in Turkey to discuss conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

We expanded our involvement and reach, with 44% of DPI participants in 2018 engaging in DPI activities for the first time. In addition, we continued to pursue lasting engagement with recurring participants in order to promote consistent knowledge growth and repeated opportunities for engagement. As such, 63 participants attended more than one DPI event in 2018.

We provided policy makers, academics, researchers, journalists, civil society actors, officials and business actors from diverse political backgrounds with a platform to meet with each other and engage in discussion on resolution processes via comparative case studies and in-depth assessment meetings. Activities in 2018 took place in several European locations as well as in Turkey, during which we saw increasingly positive engagement on a wide range of issues pertaining to democratisation, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding.

DPI has succeeded in keeping dialogue alive among in Turkey despite the most challenging periods. Participants in DPI activities have been able to discuss democratisation and conflict resolution with a diverse range of actors from Turkey as well as conflict transformation experts. Their feedback has repeatedly emphasised the benefits of DPI activities in providing platforms for dialogue with others from across political, social, and other divides; something that would otherwise not be available to them. DPI participants are encouraged to focus on commonalities with other conflicts around the world and participants were able to learn from representatives of 12 different nationalities who were present at DPI meetings in 2018.





Assessment meeting at DPI office

This approach has continuously given participants a unique opportunity to learn from other conflicts and to explore potential solutions with experts who have practical experience. Participants feedback stresses the importance and impact on the ground of DPI's activities in fostering dialogue with their wider communities.

The impact of DPI's activities goes beyond the numerous direct participants in our Round Tables and Comparative Study Visits. DPI regularly engages with stakeholders who have significant impact in particular segments of society in Turkey, and as such they are able to transfer and perpetuate the knowledge that they acquire at DPI activities to colleagues, peers, constituencies and the wider Turkish society.

Widespread coverage of recent DPI events in diverse Turkish media - in newspapers, on TV channels and on social media - prompting lively public debate, including in parliament, illustrates there is an appetite for debating about the possible resolution process and human rights issues in Turkey even during challenging times. Articles discussing DPI activities have appeared in numerous media networks,

including Milliyet, Habertürk, Posta, Hürriyet, Star, Karar, Daily Sabah, FOX TV, Evrensel, Artı Gerçek, Gazeteduvar, Kurdistan 24, Rudaw, Amerikanın Sesi, Serbestiyet, Medyascope, T24, ODATV, Yeniçağ, Yeni Akit, Sabah, Haber7, Ulusal Kanal, Voice of America, as well as by Gazete Emek, Agos (an Armenian weekly), Şalom (a Jewish weekly) and Güncel Hukuk (a monthly law journal). These represent politically diverse platforms that engage a wide variety of Turkish society.

DPI distributes research and briefing papers, assessments, and activity reports to key stakeholders, a number of which are also freely available on our website. In 2018, we published seven reports on the current political situation in Turkey, as well as our many reports, briefings, and activity reports. In addition, our social media outreach is growing. Many of our participants are active on social media platforms, a number have millions of followers, and their discussion of DPI's activities on these platforms allows the experiences gained to be shared with a broad cross section of society. DPI is therefore able to reach an extensive number of beneficiaries indirectly, widely promoting the sharing of information on conflict-resolution within Turkish society.



DPI's CEO, Kerim Yildiz (center) with participants during Youth Engagement CSV

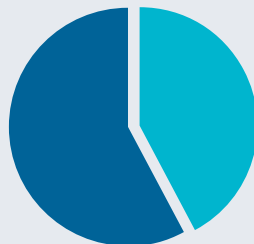
In line with our key themes, DPI has expanded and deepened our already planned engagement with a number of specific groups, key examples being our engagement with women and youth groups. In 2018, we held our first ever Youth engagement CSV, bringing together a diverse group of youth representatives from Turkey, which was reported by a number of news outlets. The diversity of this youth group, including students from Tenzile Erdoğan Anadolu İmam Hatip School, İstanbul Ticaret Üniversitesi, resulted in positive reportage of this DPI activity, as well as positive language used by these articles in framing the conflict resolution dialogue of this CSV.

DPI engaged with 190 individuals in 2018

These included:



58%
were engaging with
DPI for the first time



42%
had attended a DPI
meeting in 2017



AK Party Delegation at DPI office

DPI activities are underpinned by the need for equal gender representation, but we have also held a number of roundtables focused on the specific role of women in conflict resolution. We held two roundtable meetings with this focus in Turkey, which were attended by a diverse female group of political and civil society actors from different regions and representing a broad spectrum of professions and political affiliations in Turkey. Participants included MPs and members of political parties, heads and representatives of human rights organisations, lawyers, businesswomen, media professionals, academics and figures from the art and literature worlds.

DPI continues to engage directly with main political parties in Turkey (including AK Party, CHP and HDP), through their participation in thematic RTs and CSVs as well as other events throughout the year. The impact and value of these meetings is clear from the reach of our activity reports and publications, which have entered the highest offices in the Turkish government and parliament.

Further dissemination of our materials through various constituencies, media executives, and other influencers demonstrates the growing visibility of DPI's work at a political and grass-roots level and continues to foster respect and understanding between participants from opposing backgrounds.

In the challenging environment of 2018, DPI succeeded in offering a unique, coherent, and consistent programme, designed to engage diverse groups in society through carefully tailored participatory activities. Our activities in 2018 were vital to our work aimed at strengthening dialogue and collaboration among the many diverse groups in Turkey and the surrounding region. This work enabled these groups to be supported with tools and platforms that will continue to enable them to offer positive input in any future resolution process.

Our programme in 2018

Broadening bases of discussion

Peace processes are influenced by a diverse range of actors and very often, the actions of one particular group, be it journalists, civil society, businesses, women or youth, can have a large impact. Whilst no two peace processes are the same, we have found that by looking at past examples of resolution processes, we can identify the successes and failures of the actions of certain groups, which can often be used to inform future processes.

DPI has continued to bring together different actors to examine their role in democratisation and peacebuilding and has built on this theme with numerous activities in 2018, including two roundtables on the role of women, two roundtables on the role of media, a CSV on public engagement, our first roundtable event addressing the role of youth in conflict resolution and two roundtables on lessons learned from international experiences and from Turkey's solution process.

Women's role in conflict resolution

ROUNDTABLE

Women's role in dialogue and conflict resolution in challenging times: Working together to address issues of common interest
Istanbul, 2-4 March

DPI's first RT of the year provided a platform for a diverse group of women from different political backgrounds and professions to discuss the role of women in contributing to dialogue and peace at a very difficult time for Turkey.

Participants included female MPs and members of Turkey's main political parties; representatives of human rights associations; businesswomen; journalists and media personalities; lawyers; academics; and figures from the art and literature worlds.

The RT built on discussions from previous DPI events looking at women's participation in conflict resolution and focused on how women could cross societal divides to address issues of common interest through formal and informal processes, as well as how civil society intersects with formal policy-making.



