

2022

ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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Contents

04	Introduction
06	About DPI
08	Impact Statement
16	Peace Table
28	International Conflict Resolution Exchange
32	Interactive Seminar
36	Assessment and Analysis
46	Assessment and Research Reports in 2022
50	DPI's Staff
54	Board Members
58	Council of Experts
78	Thank You

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.



Kerim Yildiz

Chief Executive Officer
Democratic Progress Institute

As the lifting of Covid restrictions began, DPI found new opportunities to enhance dialogue between the different political and social segments in Turkey, as well as to keep peace on the agenda of every actor within the society. With this goal in mind, DPI organised a series of meetings, following previous but also new frameworks. In fact, DPI integrated a unique key component into its strategy, focusing on the concrete capacity and skills building of core groups and taking DPI's potential for impact to the next level. Named Interactive Seminars, these brand-new events aim to ensure guests that they are equipped to turn the knowledge gained through their participation into action and call for change within their own activities. These seminars are facilitated by external expert convenors who — in collaboration with our team — design separate modules to supply relevant and accurate materials to the different groups, moderate conversations and then create collective activities.

Such an initiative proved to me timely considering the current and upcoming context in Turkey. Effectively, after the pandemic, the country entered an important economic crisis, playing a major role in shaping the political and social agenda in the

country, as well as deepening the already existing issues. Precisely, in 2022, the Turkish agenda was shaped by inflation, political alliances and the opportunity for a change concerning the regime. Two major alliances resulted from political debates, the People's Alliance (government) and the Nation Alliance (opposition), both extremely tied in the opinion polls for the upcoming 2023 General Elections. Having enough potential to tilt the elections one way or the other, the Kurdish issue has come back to the agenda of politics, to a position that will determine the fate of politics in Turkey, as never before in history. Also, at the heart of Turkey's problems, the economic crisis became another argument for peace to be brought back to the centre of debates as a condition for democratisation and normalisation.

In this sense, DPI has continued to consider the resolution of the Kurdish issue as an exit strategy, addressing both internal and foreign policy problems. This would not only improve Turkey's political and economic stability but could also help secure better relations with the neighbours and international actors in the region. This is why DPI's activities in 2022 were modelled after the potential opportunities and concrete benefits that would be brought by the resolution of the Kurdish Issue through a peace process that includes relevant peace workers, policymakers, media figures, businesspeople, women's groups, youth, and civil society organisations as well as the public at large. Such conviction notably motivated new actors to join DPI in its activities and working groups. Specifically, DPI is pleased to announce that our Board has been joined by Owen Bowcott, journalist and the Guardian's former legal affairs and Ireland correspondent. 2022 also gave us the chance

« A summary of eighteen timely and relevant events which paved the way for continued democratic advancement and opportunities for peace in Turkey ».

to count Professor Naomi Roht-Arriaza, a Distinguished Professor of Law at the Hastings College of Law, University of California, as a new member of our Council of Experts.

The purpose of this Annual Report is to showcase some of DPI's activities in the year 2022 during which we hosted virtual, but mostly in-person activities. In 2022, we held both online and face-to-face meetings with a hybrid model. This approach has allowed us to have access to international experts and to develop the diversity of our participants and speakers, in line with our aim to provide an inclusive platform for peace discussions. We held a series of meetings with very well-known domestic and international experts on the economy and the constitution, the two issues that most affected Turkey's agenda in 2022. Our meeting series, which we focused on the economic costs of the conflict in Turkey and the dividends of peace, attracted great attention from the public, civil society, media, and business world as it is the first report which focused on the economic cost of war and the dividends of peace in Turkey.

At a time when the government and the opposi-

tion were working on their political programmes, DPI held another research and meeting series on regime change and constitution-making. With the contribution of Turkey's leading law professors, DPI gathered political parties and policymakers to discuss the potential for a new constitution, its challenges, and opportunities in Turkey. Called 'Conflict Resolution and Constitution-Making', this series received extremely positive feedback and put peace back on the political agenda. Additionally, DPI conducted various work on women, youth, civil society as well as the media, with the presence of an increasing number of participants and world-renowned conflict resolution experts. In each of these events, we focused on Turkey's previous experience with conflict resolution in order to draw lessons and make suggestions for the future. Thanks to the cooperation with many organisations, from chambers of commerce and industry to universities, and women's or youth organisations, DPI has increased both the impact of our work on the field and the public interest in resolving the Kurdish issue in Turkey.

Overall, our innovative perspective has contributed to opening the formerly exclusive exchanges amongst peacebuilders to a greater variety of actors by providing them with an opportunity to connect and interact through discussion of stated topics. This has allowed participants to reflect on the lesson learnt and the potential next steps for finding sustainable solutions to promote democracy in the region. Reaching such an achievement would not have been possible without the support of our donors and funders. Throughout their contributions, they gave DPI the opportunity to transition from the project « *Forging Pathways to Peace and Democracy in Turkey* » to a new one in June called « *Voicing Peace and Fostering Inclusivity in Turkey* » with an improved structure and new objectives.

