



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

- ✉ 11 Guilford Street, London WC1N 1DH
United Kingdom
- 🌐 democraticprogress.org
- ☎ +44 (0) 207 405 3835
- @ info@democraticprogress.org
- f DemocraticProgressInstitute
- 🐦 @DPI_UK

Registered charity no. 1037236 Registered company no. 2922108

All photos © Democratic Progress Institute

Design and layout: revangeldesigns.co.uk



Contents

6

Our Mission

8

Introduction

12

About DPI

20

Impact
Statement

24

Our
Programme
in 2020

- ACTIVITIES
- COMPARATIVE
STUDY VISITS

46

Monitoring
and
Evaluation
Meetings

48

Analysis
and
Assessment
Meetings

56

Board
Members

52

Assessment
and
Research
Reports
in 2020

78

Thank You

60

Council
of Experts

80

Get in
Touch



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



I am delighted to present the Democratic Progress Institute's (DPI) Annual Report for 2020.

Kerim Yildiz

Chief Executive Officer
Democratic Progress Institute

2020 has been a transformational year to every element of our shared global society. Whilst the long term impact of Covid-19 may not be fully realised for some time, the immediate economic, humanitarian, and political impacts are felt in the daily lives of many across Turkey and the Middle East region. Here at DPI, 2020 has been testament to the necessity for open and continuous dialogue in the face of challenging times.

More than any other, those who are left vulnerable through the instability of violence, human rights violations, and restrictions of freedoms have faced the impact of the global pandemic. DPI, as always, has been monitoring and publishing on the ongoing situation in Turkey and The Region where Covid-19 has been used to legitimise the restrictions of freedom of expression.

In the spring, two new political parties were formed. The ramifications of the impact of these parties will undoubtedly unfold in the 2023 or earlier elections. In the lead up to the elections, we can anticipate internal party politics and the formations of new relationships to be a core element of party politics in Turkey. As MHP continue to hold AK Party 'hostage', politics and the influence of the Kurdish minority as 'King-makers' will hold an increasing influence. On a legislative level, the lower courts have been applying the constitutional court rulings, and Turkey as a State has been ignoring the ruling of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). This in turn is impacting their relationship with the Council of Europe and indeed with states internationally, with regard to the Copenhagen principles.

Meanwhile, high levels of unemployment, particularly amongst youth, and a general economic downturn continue to afflict the Turkish economy. We are at a juncture at which the growing dissatisfaction with the government, driven by the deterioration of the economy, and reinforced by the government's handling of the pandemic will work against AK Party in the next election. The government, therefore, is looking more strategically at long term voter incentives.

In light of the Covid-19 pandemic and the unique and multi-faceted challenges it has presented globally, DPI recognised the importance in finding innovative ways to utilise technology and understand the challenges and openings that Covid-19 offers in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Like many others, 2020 has forced DPI to take risks, which has ultimately gained a new momentum in dialogue on the peace process in Turkey. From March onwards, all events moved online. For an organisation such as ours, which understands the importance of interpersonal relationships in the formation of trust, I must admit we all held our breath in March. However, aside from the occasional technical hitch I am pleased to say that the DPI team has overcome the challenges of COVID-19 and have in fact expanded our platforms.

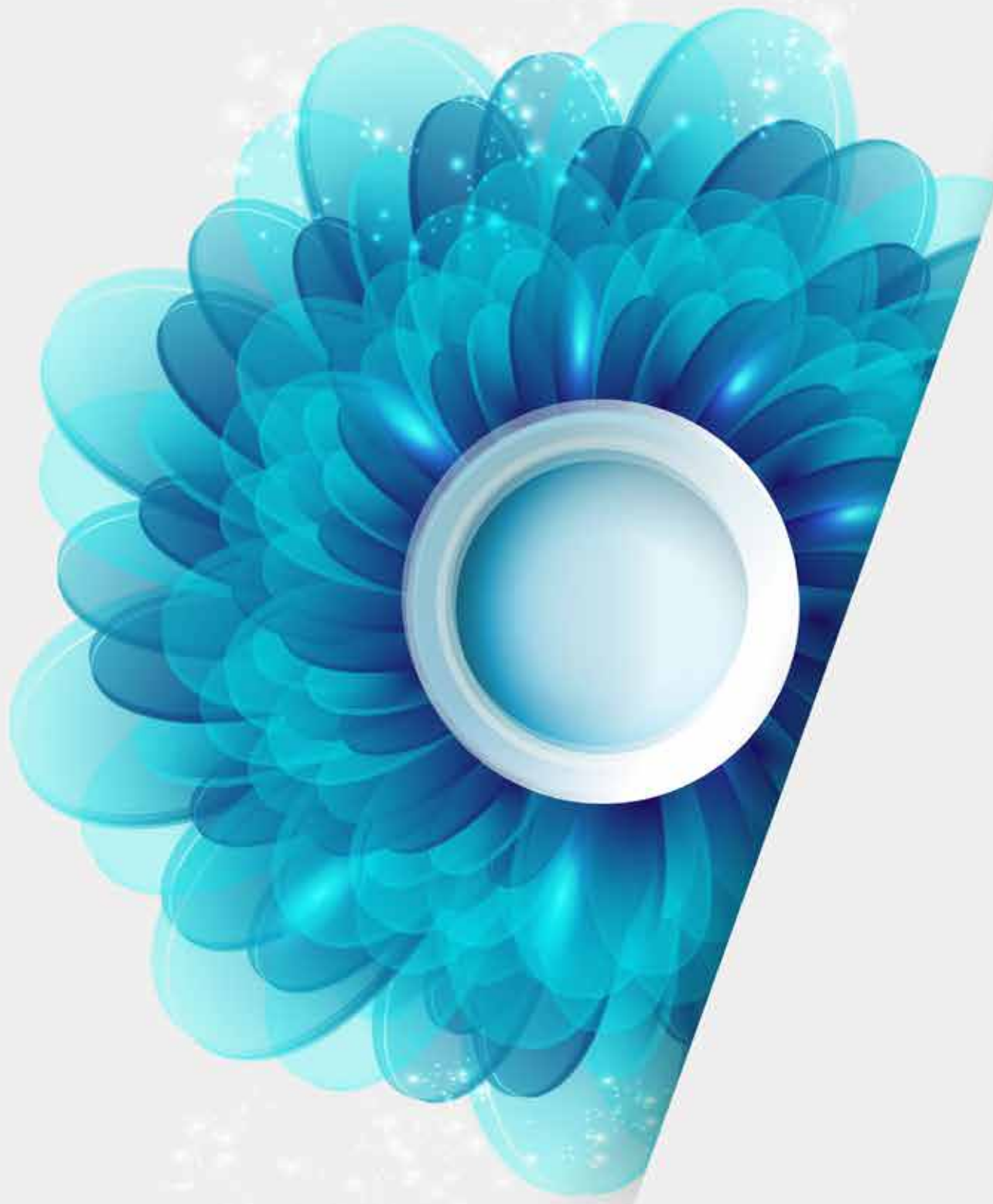
Over the last year, DPI has held a roundtable series titled "Supporting inclusive dialogue at a challenging time in Turkey." This brought together significant political party leaders in Turkey to discuss the ongoing

political situation in the country. Additionally, we have been able to engage local governments, and have provided participants with a more cohesive understanding and raised awareness of peace processes amongst key stakeholders, with a focus towards politics, the economy and foreign affairs.

Our events have facilitated dialogue between a significant number of key players, including academics, researchers, and policymakers, to journalists, civil society actors, and business actors, through our virtual Roundtables (RT) and Comparative Study Visits (CSV) events.

