

ANNUAL REPORT

2019

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DemocraticProgressInstitute

ANNUAL
REPORT | 2019



Contents



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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.*

Introduction



Kerim Yildiz

Chief Executive Officer
Democratic Progress Institute

I am delighted to present the Democratic Progress Institute's Annual Report for 2019.

Around the world, 2019 was a year in which people continued to live with the political, economic and social consequences of violence. Political instability throughout the world increased the vulnerability of those most at risk, but the appetite for key international players to intervene and attempt to prevent deepening crises has been low.

Over the past year, DPI has closely monitored the development of political and human rights trajectories in the region, which continued to be marred by political instability in 2019. The world over, the past year has been witness to political, economic and foreign policy volatility in the region, especially in Turkey, the consequences of which will linger for some time. Increasing polarisation has meant that DPI has had to work in difficult circumstances, but our commitment and impact have not faltered. In April, electoral defeat for the AKP saw their popularity weaken, as the local elections failed to bring about a positive result in Istanbul; they were unable to consolidate their power and cement their popularity, and subsequently conceded to the CHP. However, these internal developments have increased the appetite for more diversification within the political sphere in Turkey. The results have seen a bulge in multi-party plurality; the elections paved the way for former ministers to begin toying with the idea of establishing new parties – developments which were then welcomed into the political arena in early 2020. One major take away from the local elections was the power of the Kurdish population in their ability to be a force for change in elections; it became evident that whilst they do not retain the power to independently spark change, they can harness their collective power to influence electoral results. All these developments in the region, can be attributed

to the growing dissatisfaction amongst the electorate with the ruling party, a dissatisfaction that derives from the continued deterioration and instability of the economy, which has experienced sustained periods of high inflation and corporate debt. The ruling party has been unable to successfully manage this growing disconnect, which consequently worked against them in the election.

Significant developments have not only been limited to the confinement of domestic politics, and there have also been significant foreign policy developments that have impacted Turkey, which have heightened tensions amongst marginalised groups within Turkey and the region, and contributed to growing instability. The latter part of the year witnessed the breakdown on Turkey's relationship with the United States, as President Trump's administration crudely withdrew US ground troops from the Syrian border, which increased violence in the area; this haphazard reshuffling of troops stoked fears amongst minority groups of a deepening crisis. The continued tensions in the region has demonstrated the need and importance in facilitating dialogue between conflicting parties and creating platforms for discussion, in order to collectively work together towards a common goal of peace and stability. These shifting dynamics will open more opportunities for public debate on topics of peace, a resolution process and normalisation. It is important during this critical time for DPI to continue supporting and promoting democracy and the use of dialogue and peaceful discourse.

In 2019, DPI continued to remain committed to its overall aim of broadening the bases for public dialogue on issues such as democratisation, conflict resolution, and human rights in the region. DPI continued to strengthen as well as establish relationships with new and existing actors as well as participants

in the region and continued to provide a platform for dialogue that has demonstrated the power of collaborative work.

DPI's work has continued to encourage discussion about the importance of conflict transformation, democratisation and peacebuilding, and continue to create opportunities to build connections and trust.

DPI hopes that this annual report bares testimony to the work that we have undertaken in the last year to ensure that we bring collaborative, inclusive, lasting and meaningful change to the context we are working in. We have endeavoured to hold activities in several varying locations, for participants to have a more cohesive understanding of conflict resolution. Our events have facilitated dialogue between a significant number of key players, from academics, researchers, and policymakers, to journalists, civil society actors, and business actors, through our Roundtables (RT) and Comparative Study Visits (CSV) events. DPI can reach out to actors from a range of backgrounds – from those more established, to those who might be more difficult to reach, which allows for us to facilitate unique, collaborative, and worthwhile conversations.

Whilst tensions have continued to develop in the region, DPI continued to implement activities and continue discussions; these challenging conversations have all been held under the banner of 'Dialogue in Difficult Times'.

Looking forward to 2020, we will continue to advance our projects across the region and ensure that our activities are as collaborative, inclusive, and progress as they can be.

I would like to thank DPI's staff, board members, council of experts, speakers, and interns, whose hard work, dedication, and contributions have made DPI's success possible. I would like to thank DPI's funders and donors for their support of our projects and for sharing in our goals. With their support, we have been able to advance DPI's mission of promoting and advancing inclusive platforms and dialogue, which are essential in furthering peace and democracy.

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 democracybuilding 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. DPI has eight years experience running inclusive programmes in Turkey and maintains the unique trust and involvement of major stakeholders in politics and civil society. DPI's commitment to these relationships and networks on the ground has ensured the sustainability of the project and is vitally important to the success of our programme.

Our work is rooted in values of respect and equality, through which we seek to foster strong relationships and an environment in which new ideas and expertise can together to advance democracy. At every level of our work and organisation, we are committed to professionalism, integrity and impartiality.

OUR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

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

As a 'neutral' non-partisan organisation, DPI is able to extend invitations to senior political figures from all major political parties in Turkey (including those who report directly to President Erdogan), academics, civil society leaders and influential media representatives from across Turkey's professional and political spectrum. The broad range of political, social, economic, religious and ethnic backgrounds of DPI's participants encapsulates our commitment to ensuring that our activities and work is as inclusive as possible. Feedback from participants of DPI events has repeatedly expressed the sentiment that DPI is currently the 'only organisation which is able to gather different groups of people to talk and think on peace and democracy in Turkey' and that DPI's activities have provided 'the most inclusive platform so far' where: 'people from different political tendencies [in Turkey] can easily come together[...]and talk to each other and negotiate their differences.' Members of our extensive Council of Experts provide advice on areas of human rights, constitutional law, transitional justice and truth commissions, international humanitarian law, mediation and conflict resolution. Our strong working relationships in the Region have allowed us to collaborate with experts, scholars and universities.

- > Contributing to broadening the bases and providing platforms for discussion on establishing a structured public dialogue on peace and democracy building.
- > Providing opportunities in which different parties can draw 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, concerns and offer suggestions for resolving conflict, which will allow for the strengthening of democracy across multiple levels of society.

DPI programming is underpinned by a 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 constituencies in consultation with our DPI expert advisers on the ground, 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 to facilitate interaction both between participants and leading international experts.

A balance of attendees of past events as well as new participants ensure 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

DPI continues to work on issues surrounding gender, focusing particularly on the role of women in conflict resolution in fostering transitions to peace and security. We facilitate active participation of women in peace negotiations and work to provide opportunities for women and men from various countries and backgrounds to share approaches and experiences. In 2019, DPI continued with its commitment to ensure gender equality and encourage women's participation in peacebuilding by holding meetings that focused on women's involvement in conflict resolution.

Governance and Constitutions

The nuisances and complexities in many of the international conflicts occurring today make it difficult to find a blueprint for the right form of governance and ways with which to solve constitutional problems in countries transitioning from conflict. DPI aims to research and share insights into the approaches taken by international cases and identify lessons that can be learned from them; in 2019 we published several reports that delve into issues of governance and constitutional arrangements.