To conclude, I would like to thank DPI's Staff, Board members, Council of Experts, Speakers, and Interns for working relentlessly to help DPI thrive and our projects flourish. I am very grateful for our donors' and funders' support, namely the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

About DPI

The Democratic Progress Institute (DPI) is an independent non-governmental organisation which was established in consultation with leading experts in conflict resolution and democratic advancement. The organisation's primary objective is to promote peace and support democratic development by encouraging public dialogue and engagement between adversaries. To achieve this, DPI provides a unique programme model using our knowledge and experience of peacebuilding to support practical approaches to harnessing dialogue such as peace tables, workshops, seminars, and other platforms for exchange.

OUR VALUE

DPI was founded on the principles that inclusive dialogue and open exchange of knowledge will be conducive to promoting peace, democracy, and human rights. With nine years of experience in running inclusive programmes in Turkey, the organisation has cultivated the trust and active participation of key stakeholders from both the political and civil society sectors. Our dedication to these relationships and networks on the ground has been instrumental in ensuring the sustainability of the project and is essential to the success of our mission. The work we strive to achieve is rooted in values of respect and equality, through which we seek to foster strong relationships and a collaborative environment in which new ideas and expertise can come together to advance democracy. At all levels, DPI is committed to professionalism, integrity, and impartiality.

OUR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The organisation is focused on providing expertise and practical frameworks to foster public engagement and discourse in support of peace and democracy building on a global scale. To achieve this, DPI aims to continue to promote a structured dialogue between public and private actors, and to create new opportunities for discussions on peace and democracy building. We seek to encourage an environment of inclusive, open, and structured discussion whereby different parties are in the position to share knowledge and concerns across multiple levels. Throughout these efforts, DPI strives to identify common priorities and develop innovative approaches to actively encourage democratic solutions. Additionally, we aim to support and strengthen collaboration between academics, civil society organisations, and policymakers through our initiatives. DPI especially aims to use comparative studies as an essential tool to avoid past mistakes and ensure democratic issues are shared and resolved globally.

OUR AIMS INCLUDE

As a 'neutral' and non-partisan organisation, DPI can extend invitations to senior political figures from across Turkey's political spectrum. We also have access to academics, civil society leaders and influential media representatives from across Turkey's professional and political spectrum through networks built over 10 years. Our commitment to inclusivity is reflected by the broad range of backgrounds represented by the participants who attend our events. Feedback from such events has repeatedly held that DPI is currently the "only organisation 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".

We have a Council of Experts who actively contribute to all our work. Consisting of local and international experts, this council provides 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. Together, we work on:

- 1 Contributing to broadening bases and providing platforms for discussion on establishing a structured public dialogue on peace and democracy building.
- 2 Providing opportunities for different parties to draw comparative studies, and compare various mechanisms used to achieve positive results in comparable cases.
- 3 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.
- 4 Supporting and strengthening collaboration between academics, civil society, and policymakers.
- 5 Identifying common priorities and developing innovative approaches to participate in and influence democracy-building.
- 6 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 in the promotion of peace and democracy building. To achieve this, DPI seeks to foster an environment of inclusive and structured discussions whereby a range of actors can share knowledge, as well as concerns, and offer suggestions for resolving conflict, which allows 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 using comparative studies as a tool for understanding and equipping stakeholders and stakeholder institutions. These processes guide our activities across all our focus areas and help to ensure that there are preparations in place for 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. Our events (Peace Tables, International Conflict Resolution Exchanges, Interactive Seminars and Assessment and Analysis meetings) 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 ensures the continuation of memory and knowledge transmitted from previous DPI activities, whilst also broadening bases for wider involvement in promoting peace and democratisation.

OUR KEY THEMES

Civil Society

DPI recognises the critical role of civil society in resolving conflicts and advancing democracy. In regions where official channels for conflict resolution may be limited, civil society can (and does) play a vital role in supplementing peace processes. As such, DPI emphasizes strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations to contribute to conflict resolution and democracy building. In particular, since 2022, DPI has decided to highlight youth organisations' contributions to achieving peace in the upcoming years. This focus has allowed us, as well as our participants, to consider more actors in the peace process and to discuss broader topics concerning the impact of war on different generations.

Conflict Mediation

To establish sustainable peace agreements, it is vital to address the underlying grievances fuelling the conflict. By providing a forum for a diverse number of representatives to exchange their views and experiences, we aim to facilitate their future participation and readiness for processes of mediation and negotiation. By engaging in these discussions and conversations, DPI helps to educate individuals on various aspects of the conflict and facilitates the formation of mutually acceptable agreements. Our efforts towards fostering open and inclusive communication serve as a crucial step towards achieving lasting peace.