Indeed, DPI has an exciting and full agenda planned to continue our project throughout 2021. As the Covid-19 pandemic continues to impact the world, it is important now, more than ever, to ensure the continuation of dialogue on important conflict resolution themes.

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 also like to express gratitude to 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, vital for furthering peace and democracy. We look forward to seeing you in 2021 and in a time when we once again may meet in person, to pursue the path for peace.



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 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 come together to advance democracy. At every level of our work 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 can extend invitations to senior political figures from all major political parties in Turkey, 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 encapsulate 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 and 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 2020, 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.

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 to 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.

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 consume, places focus on the role of the media for conflict and peace-building; 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 out work and expand our reach and breadth.

Transitional Justice

The role that transitional justice plays in conflict and post conflict space is that it provides relief for victims and a pathway for attaining reconciliation. 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. DPI is committed to processes of creating, strengthening and sustaining democracy. 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 2020, we are proud to have continued to facilitate inclusive dialogue processes through such extraordinary times. Individuals from a diverse set of political backgrounds came together to share their perspectives and experiences. In 2020, DPI provided policy makers, academics, researchers, journalists, civil society actors, officials and business actors with a platform to engage in discussions about peace processes from around the world, and lessons learned on behalf of the Turkish peace process, its trajectory, and future developments within Turkey. We achieved this through our 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.

At the start of 2020, prior to travel restrictions being imposed, DPI was able to hold some events in London and Istanbul. Participants of these events were able to draw upon international experiences of conflict resolution through in-person sessions.

“Back in Turkey I wouldn’t even be able to have a cup of tea with him, but it was so impressive to see that, despite our differences, we have many things in common. I would like to thank DPI for giving us the opportunity to meet with each other” (CSV Participant, 2020)

Significantly, in 2020 DPI brought to the table the major political party leaders as well as local mayors and officials to discuss the importance of maintaining dialogue in difficult times. This facilitated conversation on the role of the peace process in the economic and social recovery of the country from the pandemic.

“I’ve been working in this field for thirty years, and I learnt a significant amount as a result of the quality of the attendees selected by DPI”
(Mediation Expert, June 2020)

“I will write about this meeting in my paper and share the outcomes with my journalist network”
(Media Representative, June 2020)

Such inclusivity of DPI meetings expands our outreach and broadens the bases for dialogue and engagement with the peace process. In 2021, we aim once again to bring a whole new set of participants to our meetings, increasing the public participation in these conversations of peace, and democracy.

In a similar vein to our conversations throughout 2020 looking at peace through the lens of challenging times, in 2021 DPI aims to look at peace through an economic lens. In 2021 DPI asks; What would peace look like in Turkey, and what would be the economic dividend of peace?

*““DPI is a kind of school for us.
We never see just one side of the story.
Their events allow us to talk to one
another in a safe space”
(Civil Society Representative, June 2020)*

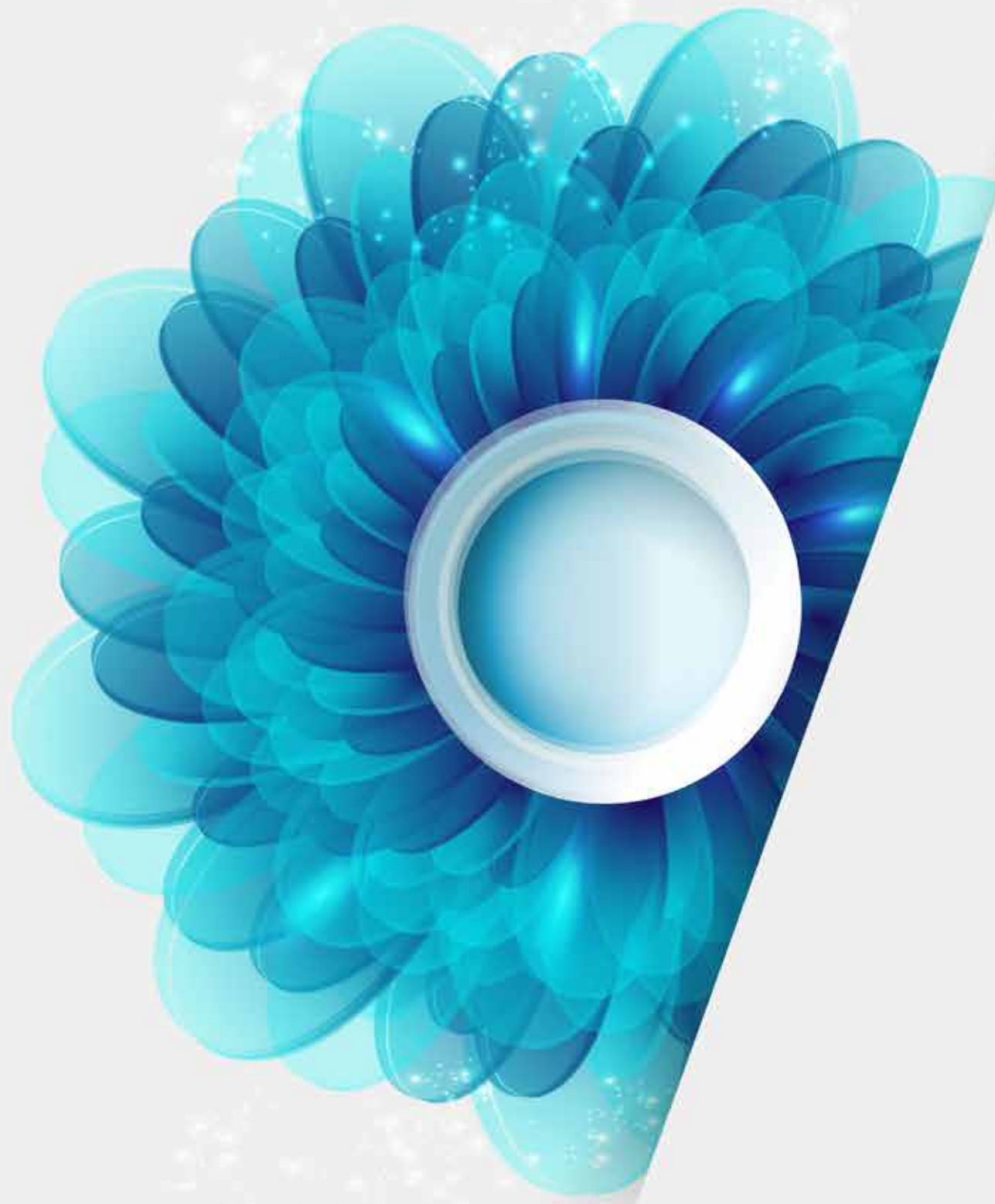
In 2020, DPI continued to make an impact within the region and ensure that dialogue on democratisation and conflict resolution continued. During 2020, individual and collective rights were restricted around the world due to health issues. DPI closely monitored the risks to democracy, rule of law, human rights, and freedom of expression in Turkey and the region. DPI were able to continue with their commitment to keep dialogue alive and provide a platform to discuss the possible solution of the conflict. 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, social, and economic standings.

*“As a member of the government I thought I would be judged at DPI’s meetings. I thought I would be criticised, but I was not. The meetings were immensely inclusive and made everyone feel welcome. Many of the negative prejudices I had about other participants were altered. One of them even let me have his notebook and pen!”
(Roundtable Participant, June 2020)*

*“DPI has a magic wand. To get these people with such differences together and for everyone to emerge having learnt something and respected the views of others is incredible”
(Political Party Representative, June 2020)*

DPI’s Comparative Study Visits have continued to draw the attention of participants towards parallels of the Turkish experience from around the world. Participants are encouraged to explore differences in experiences and perspectives, enhancing their understanding of conflict resolution. Comparisons can be identified within their own context, and the ways in which these learning can be applied to Turkey are explored.