Some participants at the roundtable meeting including Nilüfer Buluf (Head of Turkish Business Women Association) and Kezban Hatemi (Lawyer, member of DPI's Council of Experts and member of WPC)

Participants heard from Elisabeth Scheper, UN Department of Political Affairs senior mediation and gender expert, Idun Tvedt, the Norwegian Special Representative for the Philippines, and Nancy Prada Prada, a leading researcher on gender at the Colombian government's National Centre for Historical Memory.

Participant feedback was overwhelmingly positive, confirming the importance of opportunities for participants to interact with other women from different backgrounds and perspectives. Participants also appreciated the opportunities to learn from a comprehensive range of actors, discussing forms of participation from community-level action to formal political processes, and the relationship between them.



Nancy Prada Prada (left) a leading researcher on gender at the Colombian government's National Centre for Historical Memory with Idun Tvedt (right), the Norwegian Special Envoy to the Philippines discusses examples of women engaging in dialogue and conflict resolution



Some participants listening to speaker presentation

Many participants suggested that it would be useful to have a meeting to discuss women's role in conflict resolution in direct relation to the situation in Turkey. As such, DPI organised a roundtable held in December to focus on the sharing of international experiences and how the latter can provide lessons and insights of relevance to Turkey.

A full transcript report of this event can be found on our website and in print.

ROUNDTABLE

The role of women in conflict resolution: Reflecting on the Turkish experience Istanbul, 17-19 December



Some participants at the meeting on women in conflict resolution in Istanbul

In December, a diverse group of women participated at a DPI roundtable to reflect on women's contributions to sustaining dialogue and maintaining efforts to build peace.

The meeting was attended by political and civil society actors from different regions and representing the broad spectrum of different political affiliations in Turkey, including MPs and members of political parties, heads and representatives of human rights organisations, lawyers, businesswomen, media professionals, and academics.

While previous DPI meetings on this topic have focused on the sharing of international experiences which can provide lessons and insights of relevance to Turkey, this roundtable, for the first time, provided participants with a forum to discuss the role of women in conflict resolution in Turkey. Participants reflected on Turkish women's past contributions to the now 'parked' resolution process and broader democratisation and peacebuilding processes, as well as the challenges and obstacles faced, how they have been addressed and what more could have been done. Participants also considered how lessons learned from past experiences can be applied when evaluating the current situation in the country and considered what can be done now to support continuing dialogue and promote conflict resolution and democratisation in Turkey.

The meeting provided a valuable platform for this group of diverse, committed and influential women to engage in an open and frank discussion about past experiences and current possibilities. Additionally, the platform offered participants a chance to explore commonalities, which can serve as a basis for identifying concrete opportunities for working together to strengthen women's role in conflict resolution in Turkey.

A full transcript report of this event can be found on our website and in print.



Women from Turkish civil society and the political sphere share their experiences of working on conflict resolution

The role of the media in conflict resolution

ROUNDTABLE

The role of media in conflict resolution, hosted by the Norwegian Minister of Public Affairs
Oslo, 25-27 April



Some participants and speakers gather to discuss the role of the media in conflict resolution in Oslo

DPI held its first of two RTs looking at the role of the media in conflict resolution in Oslo in April. This event drew together a diverse group from across Turkey's media spectrum to discuss the role of media in both the Colombian and Northern Irish peace processes.

Speakers included former press secretary and Colombian government communications official, John Jairo Ocampo Niño, Director of the UNDP Oslo Governance Centre, Sarah Lister, and journalist for *The Guardian*, Owen Bowcott. These speakers covered a diverse range of topics, including the importance of dialogue for conflict resolution, the challenges related to the ongoing and increasing fragmentation of the media environment, and to what extent the media had a role in a resolution process. During discussion among participants, the relationship between media and governance, the notion of peace journalism, and the challenges and opportunities of its implementations were repeatedly raised.

Participants agreed that the continuation of DPI's media programme was important for the media community in Turkey so that dialogue and discussions that begin at these meetings can continue and develop through future meetings.

The full transcript and summary of the roundtable is available online on DPI's website.



Former press secretary & Colombian government communication official, John Jairo Ocampo Niño (left) and DPI's CEO, Kerim Yildiz (right)

ROUNDTABLE

The role of media in conflict resolution, hosted by the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Dublin and Belfast, 16-19 October



Participants during their first day of meetings in Dublin

In April, DPI organised a follow-up RT on the role of media from 16th to 19th of October, which was held in Dublin and Belfast. The participants comprised a varied group of participants from Turkey's mainstream and alternative media, brought together to discuss their role in conflict resolution processes. A range of speakers addressed the participants and discussed the Colombian and Northern Irish peace processes.

During the RT, participants heard from Áine Hearn, Director of the Conflict Resolution Unit in the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Maria Alejandra Villamizar Maldonado, a Colombian journalist, founder of the Conversa Colombia Foundation and former advisor to the Presidency for the pedagogy of peace; Derek Mooney, communications consultant and former Irish government advisor (2004-2010); and Danny Morrison, a writer and political commentator and former national director of publicity for Sinn Féin.



The Colombian journalist, founder of the Conversa Colombia Foundation and former advisor to the Presidency for the pedagogy of peace, Maria Alejandra Villamizar Maldonado (left) discusses her work promoting peace in Colombia through journalism and political engagement and DPI's CEO, Kerim Yildiz

Important topics were discussed, such as the challenges of identifying an appropriate language for journalists in the context of conflict, the role of the media in a resolution process, and the impact of local as well as international media.

Participants then travelled to Belfast where they met with former members of paramilitaries from the Republican and Loyalist communities as well as an ex-British soldier. The group heard invaluable accounts of the experiences of The Troubles, which was greatly enhanced by the experience of going out and seeing the peace walls along the Falls and Shankhill roads.

As part of DPI's conflict resolution series, this roundtable brought together different eminent actors that shared their knowledge and expertise. The participants gained key insights into the Irish and Colombian experiences of peacebuilding and the role played by the media during these conflict resolution processes. Moreover, this roundtable provided the opportunity to a diverse group from across Turkey's media spectrum to come together and elaborate on peace building in the Turkish context.

A full transcript report of this event can be found on our website and in print.