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 also extremely attached 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 requires 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.

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 and democratic society where state security serves its citizens rather than oppresses them. DPI analyses global examples of DDR and SSR through comparative studies and, where appropriate, incorporates these into our activity programme, to promote knowledge and facilitate informed debate.

Dividends of Peace or Economic Perspective

Peace and stability are considered key factors affecting the economic performance of a country and region. Thus, they are positively associated with economic development, which in turn attracts both local and foreign investment, and also increases the volume of exports within the region. Therefore, linking the economic costs of conflict to the benefits of peace can be instrumental in changing attitudes within the business community, as well as among political figures and the wider region.

Gender, Peace, and Security

DPI remains committed to addressing gender-related issues, with a focus on the crucial role that women play in conflict resolution and the promotion of peace and security. We facilitate the active participation of women in peace negotiations and provide opportunities for both women and men from various countries and backgrounds to share perspectives and experiences. In 2022, we continued with our commitment to gender equality and women's participation in peacebuilding by hosting meetings that emphasised the importance of women's involvement in conflict resolution.

Governance and Constitutions

The nuances and complexities in many contemporary international conflicts pose challenges for countries transitioning from conflict including implementing the right form of governance and solving constitutional problems. DPI aims to research and share insights into the approaches taken by international cases and identify lessons that can be learnt from them.

Human Rights and Access to Justice

Human rights and access to justice are crucial during, and in the aftermath, of violent conflict, as they enable individuals to resolve disputes under the auspices of the state. At DPI, we recognise that meaningful democratic reform, peace, and stability require a foundation of human rights, equality, and the rule of law. Our work aims to promote these principles and address language and identity issues, which are critical in resolving conflicts and establishing a stable democracy. By focusing on these crucial areas, DPI aims to contribute to a just and equitable society for all.

Media

The role of the media is imperative for reporting, reflecting, and influencing processes of conflict resolution. The organisation places a strong emphasis on the role of the media, both traditional and social, in rapidly spreading information surrounding conflicts. DPI understands the power of social media and uses it as a channel with which to disseminate our work and expand our reach and breadth.

Transitional Justice

DPI focuses on transitional justice as a mean to address human rights violations, promote accountability, and encourage reconciliation in post-conflict societies. Our research and events aim to highlight the potential benefits of transitional justice measures, including the recognition of victims' rights, the improvement of civic trust, and the strengthening of the rule of law, all with the hope of aiding democratic advancements.

OUR KEY THEMES

During 2022, we are proud to have continued to facilitate inclusive dialogue processes through such extraordinary times. Individuals from a diverse range of political backgrounds came together to share their perspectives and experiences. In 2022, DPI provided policymakers, 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 learnt on behalf of the Turkish Peace Process, its trajectory, and future developments within Turkey. We achieved this through our programme of activities, including Peace Tables, International Conflict Resolution Exchanges, Interactive Seminars and Assessment Meetings, as well as through the production of materials such as Assessment Papers and Research Reports. As travels restrictions mainly stopped in 2022, DPI returned to organising most of its events in person, in London, Istanbul, Ankara, Van, Diyarbakır, and Dublin, as well as online, when necessary, for participants to share their international experiences of conflict resolution.

Our impact has been recognized by our participants, who shared positive feedback after our events, expressing their gratitude for the opportunity to interact with a wide range of actors and to partake in discussions regarding the political processes in the region.

Feedback Report, DPI Peace Table 'Conflict Resolution and Constitution-Making in Turkey I' – February 2022:

Sidar Güney: "As the first face-to-face meeting of the series and having the political party representatives, I believe that it was a very useful and meaningful meeting. I will share the outcomes with my professional network and read the publications that were suggested in the meeting".

Feedback Report, DPI Peace Table 'Women Voicing Peace' – March 2022:

Jülide Kural: "I will share the outcomes (of this meeting) with my professional network and students. I aim to consolidate the knowledge (gained from this participation) with readings and to deepen my thoughts on the conditions of my own country with a conflict resolution perspective."

Meral Özdemir: "It is very valuable that DPI opens an important space in this regard. Listening to the experiences of countries that have struggled for peace and have achieved results in this regard, and of actors who have taken an active role in the field, is very important for societies like ours that are in the process of peacebuilding. And it is important that people / NGO representatives from different disciplines meet and discuss the idea of peace. I will share the results I have obtained from this productive event with both our own members and the NGOs we are in contact with. It has also inspired us for the new meetings we will organise".

Feedback Report, DPI Peace Table 'Youth Voicing Peace' – October 2022:

Kezban Hatemi: "The discussion of the different working groups should be explained to the society. Accordingly, I will share the results (of this event) on every social media platform".