Human Rights and Access to Justice

The areas of human rights and access to justice are crucial during, and in the aftermath, of violent conflict, as it enables individuals to resolve disputes under the auspices of the state: just results for individuals and society can only occur when access to justice is accessible to all.

Recognising that true and effective democratic reform, as well as peace and stability need to be underpinned by human rights, equality, and the rule of law, we work to promote these principles through DPI's work. We have also placed emphasis on addressing issues of language and identity as a way of resolving conflict and building and maintaining a stable democracy.

Conflict Mediation

In order to create long lasting peace agreements, it is critical that peace talks tackle the grievances that drive the conflict. By providing a forum for discussions to a diverse number of representatives.... to exchange their views and experiences, we aim to facilitate their future participation in, and readiness for, processes of mediation and negotiation. By engaging in these discussions and conversations, DPI helps to inform individuals of the many different sides of the conflict and assist in insuring that the different sides of the conflict arrive at an agreement.

Disarmament, Demobilisation, Reintegration, and Security Sector Reform

The disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration (DDR) of armed groups into the community, as well as 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. Both processes are 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, where appropriate, incorporates these into our activity programme, in order to share learnings and spark healthy debate.

Civil Society

Civil society is increasingly gaining traction as one of the key pillars for conflict resolution and democracy building; this is particularly true for several countries and regions that DPI work in. In regions where official channels for conflict resolution, such as truth and reconciliation commissions, prove to be limited and of little effectiveness, civil society can assist in bridging the gap, and plays a vital role in supplementing peace processes. In 2019, DPI worked to ensure that representatives from civil society groups were present at our events.

The Media

The role of the media is imperative for reporting, reflecting, and influencing processes of conflict resolution. The undeniable importance of social media, and the rapid rate at which information can be disseminated and consumed, places focus on the role of the media for conflict and peacebuilding; this is something that DPI places a strong focus on. Additionally, DPI understands the power of social media, and uses it as a channel with which to disseminate our work and expand our reach and breadth.

Transitional Justice

DPI researches and provides a platform for discussing transitional justice measures and its potential to provide accountability, recognition of the rights of victims, promote civic trust, and strengthen the rule of law, all with the hope of aiding democratic advancements.

Democracy

DPI is committed to ensuring effective democracy building, which involves the consolidation of democratic institutions, ranging from the justice system and security services, to 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 engagement and support of peace processes, at all levels of society, and endeavour to make our events as inclusive and diverse as possible.

Impact Statement

During 2019, we are proud to have facilitated inclusive dialogue processes where individuals from a myriad of political backgrounds were able to come together and share their learnings and experiences. During the course of 2019, we have provided policy makers, academics, researchers, journalists, civil society actors, officials and business actors from diverse political backgrounds with a platform to engage in discussions about peace processes from around the world, as well as focusing on the Turkish peace process, its trajectory, and future developments within Turkey that might work as an obstruction to, or propel it to further progress. We achieved this through a vast programme of activities, including roundtables, comparative study visits, assessment meetings, as well as through the production of materials such as assessment papers and research reports.

Over the course of 2019, DPI has been lucky enough to hold events in several locations including London, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Istanbul, Cape Town, Brussels, Dublin, Belfast, Tirana and Ljubljana. Along with engaging with the themes and agenda laid out by DPI, participants who took part in our comparative study visits were able to draw up on and reflect on the political experiences throughout the world in countries that had been affected by conflict.

“I’m not sure whether the South African example is similar to Turkey, but there are things we can learn from it. Of course, we have preconceptions before coming to a place, but coming to places makes you see things in a different light.” (CSV South Africa, June 2019)

“There are significant cultural differences between Turkey and the case studies we heard about [...] but there are commonalities as well. The question I would like the answer to is how to overcome these cultural differences to apply the lessons we learnt from our speakers to the issues we are faced with in Turkey” (Oslo, Public Engagement Roundtable, May 2018)

“None of the peace processes are problem free and at such a difficult time in Turkey, it was so meaningful to hear very similar stories since it tells us there is still hope for our country” (Lessons learnt roundtable, Ankara, September 2018)

2019 also saw DPI realise a long term goal of expanding our outreach and engagement with a new group of participants, which also addressed the need to be more inclusive and diverse; we incorporated participants that have not previously featured as prominently in our activities, specifically those from religious backgrounds. We held our first ever event featuring religious leaders, and those from a religious background; the group of individuals who participated included religious leaders from the region, theologians and academics, and they were taken on a comparative study visit to Dublin and Belfast so that they could learn from the experiences of religious entities from both sides of the island.

“Visiting the interface area was much more influential than the closed-door meetings” (Religious leaders CSV, September 2019, Dublin & Belfast)

The introduction and creation of a new core group of participants, specifically of those from a religious background, was designed with the intention of expanding our outreach and broadening the bases for dialogue and engagement with the peace process; this was done so due to their respected and trusted positions within local communities, which can facilitate greater engagement due to their high social capital. In 2020, we hope to successfully execute plans to bring together a group of individuals who feature prominently in the arts and culture world, as individuals within the creative community have the capital with which to reach a larger, more diverse group of people. It is also an acknowledgement of the power that arts and culture on giving voice to issues and bringing together communities.

“[...] Artists and their sensibilities. We need to talk more about this. It is not about individuals, but more about an approach, and attitude. Most of the people here are academics, politicians, etc. The sensibility of an actor is something else.” (WTC RT, Brussels, July 2019)

In 2019, DPI continued to make impact within the region and ensure that dialogue on democratisation and conflict resolution continued. During 2019, cleavages within society became more embedded and reached a peak and this pluralisation was not just between groups but also within groups. DPI were able to continue with their ongoing commitment to keeping dialogue alive. DPI participants have continuously and consciously expressed their gratitude towards our efforts of ensuring that there is a platform for dialogue between those of different political, religious, social, economic standings.

DPI's focus has continued to draw the attention of participants towards drawing parallels between the experiences of Turkey, and those of different countries from around the world, with a primary focus on how they overcame their differences and resolved tensions.

Our approach has encouraged participants to engage in in-depth exploration of experiences and perspectives, which works to enhance their understanding of conflict resolution, whilst also allowing for them to identify similarities within their own context. These activities ensure that DPIs reach goes beyond the participants who engage with our activities, as learnings are often shared on a national platform in order to stimulate dialogue amongst the general public.

Moreover, our participants often disseminate materials about the content of our work and their participation in our events on their social media accounts, as well as in local and national newspaper articles, and TV appearances, which often acts as a stimulant for lively debate and making the possibility of a peace process more palatable for the general public. Due to the social status of some of our participants, and the following that they have amassed on their social media platforms, DPI is fortunate enough to benefit from having our events broadcast to their followers; this in turn expands the reach and breadth of DPIs work.

DPI distributes research and briefing papers, assessments and activity reports to key stakeholders, several of which are also freely available on our website. In addition, our social media platforms are expanding, and in 2019 we also created a Twitter account in Turkish, for our material to be more accessible to individuals who may only speak Turkish.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Strategy Meetings

Throughout 2019, DPI continued to adhere to its Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework, in order to measure and track the progress, impact, breadth and depth of our reach and work.