Derek Mooney (left), communication consultant and former Irish government adviser with DPI's Deputy Director, Sally Holt

Public engagement in conflict resolution

COMPARATIVE
STUDY VISIT

**Public Engagement in Conflict Resolution Processes,
hosted by the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs
Oslo, 24-27 May**



Participants left to right: Ali Bayramođlu (lecturer and journalist and former WPC member), Kerim Yildiz (DPI CEO), Ahmet Özmen (Lawyer, Head of Diyarbakır Bar Association and former WPC member), Kadir İnanır (actor and director and former WPC member), Öztürk Türkddoğan (Lawyer, Head of Human Rights Association and former WPC member), Prof. Dr. Vahap Çoşkun (Professor of Law, Dicle University and former WPC member), Oral Çalışlar (journalist and writer and former WPC member), Mehmet Ufuk Uras (Co-founder of Greens and the Left Party of the Future and former MP), Andy Carl (expert on conflict resolution), Prof. Dr Fazıl Hüsnü Erdem (Professor of Law at Dicle University and former WPC member), Prof. Fuat Keyman (Director of the Istanbul Policy Centre, Sabancı University and former WPC member), Ahmet Tarık Çelenk (Director of Ekopolitik and former WPC member), Egil Thorås (Senior Advisor, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Mehmet Emin Ekmen (former AK Party MP, Batman Bar Association and former WPC member), Roelf Meyer (Former Chief Negotiator for the South African government), Dag Nylander (Norwegian Special Envoy to the Peace Process), Esra Elmas (DPI Head of Turkey Programme).
Front row sitting, left to right: Sally Holt (Former DPI Deputy Director), Teresita Quintos-Deles (Former Presidential Advisor on the Philippines Peace Process), Kezban Hatemi (lawyer and former WPC member), Nihal Bengisu Karaca (columnist and former WPC member), Idun Tvedt (Norwegian Special Representative for the Philippines peace process and former member of the Norwegian facilitation team in Colombia), Calin-Ionut Ungur (Deputy Head Division Turkey, External European Action Service)

DPI's first CSV of the year took place in Oslo. Former members of Turkey's Wise Persons Committee (WPC) explored examples and models of enhancing public engagement in conflict resolution in South Africa, Colombia, and the Philippines.

During the CSV, international experts shared their knowledge and first-hand experiences of mechanisms and approaches that have been used to raise awareness, educate, and encourage interest in supporting active engagement in conflict resolution and transition processes among the general public.

Speakers included Roelf Meyer, sharing his experience as former Chief Negotiator for the South African Government; Dag Nylander, and Idun Tvedt, sharing their experiences as Norwegian representatives supporting the Colombia peace process; Teresita Quintos Deles sharing her experiences both as a former Presidential Advisor on the Philippines peace process and as an active member of civil society and David Gorman, sharing his experience working with the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, a member of the International Contact Group in the Philippines.



David Gorman (Director of Eurasia, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue) during his presentation in Oslo



Teresita Quintos Deles (left), Roelf Meyer (centre) and Andy Carl (right) share experiences of public engagement in conflict resolution



From the left: Fazıl Hüsni Erdem, member of WPC (Southeastern Anatolia Region-Member) and Professor of Law; Öztürk Türkdoğan, member of WPC (Mediterranean Region-member) and head of human rights association; Kadir İnanır, member of WPC (Mediterranean Region- Member)

The speakers proffered examples of official mechanisms for enabling civil society's contribution to the peace process and grass roots action for peace, with particular reference to the women's movement.

Afterwards, participants discussed and analysed the Turkish peace process and their own lessons learned from their experiences as members of the WPC. This was also an opportunity for discussing the current political situation in the region, the state of the resolution process and for evaluating the work of DPI.

Overall, the goal of this CSV was to bring together a small group of participants with international experts for identifying ways to keep dialogue alive at challenging times. Other themes were discussed, such as how to foster and promote a public atmosphere in Turkey that is receptive to technical and political solutions for resolving the ongoing conflict.

The CSV was successful as, drawing on international comparative experiences, we were able to explore potential tools for fostering meaningful communication among different parts of society.

A full transcript report of this event can be found on our website and in print.



Calin-Ionut Ungur (Deputy Head Division Turkey at External European Action Service) and Kadir İnanır, member of WPC (Mediterranean Region-Member)



Öztürk Türkdoğan, member of WPC (Mediterranean Region-member) and head of human rights association; Kadir İnanır, member of WPC (Mediterranean Region-Member) and Kerim Yıldız, DPI's CEO

The role of youth in conflict resolution

COMPARATIVE
STUDY VISIT

Youth engagement in conflict resolution processes, hosted by the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Dublin and Belfast, 1-5 August



Youth representatives from Turkey gather during the CSV on youth engagement in conflict resolution at Glencree Centre in Co. Wicklow

DPI engaged for the first time with a diverse group of youth leaders, teachers, civil servants and students to address the issue of youth engagement in conflict resolution. Participants travelled to both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland to learn about the Irish experience of resolving conflict and reconciling communities during and after The Troubles.

Participants came from a variety of professional and political backgrounds in Turkey, including from a religious high school, universities, youth branches of the AK Party, CHP, and HD Party, media outlets, government and civil society.

In Dublin, participants heard from Dr David Mitchell from the Irish School of Ecumenics at Trinity College, Dublin, and from Áine Hearn and Eoghan Duffy, representing the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Participants then travelled to the Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, where they engaged in an in-depth programme led by Pat Hynes, from Glencree's Legacy Team. Finally, the participants travelled to Belfast where they participated in a dialogue workshop at Youth Action Northern

Ireland with Martin McMullan, and heard from Gráinne Killen, Director of Good Relations Branch, and Heather McKinley, Head of Political and Community Outreach Engagement, at Stormont Castle.

On the final day of the CSV, participants took a tour of Belfast's 'peace walls' and met with three ex-combatants from the conflict, hosted by Coiste.

This CSV was valuable for respecting DPI's objective and value of inclusiveness. In fact, including young representatives from different political and professional background meant looking towards the future with the hope that younger generations will find a common ground among societal divides. This CSV provided the young participants with the opportunity of having their voices and concerns heard. Additionally, they had the chance to interact with key international actors for better understanding their experiences in peacebuilding. This CSV has been crucial for keeping in mind the youth ability to act as agents of change in highly polarised societies.

A full transcript report of this event can be found on our website and in print.

Lessons learned in conflict resolution

ROUNDTABLE

Lessons learned from international experiences in conflict resolution

Ankara, 28-30 September



DPI Deputy Director Sally Holt (left) introduces meeting with Sir Kieran Prendergast, former UN Under-Secretary for Political Affairs and former British Ambassador to Turkey (centre) and Ali Bayramoğlu, journalist, DPI's Council of Experts and Member of Wise People Committee (right)



Some participants at the meeting

In September, a group of 50 participants, including politicians, policy-makers, civil society actors, academics, and journalists, came together to discuss experiences from peace and transition processes globally. The meeting provided a timely opportunity to review previous discussions on the nature of peace-making processes and highlighted the importance of preserving the foundations for inclusive dialogue between different parties and groups in society, even in the most challenging times.



From the left: David Gorman (Eurasia Director, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue) and Teresita Quintos Deles (Former Presidential Advisor on the Philippines Peace Process) with Esra Elmas (Head of Turkey Programme)

Participants heard from Sir Kieran Prendergast, former UN Under-Secretary for Political Affairs and former British Ambassador to Turkey, David Gorman, Eurasia Director for the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Teresita Quintos Deles, former Presidential advisor on the peace process in the Philippines, and Roelf Meyer, former chief negotiator for the South African government.