The activities that DPI carries out reaches beyond the participants who immediately engage with our activities, as learnings are often shared on a national and international platform. In 2020, DPI distributed all research and briefing papers, assessments and activity reports to key stakeholders, and all of which are freely available on our website for public consumption. DPI’s Twitter and social media presence has grown, and further public visibility of our work in this area is a focus in 2021.



OUR PROGRAMME IN 2020

We aim to broaden
bases for involvement
in promoting public peace
and democracy.

Our unique model combines
expertise and research
with practical inclusive
platforms for dialogue.

ACTIVITIES

ROUNDTABLE

Youth Inclusion in Peace Processes, Istanbul, 14-16 February 2020

Between 14-16 February 2020, DPI held a Roundtable meeting in Istanbul with a group of diverse young people from across Turkey's many constituencies. Participants were given the opportunity to engage with two members of the former Wise Persons' Committee – Ali Bayramoglu, and Vahap Coskun.

The aim of this session was to give young people a chance to hear the first-hand accounts of those who were directly engaged in the Turkish resolution process. Both speakers gave an insightful overview of their WPC experience as well as sharing their subjective analyses of the process. The Roundtable also offered participants a chance to share their own personal experiences of the Turkish resolution process. In a valuable session, the group told their memories and testimonies linked to the conflict and peace process in Turkey and explained how this impacted their personal lives.

A great variety of stories were heard from the diverse group and ranged from those with vivid memories of an atmosphere of hopefulness at

the once-burgeoning peace process to those with next to no memory of any such process, just a sense of tension between different ethnic groups. This session served to further participants' understanding of the plurality of realities for young people growing up during the times of peace efforts in Turkey. Discussion amongst the group focused on the importance of using peaceful language, the need to engage wider audiences (particularly young people) more positively through social media platforms and for any future peace process to be inclusive of minority and marginalised groups across Turkey.



Participants during discussion in Istanbul,
16 February 2020.



The women's delegation listens to speakers Bronagh Hinds and Emma Pengelly-Little during the session in Istanbul, 29 February 2020.

ROUNDTABLE

Women's Contribution to Conflict Resolution, Istanbul, 29 February 2020

On 29 February, DPI held a Roundtable meeting in Istanbul with a diverse group of female participants from different regions and representing the broad spectrum of different political affiliations in Turkey.

The overall aim of the roundtable was to provide a much-needed safe space for female participants to reflect on and evaluate women's contributions to conflict resolution in Turkey to date, including successes as well as challenges and obstacles and how they have been addressed. Consideration of how lessons learnt from past experiences in Turkey can contribute positively to peaceful dialogue in difficult times was supported by input from international experts on women, peace and security from Northern Ireland who shared their own relevant experiences.

Speakers Bronagh Hinds and Emma Pengelly-Little gave a clear account of their experiences of women's participation in Northern Ireland, and their work after the peace process. Participants discussed the importance of reaching a consensus about what peace means to people from different groups, expressing how the lack of such a consensus was one of the reasons why the previous peace attempt in Turkey was disrupted.

Participants also spoke about the inadequate focus on commonalities in women's lived experiences and the lack of media representation of women during peace processes.

Participants expressed a keen interest in a cross-MENA network of women's organisations for support in addition to information sharing.

ROUNDTABLE

Peace and Technology, Online, 9 April 2020

On 9 April, the Democratic Progress Institute held what was the first in a new series of online events. With the increased use of and dependency on online platforms due to lockdown there seemed no better way to begin our online activities than with our first roundtable in a new series of events, focusing on the role of new technologies in peace processes. The group listened and engaged with an insightful presentation delivered by Dr Emre Korkmaz from the University of Oxford and Centre for Technology and Global

Affairs. Dr Emre discussed the different ways in which technology can contribute to peace and democratisation, including the opportunities and challenges that surround utilising emerging technologies in a way that optimises the allocation of scarce resources, connects people and groups across borders, and helps relocate power from corporations and states to communities and individuals. This roundtable also considered how young people, as the primary users of new technology, are best placed to take advantage of the opportunities provided by new technologies and help break down the barriers to youth inclusion in conflict resolution processes.



Dr Emre Korkmaz delivers his presentation during DPI's first online meeting, 9 April 2020.

Participants engage in the lively Q and A session.



Pat Hynes, Glencree Centre for Peace & Reconciliation, Ireland, discussing the multitude of roles that civil society has played in Northern Ireland at different times, 17 April 2020.

ROUNDTABLE

Civil Society's Role in Keeping Dialogue Alive, Online, 17 April 2020

DPI held an online roundtable on 17 April entitled 'Civil Society Actors in Turkey: Keeping the Dialogue Alive During Challenging Times'.

Participants focused on the distinctive and various roles that civil society has played in Northern Ireland during difficult times. The group listened to an insightful presentation delivered by Pat Hynes, from Glencree Centre for Peace & Reconciliation, Ireland. The speaker highlighted the important role that civil society can play in conflict resolution, including facilitating highly confidential dialogue, mediation and disarmament.

Participants discussed the role that civil society presently plays in Turkey, as well as the challenges that it faces and potential openings during the Covid-19 pandemic. Participants noted some of the difficulties civil society actors face due to centralisation and polarisation, resulting in a shrinking civil society in Turkey. Prof Vahap Coşkun provided insightful closing remarks on the topic of civil society in Turkey. Despite the many setbacks, participants were reminded of the importance of maintaining dialogue at every level. Civil society can build bridges between opposing groups and has the capacity to bring people together during a time of crisis; the current pandemic could therefore provide an opportunity for civil society to become more engaged and revive its position in Turkey.

ROUNDTABLE

Current Situation in Turkey: Government Perspective and Future Vision With Cevdet Yilmaz, MP, Deputy Chair of AK Party,

Online, 27th April 2020

On 27 April DPI held the first of its political series with Cevdet Yilmaz, who gave an overview of the recent developments in Turkey and the government's policies taken to address Covid-19. Discussion also examined local authorities, particularly the opposition, the possible cooperation between these parties and the central government; and the impact on the resolution process in Turkey.

Yilmaz argued that although the government learned from the experience of the peace process initiated by the state, the government does not intend to return to the same 'peace process' as it was in 2013. However, AK Party is open to engaging and seeking a resolution to the demands of the Kurdish population in terms of cultural and linguistic rights. He stressed that the government would continue to concentrate on the development of the country and promote normalisation with the EU and the US.



Cevdet Yilmaz, Deputy Chair of AK Party, responsible for Foreign Affairs, addressing participants on the government's perspective on Turkey's future, 27 April 2020.

Participants listen to Cevdet Yilmaz during the 2020 online roundtable.



Current Situation in Turkey: Government Perspective and Future Vision With Pervin Buldan, MP and Co-Chair of HDP,

Online, 6 May 2020



Key speaker Pervin Buldan gives her perspective on the impact of Covid 19 in Turkey during the online roundtable, 6 May 2020.

On 6 May DPI held an online roundtable with Pervin Buldan, MP and Co-Chair of HDP. Buldan discussed the current political situation in Turkey, arguing that though the government portrays the fight against Covid-19 as a positive and successful one, the response has not been transparent or comprehensive. Buldan also mentioned that the Kurdish region is suffering due to lack of health care and limited medical treatment.

Furthermore, there has been minimal media coverage of the situation in the region. She argued that the government is focusing on economic recovery without considering democratisation.