ACTIVITIES

PEACE TABLE

Conflict Resolution and Constitution-Making in Turkey I: 'Incrementalist Constitution-Making in Polarised Societies: The Turkish Case'

Istanbul, 21 February 2022

On the 21st of February 2022, DPI organised a face-to-face Peace Table on 'Incrementalist Constitution-Making in Polarised Societies'. This event was the first part of a larger series conceptualised earlier by DPI's legal experts and called 'Conflict Resolution and Constitution-Making in Turkey'. In fact, this series was designed in January 2022, in conjunction with the publication of DPI's research report of the same title, co-written by constitutional law experts: Professor Dr. Fazıl Hüsnü Erdem, Professor Dr. Sevtap Yokus, Dr. Vahap Coşkun and Dr. Zeynep Ardiç.

Held in Istanbul, the aim of this meeting was to highlight the fundamental role of constitutions in the function of states, and, by extension, in conflict resolution. Participants included academics, lawyers, policy-makers, civil society members, journalists, and senior political figures responsible for legal and human rights issues from different political parties in Turkey.

As a former member of the 2007 Turkish Constitution Commission, Fazıl Hüsnü Erdem, Professor of Constitutional Law at Dicle University in Diyarbakır, shared his experience and introduced the incrementalist constitution-making process as a conflict resolution method in polarised societies. The participants also debated previous constitution drafting efforts in Turkey, their strengths, and deficiencies, as well as the applicability of the incrementalist method for the Turkish case.

Overall, in addition to fostering dialogue over a challenging and polarising topic, the event provided a useful presentation of the



DPI's first event on Constitution-Making in Turkey.

ways constitution-making processes can serve peace, especially in the context of the Kurdish issue. It also brought relevant perspectives on the legal preparations that need to be considered in case such mechanisms would be implemented in Turkey. Carried out during the course of a difficult time, the participants, especially political party representatives, highly appreciated being offered a platform other than a parliament to discuss such matters. Effectively, entering 2022, the country experienced increasing tensions among political actors, especially regarding the institutional system. Accordingly, DPI's initiative allowed these opposed actors to deal with contentious issues in a participatory and inclusive atmosphere, as well as to pave the way for further conversation over reconciliation. The Peace Table was part of a broader set of activities planned in the context of the project:

"Forging Pathways to Peace and Democracy in Turkey", supported by the Norwegian, Swiss, and Irish governments.

Women Voicing Peace

Istanbul, 5 March 2022

Ahead of the International Women's Day, DPI - in collaboration with Istanbul Bilgi University's Centre for Conflict Resolution Studies and Research (CCR) and the Embassy of Ireland in Turkey (in Ankara) - held an in-person peace table event entitled 'Women Voicing Peace' on 5 March in Istanbul to celebrate women's achievements in conflict resolution. The goal of

this meeting was to bring together women who have played an important role in advancing peace and to discuss the successes as well as the challenges they faced.

Among the participants, a large panel of representatives were present: political parties, human rights organisations, think tanks, lawyers, businesswomen, media professionals, youth unions and academics. Such diversity helped the guests to identify common grounds in their experiences while emphasizing the particularity of every setting, country, or context. Combining keynote speeches, screenings and Q&A sessions, this event aimed in reminding that women's inclusion in conflict resolution processes is the key to sustainable peace, and also that such involvement can be carried on even in the absence of continuous peace.

Drawing from the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition (NWIC) case, the peace table concentrated the debate on women's efforts in coming together to address everyday issues affecting them and their communities. Precisely, after the projection of 'Wave Goodbye to Dinosaurs', a documentary bringing the spotlight on unrecognised work of women in peacebuilding and promoting inclusivity in conversations for peace, the NWIC's founders, Kate Fearon and Jane Morrice, shared

HE Sonya McGuinness,
Ambassador of Ireland to Turkey,
giving opening remarks.



Participants gathered around Ambassador Sonya McGuinness during DPI's International Women's Day Event to discuss women's involvement in peacebuilding.

their experiences in more details. On one side, Kate Fearon explained her role as the NIWC's Chief of Staff in the negotiations for the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement, and how she worked to incorporate women in peacebuilding, advance the rule of law, promote civilian representation and crisis management in divided regions. On the other side, Jane Morrice described her career as the Vice President of the European Economic and Social Committee where she focused on promoting women's voices and education to achieve fairer societies.

Following these presentations, the two keynote speakers replied to the public's enquiries about several topics: from sex-based and economic violence to the impact of Brexit on the peace process or

even the influence of ideological differences on peacebuilding activities. This discussion gave the participants, as well as DPI, the opportunity to recall that gender equality, in addition to being a fundamental human right, is also a necessary condition for sustainable global development. All summarised in a final report, these fruitful exchanges considered the active and meaningful involvement of women in conflict resolution efforts and peacebuilding activities as crucial, from the beginning and throughout the entire process. Such conviction has notably been a strong motive for DPI to continue to give this topic a high priority in its programmes and to make sure participants are equipped with enough skills and materials to call for a change on their own.