The speakers discussed their experiences of building and sustaining peace in international cases, focusing on identifying and addressing obstacles to the resumption of a process where it has stalled or is 'parked', as well as entry points for getting a process back on track. In her concluding remarks Prof. Dr. Sevtap Yokus drew on lessons from the day to propose to participants: 'Don't wait for right time, rather be prepared for when the time comes.'

A full transcript report of this event can be found on our website and in print.



Roelf Meyer (left), former peace negotiation for the South African government, shares his experience and expertise about conflict resolution joined by Prof. Dr. Mehmet Ufuk Uras, DPI COE & former MP in Turkey

ROUNDTABLE

Lessons learned from the Turkish solution process: Rethinking the Wise Persons Committee experience, hosted by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Oslo, 22-24 November

From 22-24 November 2018, DPI held a roundtable meeting with former members of Turkey's Wise Persons Committee (WPC) to reflect on the Turkish solution process in light of their own experiences and contributions as members of the WPC. The meeting, which was kindly hosted by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was also attended by members of DPI's Council of Experts.

The meeting provided a platform for participants to review and assess the role and impact of the WPC - its achievements, as well as shortcomings and challenges - and draw out lessons learned for consideration in the current context in Turkey. Additionally, it was also discussed what role former WPC members hold in nowadays context and how they can help to support and facilitate the future peace process in Turkey.

The event has also been covered by Turkish media, receiving positive feedback on newspapers, TV channels and on social media. Despite negative feedback has been received as well by some Turkish media, the fact that DPI's activities have appeared in the news show that society is eager to discuss the resolution process.



Participants discussing during the meeting



Some participants at the Roundtable meeting in Oslo

This roundtable was the second planned event under the theme 'Supporting Inclusive Dialogue at a Challenging Time in Turkey' and it was organised as a response to the requests of participants to the first roundtable that took place in May 2018. In fact, participants, after having heard and elaborated on international experiences about conflict resolution, they expressed their wishes to continue to address the theme focusing more specifically on WPC experience. Feedback from participants was helpful as it showed that they are looking to keep the conversation alive in the future. Hence, DPI will continue to work with them, and it will also expand the number of participants for bringing together more former members of WPC.

A full transcript report of this event can be found on our website and in print.

Analysis and assessment meetings

In 2018 we held four events; three assessment meetings and a roundtable discussion. These were informative and useful for DPI in furthering our knowledge of ongoing political, economic, and other developments in Turkey, which informs all aspects of our work and is vital to the planning of our activities.

ROUNDTABLE

DPI meeting with AK Party representatives

London, 10-12 April



Participants from left to right: Leyla Karayilan (AK Party Advisor), Lucy Stuart (InterMediate), Fleur Ravensbergen (DAG), Prof. Dr. Mehmet Asutay (Business School Durham University), Jonathan Powell (Former Chief of Staff to Tony Blair), Dermot Ahern (Former Irish Minister of Foreign Affairs), Nick Stewart QC (DPI Chairman), Jonathan Cohen (Conciliation Resources), Sally Holt (DPI Deputy Director), Onur Uz (Interpreter), Esra Elmas (DPI Head of Turkey Programme) Front row sitting, left to right: Kerim Yildiz (DPI CEO), Taner Yildiz (Member of Parliament and former Minister of Energy and Natural Resources), Mehdi Eker (AK Party Deputy Chairman), Efkan Ala (former civil servant and Minister of Interior) and Sir Bill Jeffrey (Former Political Director, Northern Ireland Office)

In April, DPI hosted three representatives of the Turkish Justice and Development Party (AKP) in London. Mehmet Mehdi Eker, AK Party Former Minister and Deputy Chairman; Efkan Ala, MP, Member of the Central Decision and Executive Board of AK Party and Former Minister of the Interior; and Taner Yıldız, MP, Former Minister of Energy and Natural Resources met with senior experts in the field of conflict resolution.

The meeting provided a fruitful discussion and exchange with participants being able to hear the delegates' views on the current situation in Turkey and the wider region, as well as on the future of Turkey, including the relationship with the EU.



DPI advisers and AK Party delegation exchange views

Advisers and experts, including Jonathan Powell, Former Chief of Staff to Tony Blair; Jonathan Cohen, Executive Director of Conciliation Resources; Dermot Ahern, Former Irish Minister of Foreign Affairs; Sir Kieran Prendergast, former Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs at the United Nations; and Sir Bill Jeffrey, Former Political Director of the Northern Ireland Office, shared their international experiences with academics, representatives of conflict resolution organisations, policy makers and lawyers. The exchange was met with great interest and led to a constructive exchange of opinions.



AK Party Delegation at DPI office

ASSESSMENT

Meeting on the current situation in Turkey and implication for conflict resolution

London, 20 April



Speakers left to right: Ferda Balancar (Editor in Chief of Agos Newspaper), Ali Bayramoğlu (journalist, DPI's Council of Experts and Member of WPC), Dr. Edel Hughes (Senior Lecturer in Law, University of Middlesex), Prof. Dr. Sevtap Yokuş (Professor of Law at Altonbaş University) and Kerim Yıldız (DPI CEO)

On 20 April, DPI held a small informal meeting with DPI advisers and Council of Expert members to discuss recent developments in Turkey. The speakers who contributed to the meeting were: Ferda Balancar, editor in chief of Agos newspaper; Ali Bayramoğlu, political commentator; Dr. Edel Hughes, senior lecturer in law, University of Middlesex; and Prof. Dr. Sevtap Yokuş, Professor of Law at Altonbaş University.

The speakers presented their assessment of the current political situation in Turkey. They discussed the new and emerging actors, and the implications of recent constitutional reforms for conflict resolution. Current international views and positions with respect to recent developments in Turkey, including EU-Turkey relations, were also explored.

The presentations were followed by a fruitful discussion between the speakers and participants.

Meeting on the post-election situation in Turkey

London, 7-9 August



Dr Vahap Coşkun (left) and Mr Ferda Balancar (right) discuss the post-election situation in Turkey at DPI's office

In August, DPI hosted an informal talk and discussion session at our London office. Two experts, Prof Dr Vahap Coşkun (Professor of Law at University of Dicle) and Mr Ferda Balancar (Editor in Chief Agos Newspaper), presented their perspectives on the post-election political landscape in Turkey. Participants at the meeting included lawyers, academics, policymakers, and international conflict resolution practitioners.

Dr Coşkun, Professor of Law at Dicle University, discussed the constitutional aspects of the new presidential system of government, assessing its implications for democratisation and conflict resolution. Mr Balancar, Editor-in-Chief of Armenian weekly *Agos*, presented his assessment of the political situation in Turkey following the elections, focusing on new actors likely to emerge within the context of possible developments relating to a resolution process.