Conflict resolution issues like potential openings for democratisation post-pandemic, decentralisation of the institutions, the devolvement of political powers and competencies to local authorities were discussed. Buldan stated that the government's current position indicates that they are not ready or willing to seek new efforts relating to the Kurdish conflict at the moment.

Buldan speculated that early elections might occur after 2021. Should an early election occur, she argued that this could provide an opportunity for democratisation, as the electorate will judge the government based on its performance during the pandemic. Buldan also expressed an eagerness to work with other opposition parties to advance democratisation in Turkey. She asserted that such cooperation between HDP and opposition parties should be transparent and would provide an opportunity for working towards democratisation and normalisation.



Ali Bayramoğlu and Roelf Meyer during discussion.



Pervin Buldan and Sir Kieran Prendergast during the online discussion.



DPI CEO Kerim Yildiz and Turkey-based Council of Expert members during discussion, 11 May 2020.

ROUNDTABLE

Changing Political Dynamics in Turkey and Challenges Posed to Conflict Resolution Post-Coronavirus, Online, 7th May 2020

On 7 May 2020, DPI met virtually with its Turkey-based members of The Council of Experts to brainstorm on the way forward for Turkey in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. As the virus continued to present serious health and safety challenges to us all, DPI's online events provided participants, funders and stakeholders alike with the valuable opportunity to continue dialogue on important conflict resolution themes during this unprecedented period. The impact of the global pandemic upon conflict resolution was becoming increasingly more prominent, ranging from exacerbating violence to instigating ceasefires around the world. The brainstorming meeting was held as a platform to analyse the possible impacts of Covid-19 on Turkey's path towards peace and democratisation.

Participants assessed the current situation in Turkey, focusing on both the economic and political challenges that the Covid-19 pandemic posed to the country presently and in the future. Though the outcomes are, at this stage, unknown, discussion demonstrated that the political arena is being restructured in Turkey and this will impact the Kurdish issue – it is therefore of importance to continue engaging actors on the topic of peace and democratisation in Turkey.

Additionally, participants stressed the economic future of the country post-Covid-19 as an essential factor when considering future efforts to move towards peace and democratisation. Participants also agreed to take part in DPI's planned online roundtable with business leaders to discuss the impact of the global pandemic on Turkey's economy.

The Impact of Covid-19 on the Global and Turkish Economy: Examining the Challenges and Opportunities of this Impact on Peace and Democratisation Processes, Online, 27th May 2020

On 27 May, DPI hosted a virtual platform for discussion between a diverse group of business leaders to discuss the economic impact of Covid-19 and how this might affect peace and democratisation processes in Turkey in the short, medium and long-term. By providing such a platform, DPI enabled continued dialogue on conflict resolution themes despite the challenging circumstances brought about by the spread of Covid-19.

Türker Hamzaoğlu, Economist, joined us as a speaker to present his assessment of the economic situation as affected by Covid-19. The discussion looked at how Covid-19 could change globalism, the effect of scapegoating China on international trade and

Turkey's isolationist approach to combating the pandemic crisis. Discussing Turkey's economy, Mr Hamzaoğlu noted that the pre-pandemic eco-

nomic problems in Turkey were becoming more severe due to the pandemic. His assessment pointed towards an economic programme that lacked clarity in Turkey and in which there would be no growth for the next three years. The Question and Answer session offered participants the opportunity to engage with one another in a beneficial and lively discussion. The group discussed the relationship between politics and the economy and the deteriorating structure of institutions in Turkey, including the implications on foreign investment. Participants also examined the effect of possible economic changes on democratisation and resolution processes in Turkey. The pandemic has revealed the challenges of global health crisis along with some opportunities for economic reform; the decisions for which will either signal a continued authoritarian approach or a move towards normalisation.



Türker Hamzaoğlu explores the economic impact of this global health crisis during the online roundtable, 27 May 2020.

ROUNDTABLE

The Role of Local Administrations in Responding to the Covid-19 Crisis in Turkey with Fatma Şahin, Mayor of Gaziantep, Online, 2nd June 2020

On 2 June DPI held the first of an online roundtable series exploring the responses of local administrations to the Covid-19 crisis in Turkey, joined by Fatma Şahin, Mayor of Gaziantep. During the presentation, the Mayor stated that Gaziantep has efficiently handled the pandemic due to the accessibility and inclusiveness of Turkey's health system, as social security is provided to every Turkish citizen and is also made accessible to refugees. She underlined the importance of collaboration and solidarity between central and local administrations, regardless of their ideology, in solving the pandemic crisis in Turkey. Ms Şahin highlighted the fact that the efficiency of the Turkish health system and infrastructures, as well as its inclusiveness, notably towards refugees, ensured that the pandemic was handled effectively in her municipality (and the country more generally). She called on the international community to adopt a more human-centred approach in achieving sustainable goals and security.

The Mayor stressed the importance of mutual dialogue and co-existence between different ethnic groups and communities in helping solving crises and conflict. The Mayor discussed how migrants in Gaziantep had been integrated through means of education, healthcare, and employment. Though the influx of refugees and the emergence of Covid-19 has added to the challenges the local administration faces, Şahin noted the measures taken to support the refugees during the pandemic.



Participants listen to Ms Fatma Şahin discuss the response of the local administration to the political, economic, and social effects of the pandemic, 2 June 2020.

The roundtable meeting also discussed the issue of decentralisation and devolution of power to local authorities. According to the Mayor, coordination and solidarity between central power and decentralised administrations is significant. The local level authorities also require coordination. Platforms of dialogue can help solve such crises as they help develop solutions tailored to diverse requests made at the local level. The Mayor underscored high levels of women's representation in Gaziantep, especially in areas traditionally thought to be as male-oriented, like the economy, infrastructure and sciences. Şahin stated that she had advocated for the inclusion of women in decision-making processes since she became a Mayor.



Temel Karamollaoğlu discussing the key policies and perspectives of the opposition party on the current situation in Turkey, 11 June 2020.

ROUNDTABLE

Opposition's Perspective on the Political, Social and Economic Effects of Covid-19 in Turkey With Temel Karamollaoğlu, Head of Saadet Party, Online, 11th June 2020

On 11 June 2020, DPI held an online roundtable entitled 'Opposition's Perspective on the Political, Social and Economic Effects of COVID-19 in Turkey'. This was the third online roundtable of a series of meetings with representatives from different political parties in Turkey. The meeting welcomed Temel Karamollaoğlu, Leader of Saadet (Felicity) Party, who discussed the key policies and perspectives of the opposition party on the current situation in Turkey and the peace process. Discussion were also held with regard to the role of the opposition in the current situation in Turkey, as well as the challenges and opportunities presented by Covid-19. The meeting brought together a diverse group of participants from Turkey, including academics, civil society actors, journalists, lawyers, politicians, members of Wise Persons' Committee (WPC), as well as DPI's Council of Expert members, and our funders.

The discussion covered topics of dialogue, human rights, normalisation and democratisation efforts

which are key to bring about a resolution process. The speaker stated that it should be resolved through peaceful means and a similar peace process and negotiations are needed to resolve the Kurdish issue. The speaker emphasised establishing peace and supporting negotiations throughout the meeting. The roundtable forms part of a larger series of activities planned in the context of the project: 'Supporting Inclusive Dialogue at a Challenging Time in Turkey'.



Participants listen to Temel Karamollaoğlu during the online event, 11 June 2020.