The tools that we deployed in order to retrieve data on our impact and reach included:

- > semi-structured interviews;
- > post-activity questionnaires;
- > post-activity facilitated group discussions;
- > ex-post interviews;
- > media tracking and analysis.

It often generates (written) reports that contribute to transparency and accountability, and allows for lessons to be shared more easily;

It provides a way to assess the crucial link between implementers and beneficiaries on the ground and decision-makers;

It provides a more robust basis for raising funds and influencing policy.

DPI measured the increase in knowledge amongst participants with regards to conflict resolution and peacebuilding as a direct result of participating in DPI activities, and recorded instances of increased knowledge and how these learnings had been deployed. DPI also tracked the increase of knowledge amongst participants of international cases studies of conflict resolution as a direct result of participating in DPI activities.

Moreover, DPI also monitored the engagement of key stakeholders who participated in capacity building sessions, and how they have applied the knowledge that they have gained from directly engaging in our briefing and mentoring sessions.

DPI also measured the increase in stakeholders' awareness of the dynamics at work in the conflict: we measured the impact of our assessment and analysis publications, as well as our assessment meetings. DPI conducted quarterly reflection workshops to monitor progress against targets and enable timely reporting and communication with all stakeholders.

The DPI project team held quarterly meetings in order to reflect on feedback and work on how better to implement programme activities, as a direct response to the development in the context as well as adjusting the programme in order to incorporate participant feedback.

Assessment and Research Reports in 2019

DPI produces papers and briefings written by leading experts who provide assessment and analysis on developments concerning and affecting the solution process in Turkey and the wider region, as well as peace processes in other countries.

New Political Developments, the Kurdish Problem and the Near Future

Ali Bayramoğlu

This assessment paper analyses the possible effects of the March 2019 election on the political system and the trajectory of the Kurdish issue. The paper argues that due to securitisation of Turkey's dominant political discourse, the March 2019 elections will be dominated by a discourse of besiegement and will unlikely produce a change in power due to strategic independence of the AKP and MHP, and the current ideological unity of the two parties. The possibilities for a resolution of the Kurdish issue in the context of both current and political dynamics with Turkey and regional developments, particularly in Syria, are also considered.

Potential Developments Regarding the Kurdish Problem and the Resolution Process in Turkey in the Aftermath of the 31 March Local Elections

Ferda Balancar

The Transformation of Turkey's Political Equation

Ali Bayramoğlu

This paper provides an analysis of the changing political situation in Turkey. Turkey is now considered to have entered a new era, and specific attention must be therefore paid to the impact of the Kurdish dynamic in such changed circumstances. The report outlines the evident shift from the recent period of extensive political transformation which has been accompanied by a series of elections between 2014 and 2019, whilst contrasting this with the notable absence of scheduled elections until 2023. The report maintains that the current circumstances of the transition eras are likely to have a great impact on the future of Turkey's politics.

Politics and Religious Orders in Turkey

Ferda Balancar

This report gives an analysis of the various religious orders and organisations in Turkey, with particular attention to the presence and role of religious organisations during the 2016 coup. This paper explores the origins of the various orders, which can be split into Naqshbandi, Nur Movement and the Suleymanites. This report details that at various times, most of the orders have been close to the government, and Gülenists being the classic embodiment of this with their permeation of many levels of the Turkish bureaucracy and key governmental structures such as the military, police and the judiciary. The report argues that implications following the attempted coup, and the subsequent expulsion of Gülenists from government means that there has been a vacuum created that other religious orders may wish to fill. Without the conception of a new democratic constitution, the risk of bureaucratic entrenchment of certain influential groups will continue and is of utmost concern with likely repercussions on issues such as the Kurdish Issue and the future of democracy in Turkey.

Changes in a New Era of Turkey's Politics

Fazil Hüsnü Erdem

This assessment paper provided an in-depth analysis of the post-restructured Turkish politics. Prof Dr Erdem delves into the distinctive dynamics of the new political system, the actions and strategies of the various political parties and actors, and the ramifications this new system may have on future politics, democracy in Turkey and the Kurdish Issue. Overall, Prof Dr Erdem takes an optimistic outlook to the prospects of the new political era. The alliance system, he asserts, has made all political parties much more important in elections, upturning the old hallmarks that had previously typified Turkish politics. The new system may prove to compel parties to come together, compromise and 'soften the language of politics' in Turkey.

Efforts to Solve the Kurdish Question: The Standpoints of the Parties and the Opposition

Alper Görmüş

This assessment paper provides an analysis of the political efforts in relation to the Kurdish question in Turkey since the first AK Party government in 2002. It considers the initial steps, including lifting of the State of Emergency in 2002 and explicit addressing of the Kurdish question from 2005 onwards. It goes on to consider different steps including in media, education, and direct engagement towards negotiations. The paper addresses the democratic opening in 2009 and the failure of these first efforts due to the events at the Habur border crossing. The paper presents a timeline of the decline in the resolution process, ending with the 2015 return to conflict. The author also looks at the position of the opposition during the different stages of the process, and highlights opportunities and barriers from the point of view of resumption of a resolution process. The author concludes that although the three initiatives of the government ultimately failed, they laid a foundation that their absence would not have provided. Hence, the overview warrants not only pessimism, but provides the benefits of hindsight that can help to overcome similar issues in the future.

Constitutional-Legal Deadlocks and Opportunities for a Prospective Resolution Process in Turkey

Sevtap Yokuş

This assessment provides an analysis of the role of the existing Constitution as an impediment or opportunity for the resolution process in Turkey. It considers the role of the Constitution in democratisation and safeguarding of fundamental rights and freedoms as preconditions for a successful resolution to the conflict. It goes on to consider the potential role of the Constitutional Court as an instrument in upholding such elements of the Constitution. The paper addresses specific areas where the Constitution could be developed to build better foundations for the resolution process, such as constitutional citizenship, education in the mother tongue, and effective political participation particularly on the local level. In considering factors of the government system, the balance between the legislative and the executive is flagged as a potential challenge, alongside the relation between central and local government and the role of state of emergency regulation. The author assesses risks to the process caused by legislation on the state of emergency and on elections, political parties, associations and meetings and demonstrations, among others. The author concludes that the political atmosphere in Turkey stood in the way of democratic constitutionalism and democratic legislation, and that measures towards such constitutionalism would serve the resolution process, due to the close relation between peace and democratisation. The assessment was prepared for DPI by constitutional law scholar Prof. Dr. Sevtap Yokuş. The views and opinions expressed are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the views of DPI.

OUR PROGRAMME IN 2019

*To broaden bases for public
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Activities

ROUNDTABLE

Peace and Economy, London, 8-10 January 2019

From 8-10 January DPI hosted a planned roundtable meeting on 'Peace and the Economy' organised in cooperation with the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) Institute of Global Affairs. The event was attended by a small diverse group of Turkey's prominent businesspeople and organisations, including company CEOs and heads of business associations. A range of speakers addressed the participants and examined the links between peace, stability and economic growth and what role the private sector can play in conflict resolution processes.