The speakers discussed the changes brought about by the new presidential system and the likely short and long-term implications, both domestic and regional. A productive discussion followed, during which participants were able to comment, respond and ask questions to the speakers.



Q&A session at DPI during the assessment meeting



Participants from left to right: Claire Booth (DPI Grants and Development Officer), Prof. Dr. Mehmet Ufuk Uras (DPI COE and former MP), Ali Bayramoğlu (journalist, DPI's Council of Experts and Member of WPC), Fuat Keyman (Member of WPC and Professor at Sabancı University), Kadir İnanır (Member of WPC), Prof. Dr. Sevtap Yokuş (DPI COE and Professor of Law), Esra Elmas (DPI Head of Turkey Programme), Hubert Duhot (International Relations Officer at European Commission), David Murphy (DPI Project Officer), Natalie Taylor (DPI Intern), Sophie Verbis (DPI Senior Programme Officer), Ulpjana Ruka (DPI Programme Assistant). Front row sitting, left to right: Prof. Dr. Askin Asan (DPI COE), Kezban Hatemi (Member of WPC and DPI COE), Andy Carl (senior expert on conflict resolution), Kerim Yildiz (DPI CEO), Sally Holt (DPI Deputy Director) and Prof. Dr. Fazıl Hüsnü Erdem (member of WPI and political commentator)

DPI continued to monitor the post-election situation in Turkey through a formal assessment meeting in Brussels with our Turkey-based advisors. In this meeting, we carried out an in-depth evaluation of the current political-economic climate in Turkey and the wider region, focusing on several topics, particularly the prospects of a renewal of the resolution process regarding the Kurdish issue.

A diverse group of Turkish political actors, economists, journalists, lawyers, academics, and artists, representing a broad range of constituencies and perspectives, attended the meeting. International members of DPI's Board and Council of Experts, as well as EU representatives based in Brussels, also attended.

Discussion centred on the context of Turkey's transition from a parliamentary system to a presidential one, and the consequent implications for stability and democracy in the country. Participants agreed that it was necessary to consider Turkey's political trajectory within the context of a globally recognisable trend of a drift away from democratic values.

Given the complexities of Turkey's unique situation, participants suggested that endeavours to spur democratic progress in the country must be realistic in order to produce deliverable results. Suggestions included changes to laws governing elections and political parties, as well as engagement and support at local, including city, level as a potential entry-point for actors seeking to support democratisation and resolution processes.

Turkey-EU relations were also covered in the meeting, with participants agreeing that the maintaining of Turkey's relationship with the EU is significant despite its multiple challenges. Some participants suggested that a more coherent EU policy towards Turkey, perhaps incorporating a "softer" approach, would be more constructive.

Monitoring, evaluation and strategy meetings

Throughout 2018, DPI employed its Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Framework which provides structure for measuring the impact and reach of our work. The framework measures outcomes through a number of M&E tools, generating both qualitative and quantitative data.

The range of methods of data collection included: semi-structured interviews; post-activity questionnaires; post-activity facilitated group discussions; ex-post interviews; and media tracking and analysis. DPI measured participants' increased understanding of topics related to conflict resolution and peacebuilding as a result of its activities and documented evidence of use of new knowledge by participants. It also tracked the increased knowledge of international conflict resolution country case studies as a result of participation in DPI activities.

Additionally, it monitored the engagement of key stakeholders participating in capacity building sessions and the intended and actual application of new knowledge gained from briefing and mentoring sessions.

Finally, it measured the increase in stakeholders' awareness of the dynamics at work in the conflict as a result of programme assessment and analysis. DPI conducted quarterly reflection workshops to monitor progress against targets and enable timely reporting and communication with all stakeholders.

The project team met quarterly to reflect on event feedback and improve the activity implementation plan, responding in real time both to the evolution of the political situation on the ground as well as participants' feedback.

Assessment and research reports in 2018

DPI produces papers and briefings written by leading experts who provide their assessments and analysis of the solution process in Turkey and the wider region, as well as peace processes in other countries.

Below is a selection of the assessments which can also be found on our website. The views and opinions expressed in these assessments are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of DPI and its funders.



Assessment reports by Ali Bayramoğlu

A Survey of Turkish Politics, Spring 2018

This assessment explores the internal and external dimensions of the current political situation in Turkey and assesses the country's direction and likely scenarios in terms of its political order and foreign policy. The paper contributes to DPI's ongoing evaluation of the situation in Turkey which takes into account different views and perspectives, at a time of significant political change, both externally and internally, and not least in the run-up to elections in June 2018.

The Beginning of the Presidential Era and Turkey's Future

This report provides an assessment of Turkey's political landscape following the June 2018 parliamentary and presidential elections and reflects on the implications of these post-election balances for Turkey's politics, its potential trajectory, and critical challenges such as the Kurdish issue. Following an analysis of the sociological and political implications of the elections, including a detailed analysis of voter patterns and profiles, the report goes on to discuss the political meaning of the election results and the first presidential acts following the shift from a parliamentary to presidential system.

Assessment reports by Professor Dr. Sevtap Yokuş

Political Processes in Turkey and their Constitutional Reflections

This assessment paper analyses efforts to democratise Turkey's Constitution since 1982 in relation to broader democratization and resolution processes in the country. It demonstrates a link between progress in transforming the Constitution and periods of democratic reform, in contrast to regression to more authoritarian models in the periods following coup attempts in 1980 and 2016. The author concludes that progress in democracy, the rule of law, justice and freedoms in Turkey rests on an end to conflict and the pursuit of social peace. This paper contributes to DPI's ongoing analysis of the situation on the ground in Turkey taking into account different views and perspectives. It is one of a number of assessments undertaken by a diverse range of experts both in the region and internationally at a time of significant political change.

Elections and the Presidential System in Turkey

This assessment provides an analysis of the June 2018 presidential and parliamentary elections in Turkey and considers the potential impact of the structural transformation from a parliamentary to a presidential system of government on the checks and balances between government bodies, with reference to latest examples from practice. Methods of democratising politics as a means of balancing power under current circumstances and the development of local self-government in Turkey as a democratic mechanism that can serve social peace are then discussed. The author concludes that in order for Turkey to restart on a course of democratisation diverse voices including economic actors, civil society organisations and opposition parties all need to make more concerted demands for democratisation, freedoms, and the resolution of the conflict through political means.