ROUNDTABLE

Changing Political Dynamics in Turkey and Challenges Posed to Conflict Resolution Post-Coronavirus With DPI's Turkish CoE, Online, 26th June 2020

On 11 May 2020, DPI staff met online with its Turkey-based members of the CoE along with some donors in order to brainstorm on the impact of Covid-19 on DPI's work. The insightful discussion examined the possible roads ahead and discussed how Turkey could best emerge from this global health crisis. DPI's Council of Expert members expressed their thoughts on how DPI can continue to contribute towards broadening the bases of dialogue on the themes of peace and democratisation in Turkey whilst noting the importance of maintaining dialogue during these difficult times. In analysing the current situation

in Turkey, the discussion focused on both the political and economic challenges that the Covid-19 pandemic poses to the country. The economic future of the country post-Covid-19 was raised as an important factor when considering future efforts to move towards peace and democratisation. Also discussed were issues of changing security policies post Covid-19, Turkey-EU relations as well as maintaining comparative study work with its core groups, such as women, youth and media. Suggestions were also made engaging on the topic of art and culture's influence on peace processes.



Oral Çalışlar gives his thoughts on potential areas that DPI could explore, as well as an update on developments in the region, 26 June 2020.

ROUNDTABLE



Journalists Nagehan Alci and Oral Çalışlar during the lively question and answer session.

Current Situation in Turkey: What Does the Opposition Think and Offer? With Ahmet Davutoğlu, President of Future Party, Online, 6th July 2020

As a former Prime Minister and a key figure in Turkey's resolution process, DPI hosted Mr Davutoğlu on 6 July 2020 and gained valuable insight into this new opposition party's perspective on the political, social and economic effects of Covid-19 in Turkey, with a particular focus on prospects for peace and democratisation in the country. Mr Davutoğlu addressed a range of topics in his presentation, including highlighting both the international and Turkish challenges that face the current climate, particularly in the context of Covid-19. The speaker raised the possibility of a shift in the concept of security on a global scale, where individual and bio-security could overtake national security.

In discussing the way forward for Turkey, the speaker gave an insight into how the Future Party will

approach the challenges facing the country, mainly concerning peace and democratisation issues. Mr Davutoğlu highlighted the Future Party's focus on being an inclusive political party in a political environment, which they see as being increasingly dominated by exclusivity, in establishing a political party based on communal values. Mr Davutoğlu spoke of the possible opportunity to capitalise on the unifying spirit that Covid-19 has triggered. Participants' questions prompted further discussion on the Turkish peace process. The speaker spoke candidly about the process and the need for a proper study into why the peace process ultimately failed. Mr Davutoğlu highlighted another attempt for the peace process and the potential role of the Future Party in the peace process.



Former Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu discussing the party's perspective on the current situation in Turkey, 6 July 2020.

ROUNDTABLE

The Role of Women in Conflict Resolution,

Online, 15th July 2020

On 15 July 2016, a diverse group of women met in Ankara for DPI's roundtable meeting exploring women's participation in peace and resolution processes. Despite the extraordinary circumstances of that time, participants were unanimous in their desire to continue with the meeting, which proceeded as planned, saying 'the best answer to the coup attempt is to continue to discuss peace.' Four years on from that day, on 15 July 2020, DPI once again brought together a diverse group of women from across Turkey's to discuss the role of women in conflict resolution.

A much-needed space was provided for the group to reflect upon the role of women in conflict resolution processes through exposure to examples and experiences of internationally renowned women working in the field. Rosa Emilia Salamanca, Executive Director of Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica (CIASE) discussed her role in strengthening the participation of women in the Colombian peace process, from grassroots and civil society initiatives through to formal negotiation processes. She discussed how women in Colombia had been victims of the long-running conflict in the country which formed a common ground for women of different backgrounds and diverging opinions to come together and work for peace. She noted that women constituted 80% of the 80,000 victims in the conflict; it was therefore paramount that gender is-



Rosa Emilia Salamanca, Executive Director of Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica (CIASE), a Colombian peace building organisation with a special focus on women's rights and strengthening public policy, discussed her experiences of women's contribution to the Colombian peace process during the online event, 15 July 2020.

issues were prioritised in the peace process. She noted the importance of women negotiating amongst themselves in order to build a consensus on what sort of peace agreement they wanted to achieve. This, Ms Salamanca highlighted, was vital in developing a clear agenda to bring to the formal negotiating table.

Katia Papagianni, Director of Mediation Support and Policy at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, shared with participants her knowledge and expertise of the motivating factors and practices of women contributing to dialogue and resolution during this time. Papagianni discussed the increase in locally-led initiatives designed to contribute to and bring about peace in conflicts all around the world. Women's standing within communities has enabled them to play integral roles in local peacebuilding, and Ms Papagianni highlighted four critical aspects of women's success in this regard: their ability and willingness to build alliances across community, religious and ethnic divides; their desire to engage on a wide variety of issues; their solution-orientated approach; and their inclusive approach to peacebuilding.

Current Situation in Turkey: The Role of Local Government Leaders in Responding to COVID-19 & Their Post-Pandemic Strategy With Ayhan Bilgen, co-Mayor of Kars,

Online, 17 August 2020

This second meeting on 'The Role of Local Government Leaders in Responding to Covid-19 & their Post- Pandemic Strategy' took place on 17 April and hosted Ayhan Bilgen, co-Mayor of the Municipality of Kars from The Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP). Mr Bilgen discussed the political, economic, and social impacts of Covid-19 on Kars, as a HDP run municipality, as well as the role of the local administration in strengthening democratisation and conflict resolution. Bilgen explained the measures in place to assist women, who due to lockdown have been more vulnerable to domestic abuse, and to combat unemployment during the pandemic. Measures in the agricultural sector, which was greatly affected by lockdown, have also been taken to boost the economy. Bilgen stressed that the Council prioritises the needs of the city, rather than those of the par-

ty. Though ethnic identity plays a determining factor in how people vote in Turkey, Bilgen argued that this behaviour should change. Bilgen stated that Turkey's issues should be solved through democratisation and decentralisation. Bilgen praised the Kars model as one based on reconciliation, cooperation and peace. The topics of co-existence, democratisation, devolution and local government cooperation dominated the discussion session. Despite the various challenges of HDP, the party has to build bridges with the central government in order to create trust and push for peace. Bilgen also advocated for cooperation with other municipalities in order to bring people together and empower civil society. Bilgen argued that it is in the economic interest of Turkey to have good and peaceful relations with its neighbouring country.



Ayhan Bilgen discussing the political, economic and social impacts of Covid-19 on Kars, 17 August 2020.

ROUNDTABLE

Current Situation in Turkey: What Does the Opposition Think and Offer?

With Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, Leader of CHP,

Online, 16th September 2020



Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu joining the online roundtable from CHP's Headquarters, 16 September 2020.



DPI hosted Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, leader of the CHP, on 16 September to discuss the party's views on the current political situation in Turkey and its input on conflict resolution and democratisation. Mr Kılıçdaroğlu stated that the key role of CHP, as the main opposition party, has been to bring forward recommendations for the government during this time, focusing on presenting constructive suggestions rather than

criticisms. The main goal of CHP's recommendations was to minimise the effects the pandemic poses on the social, political and economic aspects. Kılıçdaroğlu stated that Turkey has five main problems: democracy, economy, education, foreign policy, and social peace. These problems are not independent but somewhat interconnected, which prevent development and restrict freedoms in Turkey. Kılıçdaroğlu highlighted that Turkey's relations with its neighbouring countries have recently deteriorated, further ostracising Turkey on a global scale. He argued that the government is using its foreign policy as a distraction from domestic issues. Kılıçdaroğlu advocated for better relations with its neighbours and other countries, which would also benefit the economy in Turkey. With regards to the Kurdish issue, Kılıçdaroğlu highlighted that CHP is the only party able to solve it. Despite the previous attempts from AK Party to resolve the Kurdish issue, Kılıçdaroğlu argued that the solution process began with the wrong measures and lacked transparency, hence its failure. He also explained that an independent group of intellectuals, such as the Wise Person's Committee, can have valuable input on the issue. This solution should be underpinned with a focus on democracy, accountability, and freedom. The discussion also touched upon the need for a new constitution and reforms in the judiciary in order to move away from authoritarianism and towards democratisation.