Conflict Resolution and Constitution-Making in Turkey II: 'Peace and Counterbalancing the Ruling Power in Turkey' *Istanbul, 28-31 June 2022*

As the second part of the 'Conflict Resolution and Constitution-Making in Turkey' series, DPI organised a peace table on the political regime in Turkey: how it has changed over the years and how it has impacted the peace resolution attempts in the country. In the same way as the previous meeting on this topic, DPI aimed to create a debate about a potential system change and to imagine what could be implemented for this transition to play a role in peace-making efforts.

For this event, DPI invited Professor Dr. Sevtap Yokuş a Law Faculty Member at İstanbul Altınbas University in the Department of Constitutional Law. She is a widely published expert in the areas of Constitutional Law and Human Rights and has multiple years of experience working as a university lecturer at the undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral levels. She also has experience working as a lawyer in the European Court of Human Rights. After a short review of the foundations of the regime in Turkey, she explained the origins of the structural problems of the regime. It included the dilemmas regarding democracy, the unequal balance of power, the concept of central authority, and the low political participation of the opposition. This introduction was followed by a discussion among all the participants. These were academics, lawyers, policy-



Participants gathered to discuss the second part of the series on Constitution-Making in Turkey

makers, civil society members, journalists, and senior political figures responsible for legal and human rights issues from different political parties in Turkey. Successively, the guests identified the strengths and shortcomings of both the parliamentary and presidential systems in Turkey and challenged their preconceived notions on the relationship between peace and regime change.

With only one year to go before the 2023 general elections, the public appreciated finding an open discussion ground to talk about what has been described as the most pressing, sensitive, and consequential subject in Turkey. This event was the first peace table of a broader set of activities planned in the context of the new 2022 project: "*Voicing Peace and Fostering Inclusivity in Turkey*", supported by the Norwegian, Swiss, and Irish governments.

Political Dynamics in Turkey towards 2023 General Elections *Online, 22 August 2022*

This meeting was held online between DPI's staff members and the Council of Experts, it aimed to discuss the political dynamics in Turkey toward the 2023 General Elections: to present key actors and alliances but also to identify the opportunities and challenges that the country could face if the Kurdish Issue, as well as peace, were brought back on the agenda. Participants included columnists, politicians, journalists, as well as academics, gathered to assess the current issues taking place in Turkey, their impact on the upcoming elections and more broadly on the peace process.

After a discussion about the state of the economy, the political system and the potential election results in Turkey, the Council of Experts focused on finding ways to

turn these matters into opportunities for peace to be at the centre of the parties' concerns again. Given the situation, the participants established the different possible scenarios concerning both the economic crisis and the 2023 General Elections to plan and adapt DPI's activities. At the end of the meeting, DPI further defined its role in promoting peace in Turkey. It was decided to organise individual meetings with experts, political party representatives as well as businesspeople for these actors to express their interests in a neutral environment. Such events would help DPI to draw a broader overview of the situation, to lead key stakeholders toward political and economic improvements, as well to enhance the policy-making process.



DPI's Council of Experts assessing the political dynamics ahead of the 2023 General Elections

Conflict Resolution and Constitution-Making in Turkey III: 'Constitutional Priorities in the Kurdish Case and Confidence-Building Steps in Constitution-Making Processes'

Istanbul, 23-25 September 2022



Participants gathered in Istanbul to discuss Constitution-Making processes

From the 23rd to the 25th of July, DPI organised the third and the fourth part of the Conflict Resolution and Constitution-Making series, both combined within the same event in Istanbul. This peace table gathered academics, lawyers, policy-makers, civil society members, journalists, and senior political figures responsible for legal and human rights issues from different political parties in Turkey. The purpose of these two conferences was to precise the constitutional changes needed for the Kurdish issue's resolution but also

to recognise the significance of building confidence again between the politicians and the civil society.

Introduced by Vahap Coşkun, Professor of Law at the University of Dicle and former member of the Wise Persons Committee, the first session emphasized the necessity of a new constitution to overcome the current polarisation of the society, more particularly in the context of the Kurdish issue. During his presentation, the speaker pointed out three requirements for the constitution to be effective in improving

DPI's speaker, Vahap Coşkun, introducing constitutional priorities in the Kurdish case.



co-existence in Turkey, namely: education in the mother tongue, citizenship, and administrative structure. Following this, a discussion started with the other participants, during which more details were given about the implications of these changes, especially in terms of official languages and power-sharing, and how they could be implemented inclusively.

Dedicated to the significance of fostering public confidence before the adoption of a new constitution, the second session was led by Zeynep Ardic, a member of the Faculty of Law at Istanbul Medeniyet University. The conversation started with a reminder that the demand for a new constitution from Turkish citizens can be traced back to the late 1990s. Effectively, the current constitution carries the weight of the

past, prioritising security over freedom. Accordingly, participants agreed on the fact that if a new constitution was to be written, and for it to be beneficial to the Kurdish issue, disarmament would need to be considered ahead of legal changes.