Research report by Ana Vilellas Ariño, María Vilellas Ariño, and Pamela Urrutia Arestizábal

The Experience of Ahotsak: Women's Dialogue Across the Divide in the Basque Country

This research report provides an analysis of the Ahotsak (Voices) movement, which emerged during the Basque conflict to facilitate further female participation in the peace process. The report tracks the growth of the Ahotsak movement, from its roots in the public rapprochement of two female MPs from opposite ends of the political divide, to its expansion into the Basque parliament and civil society. The report also tracks the obstacles that faced the peace process, such as violence carried out by the separatist ETA group, and details how Ahotsak worked around this to maintain the dialogue during difficult times. The report exemplifies the effectiveness of increased female participation in peace processes, and the way a mutual goal of peace can propel people to work across political divides. The authors conclude that although there are conflicting opinions about whether the movement has permanently disappeared or is on standby, it has helped propel the emergence of other platforms that promote the role of women in transforming conflicts.

Board Members

Kerim Yıldız (Chief Executive Officer)

Kerim Yıldız is an expert in conflict resolution, peacebuilding, international human rights law and minority rights, having worked on numerous projects in these areas over his career. Yıldız has received 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, and the Sigrid Rausing Trust's Human Rights award for Leadership in Indigenous and Minority Rights in 2005. Yıldız is also a recipient of the 2011 Gruber Prize for Justice. He has also written extensively on international humanitarian law, conflict, and various human rights mechanisms.

Nicholas 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 the Union Internationale des Avocats. He has appeared at all court levels in England and Wales, before the Privy Council on appeals from Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and the Bahamas, and in the High Court of the Republic of Singapore and the European Court of Human Rights. Stewart has also been the chair of the Dialogue Advisory Group since its founding in 2008.

Priscilla Hayner

Priscilla Hayner is co-founder of the International Center for Transitional Justice and is currently on the UN Department of Political Affairs Standby Team of Mediation Experts. She is a global expert on truth commissions and transitional justice initiatives and has authored several books on these topics, including *Unspeakable Truths*, which analyses truth commissions globally. Hayner has recently engaged in the recent Colombia talks as transitional justice advisor to Norway, and in the 2008 Kenya negotiations as human rights advisor to former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the United Nations-African Union mediation team. Hayner has also worked significantly in the implementation stages following a peace agreement or transition, including Sierra Leone in 1999 and South Sudan in 2015.

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. Humlen 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.

Professor David Petrsek

Professor David Petrsek is Associate Professor at Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Ottawa, Canada. He is a 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). Petrsek has also taught international human rights and humanitarian law courses at the Osgoode Hall Law School at York University, Canada, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute at Lund University, Sweden, and at Oxford University.

Antonia Potter Prentice

Antonia Potter Prentice is currently the Director of Alliance 2015 - a global network of humanitarian and development organisations. Prentice has extensive experience on a range of humanitarian, development, peacemaking and peacebuilding issues through her previous positions, including interim Senior Gender Adviser to the Joint Peace Fund for Myanmar and providing technical advice to the Office of the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General to the Yemen peace process. Prentice has also been involved in various international organisations including UN Women, Dialogue Advisory Group, and Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue. Prentice 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).

Catherine Woollard

Catherine Woollard is the current Secretary General for ECRE, the European Council for Refugees and Exiles, a pan-European alliance of 96 NGOs protecting and advancing the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons. 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 also 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. Woollard has additionally 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.

Council of Experts

Bertie Ahern

Bertie Ahern is the former Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of Ireland, a position to which he was elected following numerous Ministerial appointments as well as that of Deputy Prime Minister. A defining moment of Mr Ahern's three terms in office as Taoiseach was the successful negotiation of the Good Friday Agreement in April 1998. Mr Ahern held the Presidency of the European Council in 2004, presiding over the historic enlargement of the EU to 27 member states. Since leaving Government in 2008 Mr Ahern has dedicated his time to conflict resolution and is actively involved with many groups around the world. Current roles include Co-Chair of The Inter Action Council; Member of the Clinton Global Initiative; Member of the International Group dealing with the conflict in the Basque Country; Honorary Adjunct Professor of Mediation and Conflict Intervention in NUI Maynooth; Member of the Kennedy Institute of NUI Maynooth; Member of the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy, Berlin; Member of the Varkey Gems Foundation Advisory Board; Member of Crisis Management Initiative; Member of the World Economic Forum Agenda Council on Negotiation and Conflict Resolution; Member of the IMAN Foundation; Advisor to the Legislative Leadership Institute Academy of Foreign Affairs; Senior Advisor to the International Advisory Council to the Harvard International Negotiation Programme; and Director of Co-operation Ireland.

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 the 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.

Prof. Dr. Aşkın Asan

Professor Dr. Aşkın Asan is an executive board member of the Maarif Foundation, a member of Turkey's Democracy Platform, and a faculty member at Istanbul Ticaret University. Elected as a Member of the Turkish Grand National Assembly from Ankara, Prof Asan served as a vice president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean and was a member of the Turkish Delegation of the Parliamentary Union of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference during her time in parliamentary office. She is a former Deputy Minister of Family and Social Policies (2011-2014) and was Rector of Avrasya University in Trabzon between 2014-2017.

Prof 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 the Middle East, including Turkish and Kurdish political economies. He is the Director of the Durham Centre for Islamic Economics and Finance and the Managing Editor of the Review of Islamic Economics, as well as Associate Editor of the American Journal of Islamic Social Science. He is the Honorary Treasurer of the BRISMES (British Society for Middle Eastern Studies); and of the IAIE (International Association for Islamic Economics).

Ali Bayramođlu

Ali Bayramođlu is a writer and political commentator. Since 1994, he has contributed as a columnist for a variety of newspapers. He is currently a columnist for *Al-Monitor*. He is a member of the former Wise Persons Committee 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, Co-director of the Global Justice Academy, and a member of the British Academy. She was chairperson of the Belfast-based human rights organization, the Committee on the Administration of Justice, from 1995-7, and a founder member of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission established under the terms of the Belfast Agreement. In 1999 she was a member of the European Commission's Committee of Experts on Fundamental Rights. 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, has been involved as a legal advisor in a number of peace negotiations, and acted as an expert in transitional justice for the UN Secretary-General, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and UNIFEM.

Cengiz Çandar

Cengiz Çandar is currently a columnist for *Al-Monitor*, a widely respected online magazine that provides analysis on Turkey and the Middle East. He is a former war correspondent and an expert on the Middle East. He served as a special adviser to the former Turkish president, Turgut Ozal. Cengiz Çandar is a Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the Stockholm University Institute for Turkish Studies (SUITS).

Andy Carl

Andy Carl is an independent expert on conflict resolution and public participation in peace processes. He believes that building peace is not an act of charity but an act of justice. He co-founded and was Executive Director of Conciliation Resources. Previously, he was the first Programme Director with International Alert. He is currently an Honorary Fellow of Practice at the School of Law, University of Edinburgh. He serves as an adviser to a number of peacebuilding initiatives including the Inclusive Peace and Transition Initiative at the Graduate Institute in Geneva, the Legal Tools for Peace-Making Project in Cambridge, and the Oxford Research Group, London.