Participants heard from LSE's Mary Martin (Senior Research Fellow, LSE Ideas) and Vesna Bojicic-Dzelilovic (Senior Research Fellow Department of International Relations), Dan O'Brien, Chief Economist at the Institute of International and European Affairs, Dermot Ahern, former Irish Minister



Participants during discussion.

of Foreign Affairs, Dr Esmond Birnie, Senior Economist at the Centre for Economic Policy at Ulster University, Prof. Erik Berglöf, inaugural Director of the Institute of Global Affairs, LSE. They focused on modern ways in which the private sector can be positively engaged in conflict resolution, the connections between peace, stability and economic growth, and the example of Northern Ireland as a case study country, among other ideas. Dr Esmond Birnie questioned the perceived causation from economic growth to peace, showing that prosperity and political stability had a mixed correlation in Northern Ireland.

This Roundtable proved a timely opportunity for a diverse group from across Turkey's private sector to come together and to reflect on their role as businesspeople in the light of international experiences.

ROUNDTABLE

Strategy Meeting, Ljubljana, 20-23 June 2019

In June DPI delivered a roundtable meeting held in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The aim of the roundtable was to discuss the current situation in Turkey and to assess how this may impact the work of DPI. The two guest expert speakers presented their assessment on political developments and their impact on possible future conflict resolution in Turkey. Participants heard from two perspectives: the Turkish perspective from a political commentator and journalist and the Kurdish perspective from a Professor of Law at University of Dicle in Diyarbakır.



ROUNDTABLE

Lessons Learned from WPC Experience: Opportunities and Challenges

Brussels, 9-12 July 2019



Kadir Inanir and Roland Salvisburg (Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs) during discussion on lessons learned from the WPC experience.



Ayşegül Doğan, Mehmet Emin Ekmen, Kezban Hatemi, Vahap Coşkun.

On 9-12 July 2019, DPI held a roundtable meeting in Brussels with former members of Turkey's Wise Persons' Committee (WPC). The meeting examined the key lessons that learnt from the experiences gained as part of the WPC, as well as looking ahead to the potential challenges and opportunities for a possible future resumption of the resolution process.

Participants included intellectuals and public figures from a range of political and professional backgrounds, all of whom either hailing from or having specific knowledge and connections to different regions in Turkey.

On the first day, Mihaela Matei, European External Action Service, outlined the multi-tack



Participants during the Roundtable

approach to peace and resolution processes employed by the EU. Discussion during the morning session of Wednesday 10th July also involved EU representatives Eva Horelova, Head of Political Section, Delegation of the European Union to Turkey, Ankara; Bernard Brunet, Head of Unit, Relations with Turkey, European Commission and James Rizzo, Policy Officer, Relations with Turkey, European Commission. Interactions among participants and our EU guests proved to be very fruitful with frank and open discussions on the impact the EU has had with its approach to conflict resolution. The afternoon of Wednesday 10 July and Thursday 11 July saw the participants focus on Turkey itself. Participants explored what a path for peace would require in Turkey and discussed with each other some of their ideas to contribute to a potential future resolution process.

ROUNDTABLE

Emerging New Actors in the Face of Shifting Political Dynamics, and Implications for DPI's Future Work

London, 31 August-2 September 2019

A small roundtable meeting took place from 31 August – 2 September 2019 in London attended by a former member of the Wise People Committee and a senior adviser to the Prime Minister of Turkey; two former AK Party politicians and Member of Parliament; and a former Ambassador of Turkey. Participants reflected on the Turkish solution process, particularly in the light of their own experiences and contributions as members of the Wise People Committee and as politicians. Participants also considered how lessons learnt from past experiences can be applied when evaluating the current “parked” situation in the country and considering what can be done now to support continuing dialogue and promote conflict resolution and democratization in Turkey.

ROUNDTABLE

Review of 2019 Tirana, 25-27 November 2019

The roundtable brought together recurring participants from Turkey, which included academics, actors, journalists, politicians, as well as DPI's Chair and Council of Expert members. Representatives from the EU Delegation and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs were also present. Participants engaged with representatives to discuss developments in Turkey, and their possible impact on democratisation and the resumption of the resolution process.

Participants emphasised the importance of DPI as the only NGO that continues to work on the resolution process in Turkey. The need for regular engagement and dialogue amongst both repeat and new participants was stressed, in order to provide continuity, consistency and trust building. Additionally, both participants and some funders reflected on the usefulness and importance of group discussion as well as side meetings in our peacebuilding work.

The roundtable explored how the situation in Turkey has regressed, for both democracy and the resolution process, and noted the increase in authoritarianism. The economic crisis was identified as a key element influencing the developments in Turkey. Discussions also noted that improvements to the economy would lead to enhancements in democratic reforms. Conversely, discussions anticipated that 2020 could see a new political landscape emerging due to the formation of new



Participants reflecting on the current situation in Turkey during the meeting in Tirana.

parties. New dynamism in the political sphere could lead to different opportunities and actors for DPI to engage with. The participants also spoke about shifts within the ruling party itself.

During an insightful evaluation session, participants further assessed the situation in Turkey and put forward their ideas to contribute to a potential future resolution process. Increased communication with the opposition and understanding of their internal dynamics should be part of the agenda. A participant stated that despite CHP opposing the peace process in the past, if there is a new agenda in place, CHP could support the process. Therefore, it is important to evaluate the role of CHP and its capacity in a possible resumption of the peace process and to also ensure that all parties are incorporated.

Participants gave suggestions to hold meetings in the Kurdish

region in the upcoming year. This would help DPI better understand HDP's future agenda and perspective in Turkey and the region. An additional recommendation for future events was the topic of decentralisation and how we can learn from other cases. Included in the discussions was also the important role of media and the promotion of peace language. Some suggested that this could be supported through films that promote peace.

ROUNDTABLE

Emerging New Actors in the Face of Shifting Political Dynamics and Implications for DPI's Future Work

London, 20th December 2019

On 19 – 20 December, a roundtable brought together participants from Turkey, including journalists and members of the Wise Person's Committee. Participants shared their high-level expertise on a range of themes.

The discussion took a multifocal approach and participants individually analysed the political situation within Turkey: the dynamics that are specific to Turkey; the changing international and regional dynamics; and the growing global shift towards populism and right-wing politics were among the topics discussed. Participants highlighted the importance of assessing Turkey within this context, as it is one of the defining reasons behind Turkey's current changing internal and international policies. The 15 July 2016 coup d'état attempt in Turkey was considered as the beginning

of the state's isolation policy, and it was highlighted that the isolation policy / discourse derives from the "continuous external threat", which has resulted in the nationalisation of the political sphere: a shift from pluralism to majority politics. Today's political sphere in Turkey is one of competing majorities.