ROUNDTABLE

Current Situation in Turkey: What Does the Opposition Think and Offer?

With Ali Babacan, Leader of DEVA Party,

Online, 13 October 2020

DPI held the next of the series 'What Does the Opposition Think and Offer' with Ali Babacan, Leader of DEVA (Democracy and Progress) Party on 13 October. The opposition has a crucial part to play in challenging the government's policies and actions, as well as holding it accountable, especially during times of crisis. It is also important to assess the risks to human rights and democracy, as some governments have placed disproportionate restrictions on individuals and groups as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mr Babacan discussed issues surrounding freedom of thought, human rights and the rule of law. Referring specifically to the Kurdish issue to illustrate his point, Mr Babacan highlighted that both collective and individual rights must be preserved, stating that the Kurdish language is one such example. When responding to questions on the approach he and his party would take to solving the Kurdish issue, Mr Babacan highlighted that regional dialogue and diplomacy would be a key. Another major challenge facing Turkey at this moment in time is the economy. Mr Babacan stressed that economic recovery and security could only be achieved when fundamental rights are protected throughout the country as this leads to greater investment and stability. In discussing the prospects for the future in Turkey, participants discussed the possibility of alliances being formed amongst opposition parties. In response, Mr Babacan stressed that whilst alliances should never



Ali Babacan and his team: 'Turkey is going through some difficult times. The recent pandemic has deepened existing problems in the country, particularly freedom of thought, human rights and rule of law,' 13 October 2020.



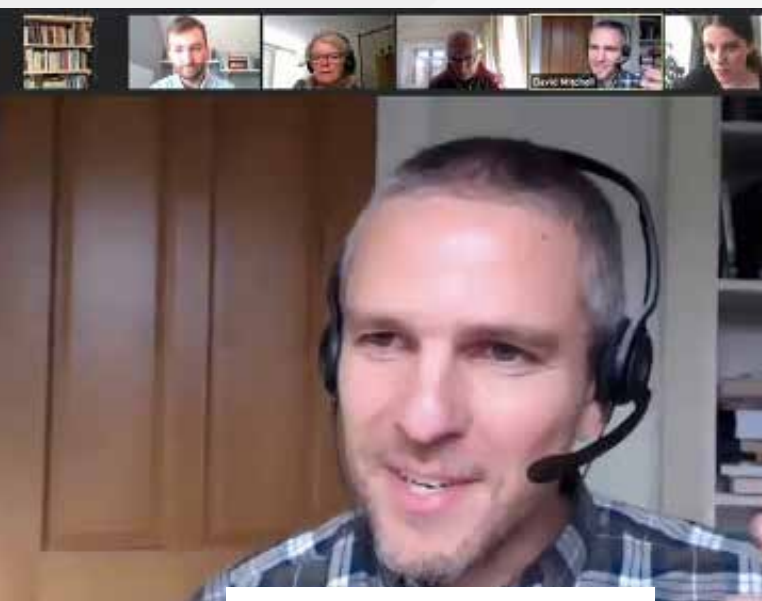
be disregarded, to consider them at this stage would negate the *raison d'être* for the establishment of the Democracy and Progress Party. The speaker emphasised a commitment to ensuring that fundamental rights would be served and protected by the DEVA Party and that these principles would form the foundation of the party.

COMPARATIVE STUDY VISITS

CSV

Virtual Comparative Study Visit With the Irish Government's Department of Foreign Affairs: The Northern Ireland Case

October 21 2020



Dr David Mitchell, Professor at The Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College, giving an overview of the Northern Ireland peace process, 21 October 2020.

Despite the physical limitations presented by Covid-19, DPI swiftly adapted its mediums and successfully held its first online CSE on 21 October. Áine Hearn, Director of the Conflict Resolution Unit (CRU) and Robert Hull, also from the Conflict Resolution at the Department of Foreign Affairs gave a thorough overview of the work of the CRU and how this government department works to address some of the legacies of the Troubles, highlighting that peace is a process which continues beyond the signing of a peace agreement. Professor David Mitchell from Trinity College provided participants with a full picture of the key actors and aspects of the Northern Irish peace process.

Avila Kilmurray, a founding member of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition, discussed the importance of inclusiveness during a peace process and how that principle formed the bedrock of the



Áine Hearn, Director of the Conflict Resolution Unit (CRU) at the Irish Government's Department of Foreign Affairs, during the event on 21 October 2020.

Northern Ireland women's Coalition, along with human rights and equality, as they played their part in the negotiations that led to the Good Friday Agreement. In the penultimate session of the day, participants engaged with Michael Culbert, a former Republican political prisoner, Ron McMurray, a former Unionist political prisoner and Lee Lavis, an ex- British Army soldier. All three told their unique stories of the conflict and path to peace in Northern Ireland in what was a compelling session. They very clearly represented some of the major divisions that have been overcome in the country; Mr Ahern discussed how he and others kept dialogue alive and brought the Northern Irish peace process back on track when faced with setbacks and challenges. Initial feedback, through a formal evaluation and informal discussion, demonstrates that participants greatly valued the opportunity to engage with



DPI's first virtual comparative study event discussed conflict resolution practices in Northern Ireland.

key actors involved in the Northern Irish peace process. The participants highlighted the opportunity to engage in discussion with former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern as very valuable.

In addition, the session with the former political prisoners, representing both republican and unionist backgrounds, was deemed particularly powerful by our diverse group of participants as it served as a vivid reminder of the violent divisions that have been overcome in Northern Ireland, something that can serve as a symbol of hope for a peaceful resolution to Turkey's conflict.

Virtual Comparative Study Visit With the Irish Government's Department of Foreign Affairs: The Northern Ireland Case

October 21 2020



The CSE on 26 November discussed the role of media, youth engagement and religious leaders in the Northern Irish peace process.

On 26 November 2020 DPI held the second part to its online CSE series 'Overcoming Challenges During Difficult Times in Conflict Resolution: The Northern Ireland Experience'. The event started with Dermot Ahern, former Minister of Foreign Affairs from the Republic of Ireland, who gave his reflection about living near the border with Northern Ireland, his involvement in the peace process and the difficulties faced during peace talks. Ahern discussed his involvement in the conflict resolution process, specifically the secret talks held with IRA members. Ahern highlighted that these secret talks, denied on several occasions by the Prime Minister at the time, were the foundation for the peace process. Throughout the session, Dermot Ahern stressed the importance of having talks, as, without the latter, there can be no peace. Despite the challenging situation, it is paramount to continue the conversation. The session on the role of media brought two former journalists, Andy Pollak and Deric Henderson, to speak about their own experiences of reporting on the Troubles. There was an agreement that the media in Northern Ireland was largely sympathetic to the peace process, and the environment was relatively safe for journalists. According to Henderson, the main challenge for a journalist during a conflict, especially

at the height of the Northern Irish conflict, was to remain neutral.

Journalists in Northern Ireland were from the very divided communities they were reporting on, and as such had a personal, familial, and emotional attachment to such communities, whilst needing to remain detached. On reporting peace, Pollak stated that peace is less attractive for journalists to cover compared to reporting conflict.