Dr. Vahap Coşkun

Dr. Vahap Coşkun is a Professor of Law at University of Dicle in Diyarbakır where he also completed his bachelor's and master's degrees in law. Coşkun received his PhD from Ankara University Faculty of Law. He has written for *Serbestiyet* and *Kurdistan24* online newspaper. He has published books on human rights, constitutional law, political theory and social peace. Coşkun was a member of the former Wise Persons Committee in Turkey (Central Anatolian Region).

Ayşegül Dođan

Ayşegül Dođan is a journalist who has conducted interviews, created news files and programmes for independent news platforms. She studied at the Faculty of Cultural Mediation and Communications at Metz University, and Paris School of Journalism. As a student, she worked at the Ankara bureau of Agence-France Presse (AFP), the Paris bureau of Courier International and at the Kurdish service of The Voice of America. She worked as a programme creator at Radyo Ekin, and as a translator-journalist for the Turkish edition of *Le Monde Diplomatique*. She was a lecturer at the Kurdology department of National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations in Paris. She worked on political communications for a long time. From its establishment in 2011 to its closure in 2016, she worked as a programmes coordinator at IMC TV. She prepared and presented the programme "Gündem Müzakere" on the same channel.

Prof. Dr. Fazıl Hüsnü Erdem

Fazıl Hüsnü Erdem is Professor of Constitutional Law and Head of the Department of Constitutional Law at Dicle University, Diyarbakır. In 2007, Erdem was a member of the commission which was established to draft a new constitution to replace the Constitution of 1982 which was introduced following the coup d'état of 1980. Erdem was a member of the Wise Persons Committee in Turkey, established by then Prime Minister Erdoğan, in the team that was responsible for the South-eastern Anatolia Region.

Prof 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 and Professor and Rector Emeritus of Pontifical Catholic University of Peru. He is former President of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Peru. Prof Lerner has given many talks and speeches about the role and the nature of 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. He has received several honorary doctorates as well as numerous recognitions and distinctions of governments and international human rights institutions.

Prof Mervyn Frost

Professor Mervyn Frost teaches International Relations, and was former Head of 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 currently sits on the editorial boards of International Political Sociology and the Journal of International Political Theory, among others. 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 currently the UN's Envoy to Yemen. 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, Action Aid, and the European Institute of Peace. Griffiths 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, as well as Turkey's National Commission to UNESCO and 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 and Minorities and Community Foundations within the Framework Law of Harmonization prepared by Turkey in preparation for EU accession. She has published articles on women's, minority groups, children, animals and human rights and the fight against drugs. She is a member of the former Wise Persons Committee 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 a Senior Lecturer in Law at Middlesex University. Prior to joining Middlesex University, Dr Hughes was a Senior Lecturer in Law at the University of East London and a Lecturer in Law and the University of Limerick. She 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. Her research interests are in the areas of international human rights law, public international law, and conflict transformation, with a regional interest in Turkey and the Middle East. She has published widely on these areas.

Kadir İnanır

Kadir İnanır was born in 1949 Fatsa, Ordu. He is an acclaimed actor and director, and has starred in well over a hundred films. He has won several awards for his work in Turkish cinema. He graduated from Marmara University Faculty of Communication. In 2013 he became a member of the Wise Persons Committee for the Mediterranean region.

Prof Dr Ahmet İnel

Professor Ahmet İnel 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 both Turkish and French.

Avila Kilmurray

Avila Kilmurray is a founding member of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition. She was part of the Coalition's negotiating team for the Good Friday Agreement and has written extensively on community action, the women's movement and conflict transformation. She serves as an adviser on the Ireland Committee of the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust as well as a board member of Conciliation Resources (UK) and the Institute for British Irish Studies. She was the first Women's Officer for the Transport & General Workers Union for Ireland (1990-1994) and from 1994-2014 she was Director of the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland, managing EU PEACE funding for the re-integration of political ex-prisoners in Northern Ireland as well as support for community-based peace building. She is a recipient of the Raymond Georis Prize for Innovative Philanthropy through the European Foundation Centre. Kilmurray is working as a consultant with The Social Change Initiative to support work with the Migrant Learning Exchange Programme and learning on peace building.

Prof Ram Manikkalingam

Professor Ram Manikkalingam is founder and director of the Dialogue Advisory Group, an independent organisation that facilitates political dialogue to reduce violence. He is a member of the Special Presidential Task Force on Reconciliation in Sri Lanka and teaches politics at the University of Amsterdam. Previously, he was a Senior Advisor on the Sri Lankan peace process to then President Kumaratunga. He has served as an advisor with Ambassador rank at the Sri Lanka Mission to the United Nations in New York and prior to that he was an advisor on International Security to the Rockefeller Foundation. He is an expert on issues pertaining to conflict, multiculturalism and democracy, and has authored multiple works on these topics. He is a 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 Diyarbakir Cultural Art Foundation (DKSV). She is a columnist for the *Daily Zaman*, and occasionally for the English version, *Today's Zaman*.

Prof Monica McWilliams

Professor Monica McWilliams teaches in the Transitional Justice Institute at Ulster University in Northern Ireland. She currently serves on a three-person panel established by the Northern Ireland government to make recommendations on the disbandment of paramilitary organisations in Northern Ireland. During the Northern Ireland peace process, Prof McWilliams co-founded the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition political party and was elected as a delegate to the

Multi-Party Peace Negotiations, which took place in 1996 to 1998. She was also elected to serve as a member of the Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly from 1998 to 2003. Prof McWilliams is a signatory of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement and has chaired the Implementation Committee on Human Rights on behalf of the British and Irish governments. For her role in delivering the peace agreement in Northern Ireland, Prof McWilliams was one recipient of the John F. Kennedy Leadership and Courage Award.

Hanne Melfald

Hanne Melfald worked with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for eight years including as the Senior Adviser to the Secretariat of the Foreign Minister of Norway before she became a Project Manager in HD's Eurasia office in 2015. She previously worked for the United Nations for six years including two years with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan as Special Assistant to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. She has also worked for the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Nepal and Geneva, as well as for the Norwegian Refugee Council and the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration. Melfald has a degree in International Relations from the University of Bergen and the University of California, Santa Barbara, as well as a Master's degree in Political Science from the University of Oslo.

Roelf Meyer

Meyer is currently a consultant on international peace processes having advised parties in Northern Ireland, Sri Lanka, Rwanda, Burundi, Iraq, Kosovo, the Basque Region, Guyana, Bolivia, Kenya, Madagascar, and South Sudan. Meyer's experience in international peace processes stems from his involvement in the settlement of the South African conflict in which he was the government's chief negotiator in constitutional negotiations with the ANC's chief negotiator and current South African President, Cyril Ramaphosa.