Participants also discussed the emergence of new political actors and parties in Turkey, and it was noted that the emergence of the new parties is a positive shift for pluralism, especially for the centre right. The presence of these new parties at the centre right is expected to trigger a debate on conservatism and may redefine it. Participants also delved into the topic of interparty alliances and their potential to shift the majority that the ruling party commands. Related to this came the question of potential revisions of the constitutional system and the implications that will arise as a result, both internally and externally, including EU relations, the Eastern Mediterranean and the recent Syrian operation. Additionally, the Kurdish issue and the role of pro-Kurdish HDP in this changing political set-up was addressed by participants. As one of the dominant forces within Turkey's political sphere, HDP's relations with the opposition and the newly emerging parties, will pave the way for the future politics of the country.

It was concluded that DPI's work is needed more than ever before. DPI should reach out to existing and new participants which would include representatives of emerging parties, the ruling party and other sectors such as the civil society, policymakers and private sector. Reaching out to wider and new audiences will ensure that DPI's successful work continues.

Comparative Study Visits

Youth Engagement in Conflict Resolution Processes

London & Cardiff, 3-7 March

On 3-7 March DPI carried a youth engagement CSV entitled 'Youth Engagement in Conflict Resolution Processes'. A group of Turkish youth, aged 18-35, came from all strata of professional and political society from across Turkish society comprising political party's youth representatives, civil society workers, high school and university students, journalists and civil servants. The programme was designed to expose participants to cases of meaningful youth involvement in conflict resolution.



The youth delegation at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



The youth delegation with John Griffiths of Welsh Labour.



In London, participants were welcomed into the Foreign & Commonwealth Office where they had the opportunity to discuss the devolution power-sharing structure within the UK, the Wales case and the burgeoning Youth, Peace and Security programme which is feeding directly from the UN SCR 2250.

The youth group then moved on to Cardiff, and we delved deeper into the Welsh example of devolution. Dr Daryl Leeworthy, a historian and author, Meirion Prys Jones, former Chief Executive of the Welsh Language Board and Elin Haf Gruffydd Jones, Co-Director of the Mercator Institute, Urdd representatives, Assembly members Dr Dai Lloyd of Plaid Cymru and John Griffiths of Welsh Labour, shared their knowledge and first-hand experiences of the historical context of devolution in Wales, the role of language in conflict resolution, the recent establishment of a youth parliament and the ways in which young people from Wales can become involved in spreading messages of peace and harmony in conflict-affected areas.

By studying the Welsh case comparatively, DPI's youth group focused on the role of young people in bringing about the power-sharing and language structures in place in Wales today as well as looking at the impact that UN SCR 2250 is having on the field of conflict resolution throughout the world.

Participant feedback has been very positive with clear calls for DPI's youth programme to continue so that the dialogue and discussions can develop through future activities with their involvement. In this way, we can help broaden the bases for dialogue and prepare the groundwork for any future resolution process in Turkey.

Bringing a Process Back on Track: Lessons Learned from the South Africa Experience

9- 16 June, Johannesburg, Pretoria and Cape Town



Journalist Ayşegül Doğan during a session in South Africa.



Kerim Yıldız and Roelf Meyer, the chief negotiator for the National Party in the South African peace process and member of DPI's Council of Experts, describing the conditions that enabled the process of negotiations to begin in the South African peace process.



Kadir İnanır and journalist Nagehan Alçı during discussion in South Africa on the architecture of the South African peace process.

Between 9 - 16 June 2019, DPI carried out a comparative study visit (CSV) in partnership with South African-based organisation In Transformation Initiative (ITI) on the theme “Bringing a process back on track: Lessons Learned from the South Africa experience”.

The purpose of the visit was to provide a diverse group of influencers from Turkey with the opportunity to learn from the experiences of the negotiations to end Apartheid in South Africa. The study visit, which took the participants to Johannesburg, Pretoria and Cape Town, provided access to key protagonists of the period leading up to the negotiations, the negotiations themselves and the resulting state of post-apartheid South Africa.

Participants were hosted by ITI Directors Roelf Meyer, former Chief Negotiator for the government; Mohammed Bhabha, ANC negotiator and former Member of Parliament; ANC's Ebrahim Ebrahim, former Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation; and Ivor Jenkins, former Managing Director, The Institute for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa. Other speakers that addressed the group to share their experiences included Former Minister of Safety and Security Sydney Mufamadi; journalists Peter Fabricius and Liesl Louw-Vaudran; former Research and Analysis Manager Nel Marais of the South African Secret Service; Dr Michael Sutcliff, former Chair of the



The delegation at the Robben Island Museum.

Municipal Demarcation Board; Mathews Phosa, former Premier of Mpumalanga and former Member, National Executive Committee, African National Congress; High Court of South Africa judge Jody Kollapen; former Executive Director of the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, Fanie du Toit; Kraai van Niekerk, former Minister of Agriculture; Yunus Carrim, former Deputy Minister of Communications; former judge on the Constitutional Court of South Africa, Albie Sachs; and former Deputy Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development, Johnny de Lange. During a visit to Robben Island the group was accompanied by former political prisoner Ebrahim Ebrahim. Participants were also hosted by Elif Çomoğlu Ulgen, the Turkish Ambassador to South Africa for a lunch at her residence in Pretoria.

Discussion focused on conditions that enable negotiations to begin - dubbed ‘talks before talks’, the architecture of the South African peace process and the role of media and security structures in the peace process. A focus was given to the breakdown period and subsequent resumption of the negotiations between the African National Congress and the National Party in order to learn some lessons about keeping the process going during difficult times. Eventually, constitution as individual rights safeguards and Truth and Reconciliation commission were part of the discussion.

The experiences shared with the group led to insightful lessons being learnt and a deeper understanding of conflict resolution processes being forged.



Mohammed Bhabha, ANC negotiator at the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) discusses the process of negotiations during the South African peace process.



Ali Bayramoğlu, Ufuk Uras and Oral Çalışlar in South Africa during discussion on the role of security structures during the negotiation period.

Women in Conflict Resolution, London, 28-31 August

As part of DPI's focus on sustaining dialogue and maintaining efforts to build peace, even in the most challenging times, we organised a Comparative Study Visit (CSV) to London during 29-31 August with a focus on the role of women in conflict resolution.

In response to feedback from participants of previous DPI activities focusing on women's participation in conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and democratisation processes, this CSV provided a forum for participants to discuss this topic directly in relation to the situation in Turkey. The participants comprised a diverse group of women from Turkey and included academics, lawyers, journalists, politicians, and representatives of business and not-for-profit organisations.



Participants listening to a presentation at the Law Society from Zahbia Yousuf (Saferworld) on lessons from resolution processes, drawing on women's participation.



Participants heard from Dr Zahbia Yousuf, Senior Research Advisor at Saferworld, who discussed the lessons to be drawn from women's participation in resolution processes, looking specifically at the examples of Northern Ireland and Colombia. A lively Q&A session allowed participants to consider the key lessons from the two case studies such as creating the conditions for peace; coalition-building; links between civil society and women negotiators; and the use of international frameworks and standards.