Participants also engaged with Dr Martin McMullen and Sean Madden from Youth Action Northern Ireland, on the topic of youth engagement in the Northern Irish peace process. They discussed the various initiatives of Youth Action to improve the participation of young people in peace process and democracy. McMullen and Madden spoke about the ongoing segregation in Northern Ireland as part of the legacy of the Troubles and its effects on the youth and society. Therefore, it is important to have initiatives that eradicate division, bring young people from different communities together and create spaces for discussion between young people. The last



"Peacebuilding is like housework; if done regularly no-one notices, if neglected, everyone notices."

(Marina Tabukashvili, Taso Foundation, Georgia)

Martin McMullen from Youth Action talked about engaging young people in cross-community dialogue, 26 November 2020.

session examined the role of religious leaders in peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland, with Bishop Trevor Williams as a speaker, who discussed the work of the Corrymeela Community, a dispersed Christian community of Catholics and Protestants working towards reconciliation. He noted that religious leaders occupy a unique space as a form of trusted leadership which is not political; this allows them to act as honest and impartial brokers during the conflict.



Dermot Ahern, former Irish Government Minister, highlighted the importance of continuous dialogue in the NI peace process, 26 November 2020.

Monitoring and Evaluation Meetings

Throughout 2020, 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.

The rationale behind our M&E framework is to provide transparency and accountability for our work. It is also used as a great planning tool, as it works to provide the organisation with the necessary information on whether the project objects are being met, and if adjustments and revisions are required.

DPI measured the increase in knowledge amongst participants with regards to conflict resolution and peacebuilding as a direct result of participating in DPI activities, as well as how these learnings were used and disseminated. Our mixture of post event interviews and questionnaires allows for us to understand whether the aims and objectives of the activities were realised, and steps that we need to take in order to ensure that everyone who participates is able to draw similar learnings from each activity.

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.

Analysis and Assessment Meetings

Assessment Meeting With Sevilay Yilman, 22 January 2020

The DPI team was updated on the current situation in Turkey on 22 January by Sevilay Yilman, a journalist from Haberturk with expertise in Turkish domestic politics. Sevilay provided an expert assessment touching on several critical issues for Turkey at the present time: the state of the economy, the Kurdish question, new and emerging political alliances.

Sevilay addressed the Kurdish question, which she pinpointed as one of the most important critical points in Turkey. Comparisons were made between the pre-AKP government and current AKP government stance towards the Kurdish issue, with the ruling party initially initiating greater progress in efforts, such as legalising the Kurdish language. This was followed by a discussion aiming to determine the best path for DPI's future actions.

DPI Staff at the M&E Meeting with Speaker Sevilay Yilman, DPI headquarters, London, 22-23 January 2020.



Assessment Meeting With Cansu Çamlıbel, Editor-in-Chief of Duvar English, on The Political Impact of COVID-19 in Turkey, 21 April 2020

DPI held a virtual online assessment meeting on 21 April to discuss the impact of Covid-19 on the political, economic and social situation of Turkey. Cansu Çamlıbel, the Editor-in-Chief of independent online newspaper Duvar in Istanbul, Turkey,

gave her assessment of the current political situation, the impact of COVID-19 in Turkey and obstacles and opportunities for the resolution process in the future. This meeting was attended by a number of Turkish stakeholders, DPI staff, EU representatives and international experts.

Assessment Meeting: Current Situation in Turkey: Focusing on Foreign Affairs With Sinan Ülgen, 28 October 2020

DPI held an online assessment meeting on 28 October to discuss the current situation in Turkey, focusing on foreign affairs. Sinan Ülgen, Chairman at the Centre for Economics and Foreign Policy Studies in Istanbul (EDAM) gave his assessment of the current political situation, the impact of Covid-19 in Turkey, the current state

of Turkey's foreign affairs and the links to conflict resolution. This meeting was attended by a number of Turkish stakeholders, DPI staff, EU representatives and international experts. This was followed by a question and answer session. This meeting further informed DPI staff planning during the subsequent M&E meeting.

Assessment meeting with Sinan Ülgen, Chairman at the Centre for Economics and Foreign Policy Studies in Istanbul (EDAM) 28 October 2020.



Assessment Meeting: Current Political Dynamics in Turkey: Changing Challenges and Opportunities in Domestic Politics and its Efforts on the Kurdish Resolution Process, 17 July 2020

DPI held its third virtual online assessment meeting of the year on 17 July to discuss 'Current political



Former Chief Advisor to the Prime Minister Hatem Ete gives his assessment of the current situation in Turkey to DPI, 17 July 2020.

ical dynamics in Turkey: Changing Challenges and Opportunities in Domestic Politics and its efforts on the Kurdish Resolution Process'. Hatem Ete, the former Chief Advisor to then Prime Minister and professor at Yildirim Beyazit University in Ankara, Turkey, gave his assessment. Hatem Ete is also the research director at Ankara Institute and the editor of an online journal called Perspektif. This meeting was attended by a number of stakeholders and international experts.

This was followed by a Q&A session which created space for evaluating the current situation in Turkey and subsequently how to maximise the impact of DPI's work and strategise for the next quarter.

Farewell Event With Ambassador Christian Berger, Head of EU Delegation to Turkey, 25 August 2020

On 27 August, DPI wished farewell to Christian Berger, Head of the EU Delegation to Turkey with an online reception where EU-Turkey relations were discussed and reflected upon. Participants offered their comments of thanks to Ambassador Berger and DPI's CEO Kerim Yildiz noted that DPI's experience of Mr Berger and his team has been one of great support for our work in broadening the bases for dialogue on peace and conflict resolution Turkey.



'The EU-Turkey relationship is important for both sides as we look to overcome global challenges together'. Ambassador Berger comments on the need for optimism despite the challenges that face EU-Turkey relations today, 25 August 2020



Some Participants of the Council of Experts Roundtable Meeting, 10 December 2020.

Roundtable Meeting: Evaluating DPI's 2020 Program and Looking Ahead to 2021: In Conversation With DPI's Council of Experts, 10 December 2020

At the end of an unprecedented year, on 10 December, DPI hosted a session with its Council of Expert (CoE) members entitled, 'Evaluating DPI's 2020 Program and Looking Ahead to 2021: In conversation with DPI's Council of Experts'. The brainstorming session evaluated DPI's activities, particularly in light of Covid-19, and discussed plans for 2021 as DPI looks to further develop and energise its events and activities in the new year.

In 2021, where uncertainty still resides, DPI must continue to innovate and provide yet more inclusive ways to engage diverse and sometimes opposed actors in conflict resolution dialogue in Turkey. This roundtable meeting provided an excellent opportunity for DPI staff to consult its CoE members on how the organisation will pursue paths to put an agenda for peace back on the map in Turkey. The expert insight of CoE members from around the world contributed to overall discussions on how to meet the multi-faceted

challenges we face at this time; namely, increasing polarisation in Turkey, a deep economic crisis in Turkey and the uncertainty surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic.

Participants were representatives of DPI's Council of Experts, a diverse array of leading actors from across Turkey's political and social spectrum as well as international conflict resolution experts. As experienced DPI participants, they brought a vast collective memory of varied comparative studies on conflict resolution themes to engage in discussion. This online roundtable meeting contributed to DPI's aims and objectives of progressing a peace agenda in Turkey and examined how our CoE can assist us in achieving such goals.

Assessment and Research Reports in 2020

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.

The Legal Basis of a New Peace in Turkey

Zeynep Ardiç

This research report highlights the law and obstacles related to securing peace and provides an analysis of the Turkish legal system's ability to facilitate a peace process, as well as a comprehensive overview of current laws in place. The study sets out a thorough analysis of the importance of law in relation to the peace processes, before turning to an assessment of the Turkish legal system and the compatibility of legal texts with a potential peace process.