At the end of the meeting, it was suggested by the participants that DPI should continue organising these discussions between political parties, professionals, and civil society actors for further improvements to be made, especially concerning Human Rights.



Participants discussing confidence-building steps for a new constitution.

Youth Voicing Peace

Istanbul, 16-18 October 2022

DPI held a peace table in Istanbul from the 16th to the 18th of October, in collaboration with the Irish Embassy in Ankara and the Istanbul Bilgi University Centre for Conflict Resolution Studies and Research (CCR). Devoted to the theme of Youth voicing peace, this event aimed to bring together a diverse group of young people, promote their participation in efforts to resolve disputes and help them to reflect on their own potential in building peace. Mostly university students, the participants were from a broad range of countries (Turkey, Iran, Ukraine, Russia...) which allowed them

to share their experiences, find common grounds with each other and gain knowledge as well as skills concerning conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Empowering such actors appeared truly important to DPI, especially considering Turkey has one of the youngest populations in the world, representing 16% of the voters for the next general elections.

The peace table started with opening remarks from Ronan Cunniffe, Irish Deputy Head of Mission in Turkey, who underlined the role of youth as key players in promoting peace and sustainable world development. Following his speech, the documentary 'Wave Goodbye to Dinosaurs' was displayed. Using the example of Northern Ireland, this projection intended to initiate the conversation about young people's role in peace processes. The keynote speaker, Monica McWilliams, introduced the debate by sharing her own experience. Currently teaching at the Transitional Justice Institute of the Ulster University in Northern Ireland, she is one of the founders of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition political party and was elected as a delegate to the Multi-Party Peace Negotiations from 1996 to 1998. As part of a panel established by the Northern Ireland government, she also makes recommendations on the disbandment of paramilitary organisations in Northern



Students attending DPI's event on Youth Voicing Peace.



Students discussing with Monica McWilliams about civil society's contributions to peacebuilding.

Ireland. Throughout her presentation, she promoted inclusivity, pluralism and mediation: values that she described as crucial for successful peace negotiations.

During the discussion, the participants expressed that war and violence had

highly impacted their psychological and social living conditions. In fact, particularly in Turkey, youth is often referred to as the "generation of war", opposed to peace on the Kurdish side whereas pro-government on the Turkish one. However, such widespread perceptions of young people have been identified as deserving of more critical research. According to the participants, further analysis should consider the increasing interest among young people toward more civic rights, against discrimination as well as unemployment.

Overall, this event has encouraged young people to recognise their role in conflict resolution, ask for advice and gain tools to increase their involvement in peacebuilding. The participants notably expressed gratitude for this conversation and said it has inspired them to think about their own countries and to strengthen their aspirations for the future. For this reason, DPI will continue to include the youth group in its programmes and support youth engagement in peace processes.



Monica McWilliams giving her speech.

Women Voicing Peace

Diyarbakir, 18-20 October 2022



Participants group picture during DPI's women event.

In collaboration with the Embassy of Ireland in Turkey and Diyarbakir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DTSO)'s Women Council, DPI organised a second session on Women Voicing Peace, from the 18th to the 20th of October in Diyarbakir. In the same line as the previous meeting, the goal of this event was to bring together a diverse group of women who have made significant contributions to advancing peace both locally and nationally. Participants included political party representa-

tives, businesspeople, human rights advocates, lawyers, journalists, and academics. Adopting the same structure as the first event on women's involvement in peacebuilding, the peace table started with the opening remarks of Sonya McGuinness, the Irish ambassador to Turkey, who reinforced her country's commitment to supporting women's active and meaningful engagement in attempts to resolve conflicts. Then, the ambassador of Switzerland to Turkey, Jean Daniel Ruch gave



Ambassador Sonya McGuinness' opening remarks on women's role in peacebuilding

a speech in honour of the women who have fought for peace throughout the world. Before the discussion started, the participants watched the documentary 'Wave Goodbye to Dinosaurs', celebrating the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition's contributions to the country's peace process. The founder of this organisation was notably the keynote speaker of this event,

she shared her experiences and emphasised the need for inclusion in peace negotiations. She demonstrated that women add a unique perspective to politics and conflict resolution, an approach not based on families and domestic life but on improving welfare, education and civil rights in general. At the end of the meeting, a Q&A session took place, with various questions centred on sexual and economic violence (a topic often disregarded during peace processes), third-party mediation, Brexit and women's rights. Considered a great success, the organisation of this event promoted women's participation in conflict resolution activities as essential, if not as a priority, for peace to be achieved. As such, DPI will continue to place this issue at the heart of its programmes.

INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION EXCHANGE

Shared economic interests as the base for peace

Diyarbakır, 21-23 April 2022



DPI's speaker, İzzet Akyol, introducing the cost of the conflict in Turkey.

As a continuation of last year's series called 'Mapping the Dividends of Peace in Turkey', DPI organised its first International Conflict Resolution Exchange event about the direct and indirect costs of conflict in Turkey. In collaboration with the Diyarbakır Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DTSO), the meeting took place from the 21st to the 23rd of April in Diyarbakır and aimed to address the interconnected relationship between conflict, peace and economy as well as contribute to the debate on the economic rationale for peace in Turkey. This event gathered businesspeople and civil society actors based in the South and South-East of Turkey (the main conflict-affected region), including but not limited to the head of chambers of industry, commerce, and trade from leading cities.

The dialogue started with an introduction from İzzet Akyol, an economy and political columnist, who highlighted the cost of the four decades of conflict across four main points: direct cost, cutbacks in internal investment and productivity losses, curbing in foreign investment, decrease in tourism revenues. Such a presentation was particularly relevant given the important economic crisis that Turkey was (and still is) facing. Indeed, without high military expenses, the country would probably manage its financial problems better than it does today. Therefore, the first keynote speaker demonstrated that Turkey must engage in an exit strategy, that is, a change of policy designed to solve the Kurdish issues through a less security-oriented approach. Following this argument, the second keynote speaker, ambassador Vegard Ellefsen stepped in. As a Norwegian diplomat and former NATO representative, he explained how the economic cost of a conflict could be used to convince belligerents of the need for a peace process. In his opinion, linking economic issues to the benefits of peace can contribute to a change of attitudes: first within the business community, then between the political parties, and finally among the whole society. During the discussion, participants raised questions about the upcoming elections, the economic situation, and the Kurdish issue.

During the evaluation session, it was noted that the event provided a platform for participants to refer to the economy as leverage in promoting peace. It enhanced



DPI's participants discussing the economic argument as a leverage for peace.

the business community's understanding of its role in supporting conflict resolution but also its advantages in doing it for themselves, the government, and society. The participants concluded the event with a deeper knowledge of the various economic approaches to peacebuilding, their potential for application in Turkey, as well as their challenges. Together, they also generated concrete ideas to engage with peace in their activities. As part of the project "Forging Pathways to Peace and Democracy in Turkey", the event contributed to DPI's ongoing work focused on preparing society for any future peace process in Turkey, which emphasises the importance of continuing dialogue and of broadening bases for participation in democratisation and inclusive resolution processes even in the most challenging times.

Dividends of Peace from a Regional Perspective

Van, 29-31 July 2022



Participants listening to Derek Mooney's explanation of dividends of peace.

From the 29th until the 31st of July, DPI organised an event on the dividends of peace from a regional perspective, in Van. Following the same goal as the previous international conflict resolution exchange meeting, this event gathered businesspeople from the South and South-East of Turkey, academics, lawyers, policymakers, civil society members, journalists, and senior political figures responsible for economic policies from different political parties in Turkey. In collaboration with the Diyarbakır Cham-

ber of Commerce and Industry (DTSO) and the Van Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VANTSO), the participants focused on further discussing the role that the business community can play in conflict resolution efforts.

The keynote speaker, Derek Mooney, a communication consultant, and former Irish government advisor, used the example of Northern Ireland to explain how the economic argument for peace could help in publicising the idea of peace and generating public support. Precisely, he de-

scribed the role of business communities in two ways: at the macro-level (through large businesses' initiatives) and at the micro-level (thanks to smaller business owners delivering peace on a daily and local basis). He also identified four common characteristics among businesspeople who experienced conflicts and violence, namely: **1)** resilience; **2)** decision-making in a complex environment; **3)** great awareness of local-based contexts; and **4)** ability to seize opportunities in a fast-pacing climate.

The rest of the conversation highlighted the existing connection between economic growth or stability and democracy with an effective legal system. During the debate, they also review communication

strategies concerning the dividends of peace. The participants agreed that more news and media content should be produced on the peace and economy relationship, and then shared with a broader audience. Despite the obvious differences between the two study cases (Turkey and Northern Ireland), the public found similarities among them, notably the window of opportunity that the economic crisis represents for peace to be brought back in the country. This event was the first international conflict resolution exchange of a broader set of activities planned in the context of the new 2022 project: "Voicing Peace and Fostering Inclusivity in Turkey", supported by the Norwegian, Swiss and Irish governments.

Attendees for DPI's second 2022 International Conflict Resolution Exchange event.



INTERACTIVE SEMINAR

Civil Society Seminar: 'Constructive Dialogue and Reflecting on Tangible Steps'

Istanbul, 17 October 2022



Participants gathering their ideas on opportunities for peace.