The delegation during the session held at the Law Society, London.



The women's delegation during the CSV held at the Law Society, London.



The delegation during discussion.

The second presentation to the group was from Annika Schabbauer, Director of the Sweden-based organisation Operation 1325, an umbrella group of seven organisations, which works to raise awareness of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security. The presentation focused on Uganda and South Africa and analysed how women who were living in rural areas organised for disarmament to be implemented and the role that women combatants in northern Uganda played in protecting their communities.



Annika Schabbauer, Director of the Sweden-based organisation Operation 1325, delivering a presentation on women's participation in the Ugandan and South African peace processes.

The CSV provided participants with an opportunity to discuss the role of women in conflict resolution in Turkey, notably during a session introduced by Dr Esra Elmas, DPI's head of the Turkey Programme, and moderated by Dr Edel Hughes, Senior Lecturer in Law at Middlesex University London. The group discussed whether women have the power to re-invigorate the process unilaterally. Discussions focused then on the approach taken to the previous processes and lessons to be learned from them, as well as on the imperative now for a sustainable ceasefire.

Religious Leaders, Dublin & Belfast, 3-8 September



Áine Hearn, Director, Conflict Resolution Unit, welcomes the delegation to the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



Between 3-8 of September 2019, DPI carried out a comparative study visit (CSV) in conjunction with The School of Religion, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland. This CSV discussed for the first time the role of religious leaders in peace and reconciliation. The CSV brought together a group of diverse religious figures from Alawite, Muslim, Orthodox, Christian, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish communities, including academics, theologians, journalists and civil servants, in order to learn from the religious leaders' role in peace and reconciliation, using the Northern Ireland case. The main focus was to create a foundation for future work and activities on this subject.

In Dublin, participants heard from Prof Fainche Ryan, Áine Hearn, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Director of Conflict Resolution Unit, Prof Linda Hogan, Professor of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin, included Rev Dr Johnston McMaster, Member of the Council of State of the President; Dr John McDowell, Anglican Bishop of Clogher; Fr Michael Kelleher, former Provincial of the Redemptorists, Ireland; and Prof Andrew Pierce, Acting Head of Discipline of Religious Studies, School of Religion, Trinity College Dublin. They focused on the key theme of the CSV: the role of religious leaders in peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. Participants also met with Dermot Ahern,



Prof. Linda Hogan, Professor of Ecumenics and Former Vice Provost/ Chief Academic Officer, Trinity College Dublin, discussing the Role of Religious Leaders in Peace and Reconciliation.



former Minister of Foreign Affairs as well as former Minister for Justice, in Dundalk, where he gave a clear presentation on the role of religious figures during negotiations. During the meeting, the role of the European Union in Northern Ireland was also examined.

In Belfast, participants heard from Irish School of Ecumenics at Trinity College Belfast, Rev Alex Wimberly, leader of Corrymeela, Northern Ireland's oldest peace and reconciliation organisation, Rev Glenn Jordan, Theologian and Programme Manager, Bishop Trevor Williams, former Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe, Rev Cheryl Meban, Presbyterian Chaplain at Ulster University, Fr Gary Donegan, former Rector of the Holy Cross Church in Ardoyne, former political prisoners from both Unionist and Republican sides. Important topics were discussed, such as the Good Friday Agreement and the challenges currently faced in the implementation of the agreement, how an organisation like Corrymeela can bring together people of different religions in Northern Ireland and how women are often marginalised by religious institutions.

This was the first meeting centered on the role of religious leaders in peace and reconciliation organised by DPI with future activities forthcoming to build upon the discussions and themes of this visit.

DPI was hosted by the Irish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Role of Media in Conflict Resolution: Reflections on Turkey's Resolution Process

Istanbul, 24-26 September 2019

On 25 September 2019, a reverse Comparative Study Visit meeting was held in Istanbul with a group of diverse, committed and influential journalists, columnists and broadcasters from across Turkey's media spectrum. As part of DPI's long-running series of meetings exploring the media's role in conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and democratisation processes, the reverse CSV provided a forum for participants to discuss this topic directly in relation to the situation in Turkey. Participants were given the opportunity to engage with an expert who examined how strategic communication through the media is changing in the digital age through the rise of disinformation and new media platforms. The group engaged in open and frank discussion about past experiences and current possibilities as well as exploring commonalities as the basis for identifying concrete opportunities to work together to strengthen the media's role in conflict resolution in Turkey.

Dr Tom Colley, King's College London, delivered a presentation on 'Strategic Communication in Conflict Resolution: disinformation and social media' in which he examined how strategic communication through the media is changing in the digital age with the rise of disinformation and new media platforms. The benefits and challenges of social media were examined, and outlining the ability for these platforms to



Dr. Thomas Colley, Teaching Fellow at King's College London, delivering a presentation on how the use of misinformation and social media can shape conflict resolution and democratisation during the session in Istanbul.



The delegation in Istanbul.

further polarization as they are open for anyone to post or repost divisive content, yet also allow for more diverse discussion online compared to offline, albeit the majority of these interactions are negative. The challenge for media outlets therefore is to provide online environments which promote more civil interaction. The presentation also drew on the example of the media's coverage of Brexit negotiations in the UK to derive the lessons that can be learnt for conflict resolution. In relaying negotiation processes to the public, Dr Colley highlighted the media's responsibility to educate and enable people to understand the complex nature of such processes.

Participants shared their own testaments and discussed the collective lessons that could be learnt from the Turkish peace process. They noted that the opportunity for the media to report impartially and act as a third eye in the process was missed and the concept of being a journalist - of reporting properly rather than passively - must be upheld. Participants agreed that people's appetite for news and political engagement in Turkey is very high and they discussed ways in which both new and traditional media could take a more positive stance in a future resolution process and work towards defragmenting the current media landscape in Turkey.



The delegation during the session in Istanbul.

Youth Engagement in Conflict Resolution

Edinburgh, 9-13 December 2019

From Monday 9 December to Friday 13 December, DPI held a Comparative Study Visit as part of its youth engagement series. Bringing together a group of young participants from across Turkey's many constituencies, including political party youth representatives from AKP, CHP and HDP, civil society workers, social workers, university students, academics and people who work in the conflict resolution field, this CSV completed the series of CSVs which have explored the systems of devolution in operation across the UK by visiting Edinburgh in Scotland. Participants continued their engagement with important conflict resolution principles, including how young people themselves can meaningfully contribute to resolution processes, as well as exploring the unique power-sharing arrangement that's in place between Scotland and Westminster and the scrutiny it is currently facing with renewed discussion over the future status of Scotland.

Participants discussed the workings of devolution across the UK, the separation of foreign policy powers between Holyrood and Westminster and the management of this relationship – with a focus on the role that youth played in this process. They were provided with an overview of the history of Scotland's place in the Union, with particular focus placed on several aspects of Scottish identity that have remained distinct from the rest of the UK, such as the education system, the legal system and the religious system. They were also given the chance to understand the concrete functioning of devolution in Scotland and the day-to-day work of the Parliament.