Turkey and the Kurdish Issue: Geopolitics and the Possibility of a New Initiative / Osman Sert

This report provides an overview of Turkey's previous attempts at a resolution process, namely the lack of political clarity, unity and structure, and highlights the importance of avoiding similar problems in the future. These issues, as well as the ruling power's refusal to recognise the Kurdish issue, must be addressed to allow for a new and permanent resolution process to take place. The role of past geopolitical developments such as the Arab Spring and the Syrian conflict are also discussed, alongside the current prospects offered by the new Biden administration in the US. Moreover, the report addresses Turkey's current political climate as a contributor to the issue, providing an assessment of the strengths and limitations of the ruling power and other opposition parties. It is indicated that the opposition is structurally and politically weak, and the various interviews quoted in the report discuss a popular belief that only President Erdoğan can instigate change.

The Kurdish Issue and the Political Parties in the Current State of Affairs

Ali Bayramoğlu

This report provides an examination of the current situation regarding the opposition bloc's approach to the Kurdish issue as well as the factors contributing to it, namely the current political climate in Turkey and recent internal and external developments that have a bearing on the Kurdish issue. Through analysing these factors, he sets out how and why the stances of the opposition bloc as a whole and the individual parties within it have developed, and provides hypotheses for the potential ways they may evolve in the future.

Opportunities for a Democratic Legal Order Based on Peace in Turkey Following the Covid-19 Pandemic / Prof. Dr Sevtap Yokuş

This assessment paper provides an analysis of the struggles experienced by Turkey when dealing with the pandemic, particularly when viewed in parallel with the 2017 constitutional reforms. Ms Yokuş sets out a thorough analysis of the legislative function in the System of Executive Presidency during the course of the Covid-19 pandemic, arguing that the global health crisis has laid bare the lack of checks and balances between the legislature and the executive in Turkey. The recent concentration of powers towards the President and executive branch has resulted in an ill functioning of the parliament and an inability for opposition parties to influence or offer alternatives to the government's response to the global pandemic. Further, the author notes that the increasing centralisation of power and decision-making has impeded local governments to implement their own strategy to directly tailor responses to the situation within their constituencies, to deal with the global pandemic. The author concludes that the global pandemic and the fight against the spread of the virus has deepened the economic crisis Turkey and that it can only be resolved through greater effort to strengthen the rule of law and democratisation in the country Turkey.

The Role of the Opposition in a Politics of Peace / Ali Bayramoğlu

This assessment paper offers a thorough analysis of the dynamics of the opposition bloc in regards to the Kurdish problem and peace process. The political arena has experienced widespread changes in the previous years and the opposition block is experiencing a systematic expansion. The author acknowledges the imminent possibility of the opposition of today to become the ruling party of tomorrow, rendering their stance on a resolution imperative, with the potential for change to manufacture a new approach towards the Kurdish issue. Political actors of oppositional parties, he argues, are key in establishing social legitimacy, which is necessary for defining and resolving the issue. Outlined in the report are both the internal and external dynamics of the opposition parties, noting that alliances and interactions are now key for political relationships. The author also recognises potential obstacles to the resolution process, including conflicting internal politics and potentially problematic unsought associations with interlocutors on the Kurdish issue. He concludes that each progressive step taken by the political parties will bring Turkey closer to a resolution.

Are Turkey's Minorities Facing a New Wave of Danger? Mehmet Karakas

This paper provides an analysis of the status of minorities in Turkey, particularly following the failed coup attempt of 2016; an event which, the author states, has triggered an increase in hate speech and hate crimes against religious minorities in Turkey. The paper outlines the shift of the attitude of the government towards minorities, with an initial progression sparked by the desire to establish good relations with the EU, shifted by the coup attempt and the emergence of an alliance between AK Party and MHP, which marked an increase in religious-nationalist rhetoric accompanying the political and administrative authoritarianism. The author concludes that the attitude of governments towards minorities, as proven by history, is dependent on the necessities of domestic and foreign politics, for which they are used as 'pawns', therefore it is difficult to predict in which direction such hate attacks will evolve in the future.

New Political Parties, the Resolution Process and Potential Developments in 2020 in Turkey Ferda Balancar

This report was prepared for DPI by journalist Ferda Balancar. It provides an analysis of the recent emergence of two new parties onto the Turkish political scene, both of which are founded by figures who were prominent within the AK Party and in government. The author provides an overview of what is known to date about these two new parties and assesses the background of their leaders, the reasons for why two rather than one party have been formed, despite both leaders coming from the same political 'family', and what this means for the current constellation of political alliances in Turkey. The reception of these political parties by the general public will, the author suggests, determine how the Kurdish question is handled by the ruling party in the short and medium term.

In the Shadow of Covid-19: The Kurdish Issue and the Resolution Process in the Short and Medium Term Ferda Balancar

This report analyses the domestic and foreign political developments concerning Turkey in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic as well as its short and medium term economic and social implications. Also discussed in this framework are the potential new developments concerning the Kurdish issue as well as the possibility of a new resolution process. The report is based on approximately 20 interviews conducted with members of various political parties, civil society workers, academics and other such experts.

The Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on the Political, Military and Social Spheres and the Relevance to the Ongoing Conflict in Turkey Ali Bayramoğlu

This assessment paper provides an analysis of the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the political, military and social spheres and the relevance to the ongoing conflict in Turkey.



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 Stand-by 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, peace-making 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.

Professor 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).

Professor 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.

Professor 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 Burak, 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 (SUITS).

Andy Carl

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

Professor Dr. Fazıl Hüsnü Erdem

Prof. Dr. Fazıl Hüsnü Erdem was born in 1964 in Karakokan district of Elazığ. 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.

Professor 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.

Professor 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 symposi-

ums 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 Glaway Unviersity, 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.

Professor Dr. Ahmet Insel

Professor Ahmet Insel is a former faculty member of Galatasaray University in Istanbul, Turkey and Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne University, France. He is Managing Editor of the Turkish editing house, İletisim, 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.

Professor 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.

Professor 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.

Professor John Packer

Professor John Packer is Associate Professor of Law and Director of the Human Rights Research and Education Centre (HRREC) at the University of Ottawa in Canada. Prof. Packer has worked for inter-governmental organisations for over 20 years, including in Geneva for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Labour Organisation, and for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. From 1995 to 2004, Prof. Packer served as Senior Legal Adviser and then the first Director of the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities in The Hague. In 2012 – 2014, Prof. Packer was a Constitutions and Process Design Expert on the United Nations 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 Diplomats (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.

Professor 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.

Professor 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.

Professor Dr. Sevtap Yokuş

Professor Dr Sevtap Yokuş is a Professor of Law at the University of Kermerburgaz, 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.

Thank you

*We would like to extend a sincere thank you
to each of our donors, whose commitment and
support makes DPI possible:*



European Union



Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Get in touch

Remember to visit our website for up-to-date reports on DPI's activities as well as research briefings and articles from members of our Council of experts that provide a unique and useful perspective on many aspects of democratisation, conflict resolution and peacebuilding in Turkey. We also welcome your views and opinions on DPI's activities so do not hesitate to get in touch through any one of the following mediums:



✉ 11 Guilford Street, London WC1N 1DH
United Kingdom

🌐 democraticprogress.org

☎ +44 (0) 207 405 3835

@ info@democraticprogress.org

📘 [DemocraticProgressInstitute](#)

🐦 [@DPI_UK](#)

*Democratic Progress Institute is a registered charity
number 1037236 and a registered company number 2922108*



www.democraticprogress.org