Negotiating the end of apartheid and paving the way for South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994, Meyer continued his post as Minister of Constitutional Affairs in the Cabinet of the new President, Nelson Mandela. Meyer retired as a Member of Parliament and as the Gauteng leader of the National Party in 1996 and co-founded the United Democratic Movement (UDM) political party the following year. Retiring from politics in 2000, Meyer has since held a number of international positions, including membership of the Strategy Committee of the Project on Justice in Times of Transition at Harvard University.

Mark Muller QC

Mark Muller, QC, is a senior advocate at Doughty Street Chambers (London) and the Scottish Faculty of Advocates (Edinburgh) where he specialises in public international law and human rights. Muller is also currently on the UN Department of Political Affairs Standby Team of Mediation Experts and is the UN Special Envoy to Syria in the Syrian peace talks. He has many years' experience of advising numerous international bodies, such as Humanitarian Dialogue (Geneva) and Inter-Mediate (London) on conflict resolution, mediation, confidence-building, ceasefires, power-sharing, humanitarian law, constitution-making and dialogue processes. Muller also co-founded Beyond Borders and the Delfina Foundation.

Avni Özgürel

Mehmet Avni Özgürel is a Turkish journalist, author and screenwriter. Having worked in several newspapers such as *Daily Sabah* and *Radikal*, Özgürel is currently the editor in chief of the daily *Yeni Birlik* and a TV programmer at TRT Haber. He is the screenwriter of the 2007 Turkish film, *Zincirbozan*, on the 1980 Turkish coup d'état, *Sultan Avrupa'da* (2009), on Sultan Abdülaziz's 1867 trip to Europe; and *Mahpeyker* (2010): *Kösem Sultan*, on Kösem Sultan. He is also the screenwriter and producer of 2014 Turkish film,

Darbe (Coup), on the February 07, 2012 Turkish intelligence crisis. In 2013 he was appointed a member of the Wise Persons Committee in Turkey established by then Prime Minister Erdoğan.

Giles Portman

Giles Portman is an experienced British and EU diplomat, currently serving as the Head of the East Stratcon Task Force in the European External Action Service in Brussels since September 2015. Prior to this, Portman worked for 12 years on EU-Turkey relations as Chair of the EU enlargement working group that negotiated the opening of Turkey's EU accession negotiations in 2005, as deputy head of mission at the British Embassy in Ankara and as advisor, then head of division for Turkey at the European External Action Service. He has also served on diplomatic postings to the UN in New York and in Prague.

Professor John Packer

Professor John Packer is Associate Professor of Law and Director of the Human Rights Research and Education Centre (HRREC) at the University of Ottawa in Canada. Prof. Packer has worked for inter-governmental organisations for over 20 years, including in Geneva for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Labour Organisation, and for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. From 1995 to 2004, Prof. Packer served as Senior Legal Adviser and then the first Director of the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities in The Hague. In 2012 - 2014, Prof. Packer was a Constitutions and Process Design Expert on the United Nation's Standby Team of Mediation Experts attached to the Department of Political Affairs, advising in numerous peace processes and political transitions around the world focusing on conflict prevention and resolution, diversity management, constitutional and legal reform, and the protection of human rights.

Jonathan Powell

Jonathan Powell is the founder and CEO of Inter Mediate, an NGO devoted to conflict resolution around the world. In 2014, Powell was appointed by former Prime Minister David Cameron to be the UK's Special Envoy to Libya. He also served as Tony Blair's Chief of Staff in opposition from 1995 to 1997 and again as his Chief of Staff in Downing Street from 1997 to 2007. Prior to his involvement in British politics, Powell was the British Government's chief negotiator on Northern Ireland from 1997 to 2007 and played a key part in leading the peace negotiations and its implementation.

Sir Kieran Prendergast

Sir Kieran Prendergast is a former British diplomat who served as the Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs at the United Nations from 1997 to 2005 and as High Commissioner to Kenya from 1992 to 1995 and to Zimbabwe from 1989 to 1992. During his time at the UN, Prendergast stressed the human rights violations and ethnic cleansing that occurred during the War in Darfur and was involved in the 2004 Cyprus reunification negotiations. Since his retirement from the UN, he has conducted research at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs (United States) and is a member of the Advisory Council of Independent Diplomat (United States). Prendergast also holds a number of positions, including Chairman of the Anglo-Turkish Society, a Trustee of the Beit Trust, and Senior Adviser at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue.

Rajesh Rai

Rajesh Rai was called to the Bar in 1993 with his areas of expertise including human rights law, immigration and asylum law, and public law. He has been treasurer of 1MCB Chambers (London) since 2015 and has also been a Director of an AIM-listed investment company where he led their renewable energy portfolio. Rai is a frequent lecturer on a wide variety of legal issues, including immigration and asylum law and freedom of experience (Bar of Armenia), minority linguistic rights (European Parliament), and women's and children's rights in areas of conflict (cross-border conference to NGOs working in Kurdish regions). He is also Founder Director of HIC, a community centred NGO based in Cameroon.

Sir David Reddaway

Sir David Reddaway is a retired British diplomat currently serving as Chief Executive and Clerk of the Goldsmiths' Company in London. During his previous career in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, he served as Ambassador to Turkey (2009-2014), Ambassador to Ireland (2006-2009), High Commissioner to Canada (2003-2006), UK Special Representative for Afghanistan (2002), and Charge d'Affaires in Iran (1990-1993). His other assignments were to Argentina, India, Spain, and Iran, where he was first posted during the Iranian Revolution.

Prof Naomi Roht-Arriaza

Professor Naomi Roht-Arriaza is a Distinguished Professor of Law at the Hastings College of Law, University of California (San Francisco) and is renowned globally for her expertise in transitional justice, international human rights law, and international humanitarian law. She has extensive knowledge of, and experience in, post-conflict procedures in Latin America and Africa. Roht-Arriaza has contributed to the defence of human rights through legal and social counselling, her position as academic chair, and her published academic works.

Prof. Dr. Mehmet Ufuk Uras

Mehmet Ufuk Uras is a co-founder and member of social liberal Greens and the Left Party of the Future, founded as a merger of the Greens and the Equality and Democracy Party. He was previously a former leader of the now-defunct University Lecturers' Union (Öğretim Elemanları Sendikası) and was elected the chairman of Freedom and Solidarity Party in 1996.

Ufuk resigned from the leadership after the 2002 general election. Ufuk ran a successful campaign as a "common candidate of the Left", standing on the independents' ticket, backed by Kurdish-based Democratic Society Party and several left-wing, environmentalist and pro-peace groups in the 2007 general election. He resigned from the Freedom and Solidarity Party on 19 June 2009. After the Democratic Society Party was dissolved in December 2009, he joined forces with the remaining Kurdish MPs in the Peace and Democracy Party group. On 25 November 2012, he became a co-founder and member of social liberal Greens and the Left Party of the Future, founded as a merger of the Greens and the Equality and Democracy Party. Ufuk is a member of the Dialogue Group and is the writer of several books on Turkish politics.

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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