Participants listen to presentations from the Political Settlements Research Programme in Edinburgh.



Members of Scottish Youth Parliament Ben McKendrick and Aaron McDonald shared their experiences of working for the SYP.



The youth delegation during the session in Edinburgh.



The youth delegation with Nick Leake, Deputy Director of Policy, Scotland Office.

The CSV included an interactive session on how to increase inclusion in the changing landscapes of peace process; the barriers facing inclusion of young people in such resolution processes; and inclusive mechanisms and ways of building bridges between formal tracks and grassroots and community-based levels. The discussions also delved into children rights, democracy and the importance of political impartiality. The topic of arts and culture and its ability to bring diverse groups of people together and engage them in conflict resolution themes was also a point of discussion. The Deputy Director of Policy, Scotland Office, met with the group to give them insight into the role of the Scotland Office in implementing the system of devolution and how best they can encourage collaborative working amongst the UK administrations.

Participants were also introduced to civil society organisations, and how they worked to promote peace and democratization, and the part that youth can play within that. This CSV gave participants the opportunity to engage in discussion with key actors in the Scottish devolution story - including Scottish and UK Government officials, Members of the Scottish Parliament, Scottish Youth Parliament representatives, academics and members of civil society. By studying the Scottish case comparatively, DPI's youth group focused on the role of young people in bringing about power-sharing as well as looking at the increasing engagement of young people in peace and democratisation processes. Participant feedback has been very positive with many remarking on the importance of being given the platform to interact over an extended period with such a diverse group of individuals.

Analysis and Assessment Meetings

Assessment Meeting, London, 8 March 2019

An internal strategy meeting was held on 8 March which saw the team evaluate the impact of DPI's work as well as continuing planning for 2019 activities. New DPI Council of Experts member and journalist Ayşegül Doğan also joined the meeting and provided a situational update from Turkey prior to the local elections on the 31 March.



The assessment meeting at DPI headquarters, London.



DPI staff with Council of Experts member Ayşegül Doğan during the meeting.

Post-Election Assessment Meeting, London, 25 April 2019

A post-election assessment meeting was held in London, which aimed to understand and assess the situation in the country, with consideration of the local elections, particularly about democratisation and resolution processes. This meeting provided an open forum for frank discussions with a diverse group of

speakers which included a representative from AKP, a political commentator, a journalist, an academic based in Turkey, representing a broad range of constituencies and perspectives. Among the participants attending the meeting were members of DPI's Board and Council of Experts, as well as

representatives from the EU, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, former Ambassador and policy makers.

The speakers provided their assessments of the current situation in Turkey following the local elections of 31 March 2019. They also discussed subsequent electoral developments, the economic situation, developments in foreign policy and international relations. With these topics in mind, the speakers and participants also spoke of the challenges, as well as new political actors and opportunities for promoting democratisation and conflict resolution. Participants had the opportunity to engage in discussions following presentations.



Kerim Yıldız, Dermot Ahern, Sir David Logan and Galip Dalay at DPI headquarters, London.

Assessment Meeting, London, 26-28 August 2019

Two of DPI's Turkey-based advisers were in London from 26-28 August and came to the DPI office to provide staff and a small number of DPI's UK-based advisers with their assessment of the current situation in Turkey, particularly in light of the recent news that three Mayors in Eastern Turkey had been removed from office. In addition, the speakers gave their thoughts on the prospects for the possible resumption of the resolution process in the future.

BOARD MEMBERS

Kerim Yildiz _ Chief Executive Officer



Kerim 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. Kerim 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. Kerim is also a recipient of the 2011 Gruber Prize for Justice. He has extensive experience in human rights and actively works to raise awareness on human rights violations worldwide assisting with many cases to the European Court of Human Rights, conducting training seminars in Europe and the Middle East, and regularly contributing to seminars and conferences.

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. He has also been presented with the Honor Prize from the Student Foundation at the University Of Oslo, Legal Academy, for his work within the field of protection of Human Rights standards. He is also a former leader of the disciplinary Board in Oslo branch of the National Bar Association and also the former chair of the National Bar Association Legal Committee.

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.

Antonia Potter Prentice



Antonia Potter Prentice is currently the Director of Alliance 2015 – a global network of humanitarian and development organisations. Prentice has wide ranging 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 Director of ECRE, the European Council for Refugees and Exiles, a pan-European alliance of 104 NGOs which defend the rights of displaced persons in Europe and in European foreign policies. She previously worked as 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, 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



Prof. 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. Dr. 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. In April 2019 she was elected as a member of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO).

Prof. Dr. Mehmet Asutay



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



Ali Bayramoğlu 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.

Oral Çalışlar



Completed his studies at the Ankara University Faculty of Political Sciences. Was President of the Club of Socialist Thought at the university, as well as Secretary-General of the Ankara University Student Union. Wrote for Türk Solu journal which was launched in 1967 and for the Aydınlık journal which was launched in 1968. Was member of the editorial board of Aydınlık journal. Was arrested after the 12th of March 1971 military coup. Remained imprisoned for three years until the Amnesty law adopted in 1974. Was Editor in Chief for the Aydınlık daily newspaper launched in 1978. Was arrested again after the 12th of September 1980 military coup and released in August 1988 after four years in prison. Lived in Hamburg between 1990 and 1992 upon the invitation of the Senate of Hamburg. Worked for Cumhuriyet daily between 1992 and 2008. Broadcast television programmes on different channels, including TRT, 24TV, 360, and SKYTÜRK. Transferred from Cumhuriyet daily to Radikal daily in 2008. Became Editor in Chief for Taraf daily in 2013. Was part of the Wise People Committee in the same year. Later had to leave Taraf daily alongside Halil Berktaş, Alper Görmüş, Vahap Coşkun, Erol Katırcıoğlu, Mithat Sancar, and Yıldırım Oğur, among others, after the intervention of the Gülen Congregation. Returned to Radikal daily. Started writing for Posta daily after 2016, when Radikal was discontinued. Continues work as a commentator on TV news channels. Has 20 published books, including The Leaders' Prison, Hz. Ali, Mamak Prison from the 12th of March to 12th of September, The Kurdish Issue with Öcalan and Burkay, My 68 Memoirs, The Alevis, When Deniz and Friends Were Executed, My Childhood in Tarsus, The History of Gulenism. Recipient of a large number of journalism and research awards.

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 an expert on the Middle East and former war correspondent. He served as special adviser to former Turkish president Turgut Ozal. Cengiz Çandar is a Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the Stockholm University Institute for Turkish Studies (SUIITS).

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 in London.

Dr. Vahap Coşkun



Vahap Coşkun was born in 1973, Diyarbakır, Turkey. He graduated in 1996 from the School of Law at Dicle University. He completed his Masters (L.L.M) in 2001 at Social Science Institute in Dicle University. He completed his Ph.D in 2007 at Social Science Institute in Ankara University. He still carries out academic research at the School of Law, Dicle University. Some of his publications include:

- Human Rights: A Liberal Analysis (2007)
- The Transformation of Nation-State and The Question of Legitimacy (2009)
- The Building of Social Peace: Quest of Civil Constitution (Editor) (2010)
- The Scar of Tongue: Consequences of the Ban on the Use of Mother Tongue in Education and Experiences of Kurdish Students in Turkey (2010; a collaborative study with Şerfi Derince and Nesrin Uçarlar)
- Human Rights and the Process of Democratization (2012, a collaborative study)
- Constitutional Dimension of Kurdish Question (2013).

Coşkun has nationally and internationally published and presented essays in the field human rights, the Kurdish Question, liberalism, and political science.

Ayşegül Doğan



Ayşegül Doğan 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.

Vegard Ellefsen



Vegard Ellefsen is a Norwegian diplomat who retired 31 August 2019 from the foreign service when he left his last posting as ambassador to Ankara. He has been twice posted to NATO both as Permanent representative on the North Atlantic Council and deputy to the same position. He has earlier been posted to the Norwegian mission to the U.N. in New York and to the Embassy in Ottawa. In the Norwegian Ministry of foreign affairs he has been Political Director, Director General for the Regional division, Director of the Minister’s secretariat and special envoy to the Sudan peace talks and special envoy to Syria and Iraq. Mr. Ellefsen has a master’s in political science from the University of Oslo.

Prof. Dr. Fazıl Hüsnü Erdem



Prof. Dr. Fazıl Hüsnü Erdem was born in 1964 in Karakokan district of Elazig. He completed his undergraduate studies at Ankara University Faculty of Law. He started working as a research assistant at Dicle University Faculty of Law. He is currently a faculty member in the Department of Constitutional Law at the same faculty. He has published two books titled “Constitutions and Constitutional Proposals of the Republic of Turkey” (together with Yunus Heper) and “Analysis of the 1982 Constitution” and numerous published articles on constitutional law, human rights law and political science. In 2007, he was part of a six-member commission of academics who drafted the “Draft Civil Constitution” which was presented to the public. In 2013, he took part in the “Wise People Delegation Southeast Group”. He is one of the founding members of the “Diyarbakir History, Culture and Tourism Association” and “Diyarbakir Institute for Political and Social Research”. He is also part of the DPI Committee of Experts. He is married with three children and speaks English.

Prof. Dr. Salomón Lerner Febres



Salomon Lerner Febres is Docteur en philosophie by the Université Catholique de Louvain and BA in Law by the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (PUCP) School of Law. He has been the Rector (President) of the PUCP since 1994 to 2004. Currently, he is Rector Emeritus and President emeritus of the Institute for Democracy and Human Rights of the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (IDEHPUCP); and Professor of Philosophy, Education, Ethics and Methodology of the same university. Furthermore, he is the Chairman of the Board of the Peruvian Film Institute and the President of the Lima Philharmonic Society. Also, doctor Lerner has been the President of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Peru (2001-2003) and he is the author of several publications linked to human rights issues and some articles and essays on philosophy, high education, globalization and government.

Prof. Mervyn Frost



Mervyn Frost is Professor of International Relations in the Department of War Studies at King’s College, London and is an Associate Professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Johannesburg in South Africa. In 2019 he spent three months as the Distinguished Visiting Professor of International Ethics at the University of New South Wales in Canberra, Australia and at the Australian Defence Force Academy. He has written extensively on ethics and international relations. His recent work, with Dr Silviya Lechner, is focused on the “practice turn” in International Relations resulting in two publications: “Two Conceptions of International Practice: Aristotelian praxis or Wittgensteinian language-games?” Review of International Studies Volume 42 / Issue 02 / April 2016, pp 334 – 350. “Understanding international relations from the internal point of view” July 2015, Journal of International Political Theory. p. 1-21. Their co-authored book, Practice Theory and International Relations, was published by CUP in September 2018. His earlier books include Ethics and International Relations (CUP, 1996), Human Rights in a World of States (Routledge, 2002); Global Ethics (Routledge, 2009); and an edited 4 volume reference work International Ethics (Sage 2012).

David Gorman



David has more than 25 years of experience in the field of peacemaking. He started his career in the Middle East and he went on to work for international organisations on a wide range of conflicts around the world. David has been based in the Philippines, Indonesia, Liberia, Bosnia as well as the West Bank and Gaza and has been working in Eurasia for the last several years. He graduated from the London School of Economics, was featured in the award winning film ‘Miles and War’ as well as several publications and has published several articles on mediation.

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 received her bachelor's degree in Law from Istanbul University Faculty of Law. She, as a registered lawyer to the Istanbul Bar Association, started to work as a self-employed lawyer. She has published several articles in the field of law. Her areas of interests are human rights, women's rights, minority rights, children's rights, animal rights and the fight against drugs. She participated in various conferences and symposiums on these subjects. Moreover, she has been participating in various national and international conferences and symposiums as a speaker regarding Turkey's democratization, women's rights, and the Turkey's main problem Kurdish issue. She was involved in drafting the Turkish Civil Code and Law of Foundations. She was particularly involved in preparing the legal groundwork for the Christian and Jewish Community problems, Community Foundations and its problems. She submitted individual reports. She was involved in drafting Religious Freedoms and Minorities and Community Foundations within the Framework Law of Harmonization prepared by Turkey alongside with Secretariat General for European Union Affairs and European Union Commission Turkey Desk. She sits on the Board of Trustees of the Technical University and the Darulacaze Foundation. In 1995, she joined "Humanity Initiative for Bosnia" and after her

return from Bosnia she participated in various conferences and symposiums as a speaker in order to keep the problem on the agenda and speed up the aid process. She took an active role in aid campaigns for Bosnia. In Turkey National Commission for UNESCO's XXIII term, she worked as the vice president in the Specialized Dialogue Committee on Dialogue of Civilizations studies. She was appointed as the deputy president of the former Turkey Wise Persons Committee Southeast Group, which was one of the important mechanisms established in order to achieve a lasting peace in the democratization and solution process. She is a member of Democratic Progress Institute's Council of Experts and she is the president of the Democracy Platform.

Dr. Edel Hughes



Dr. Edel Hughes is a Lecturer in Law at Galway University. Prior to joining Galway University, Dr. Hughes was a Senior Lecturer in Law at Middlesex University, as well as 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, İletişim, 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.

Aleka Kessler



Aleka Kessler works as Project Officer at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD). Having joined HD in 2017 to work on Syria, Aleka has been coordinating mediation project in complex conflict settings. Previously, Aleka also worked with Médecins Sans Frontières and the United Nations Association Mexico. She holds a degree in International Relations from the University of Geneva and a Master's degree in Development Studies from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, where she specialized in humanitarian affairs, negotiation and conflict resolution.

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, 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 Diyarbakır 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 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.

Prof. 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. His books include: 'Great Hatred, Little Room: Making Peace In Northern Ireland', 'The New Machiavelli, How to Wield Power in the Modern World' and 'Talking To Terrorists, How To End Armed Conflict'.

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



Prof. Dr. 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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