As its first interactive seminar, DPI held an event on civil society actors and their role in encouraging progress in Turkey. On the 17th of October 2022, in Istanbul, the participants gathered and shared their expertise on law, human rights, women's studies, economy and peace, education and media.

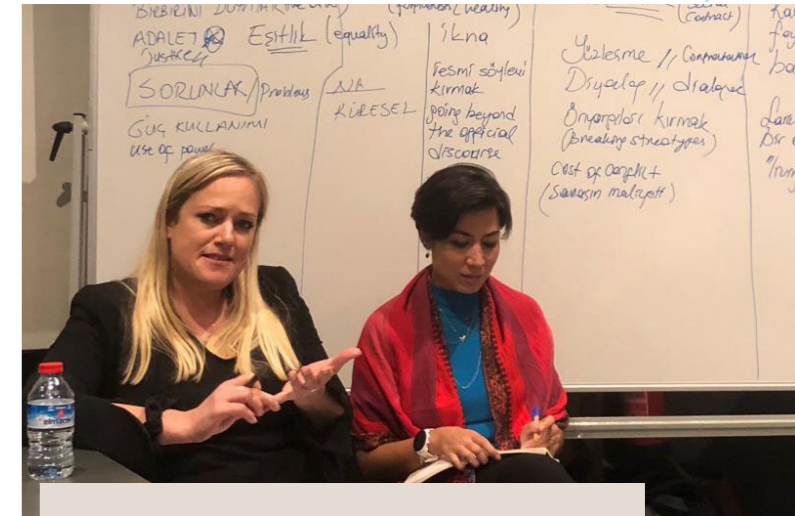
The desire to discuss such a topic came from the idea that the chances of securing a peace agreement are enhanced when high-level negotiations (Track 1 Diplomacy) are complemented and supported by civil society actors and social movements for peace (Track 2 Diplomacy). However, to awaken societal interests, people's concerns need to be heard and their demands to be satisfied. Accordingly, to generate this enthusiasm within Turkish society, DPI's first interactive seminar joined the effort toward greater inclusion of citizens in conflict resolution processes. Such an event aimed

at reversing patterns of polarisation, building trust among the different actors, and, in the long term, increasing the sustainability of any future peace talks. In Turkey, despite the significant contribution of civil society organisations to the solution process, it has been noted that their activities could be more structured.

Divided into four sessions, this event aimed to correct this shortcoming and improve the participants' strategies concerning peace-building. As such, the different groups discussed several topics:

1. The first session was dedicated to the guests' vision of peace: they had to determine why a peace agreement was necessary and what would be their priorities in case of such a process would occur.
2. The second session focused on mapping the opportunities and obstacles to a possible peace process, based on the current political and economic situation in Turkey.
3. The third session was based on the elaboration of a suitable communication plan to accompany the above-mentioned priorities and disseminate the necessity of peace.
4. Lastly, the fourth session consisted of a presentation of every participant's work, feedback and exchanges about further ideas.

During the different conversations, the participants pointed out various requirements for peace to be fostered. The most mentioned one was the need to create new content about the peace process (definition, benefits), but also about the war (his-



DPI's first seminar leaders introducing the events to participants.

tory, prejudices, memories, stories, costs) to promote reconciliation, trust and co-existence as well as convince the public opinion regarding the importance of resolving the Kurdish issue. While achieving such a goal, the participants acknowledge the necessity to involve a broader range of actors in the process, such as businesspeople, media, youth, women's groups, artists, cultural workers, and religious leaders, for them to help in developing updated data, methods, and approaches.

As a first attempt, this interactive seminar was a great success, participants expressed gratitude for being granted the opportunity to build concrete suggestions and models. This event has brought hope for civil society's actors as well as DPI who ended the meeting with the firm intention of organising it again. This event, as well as the following interactive seminars, were part of the new 2022 project: "Voicing Peace and Fostering Inclusivity in Turkey", supported by the Norwegian, Swiss, and Irish governments.

Women Seminar: 'Constructive Dialogue and Reflecting on Tangible Steps'

Diyarbakır, 19 October 2022

After the success of the first seminar, DPI organised a second interactive seminar with a group of women from diverse backgrounds, many of whom would traditionally have been excluded from political conversations, but who are interested and invested in working towards peace. Led by Dr Marta Welander (external consultant) and Dr Esra Elmas (DPI Senior Regional Strategy Analyst), this event took place on the 19th of October 2022 in Diyarbakır.

Concerning the structure, the event was organised in the same way as the first one on civil society actors. Accordingly, four sessions were held on visualising peace, mapping its opportunity and challenges, communicating about it, and then concluding remarks. Although the main topics were similar to the previous meetings, different themes emerged from the discussion with the women's group. For



Participants listening to DPI's insights on women's contribution to conflict resolution.

instance, during the first session about the requirements for peace, women discussed all the issues mentioned by the civil society group (about reconciliation, justice, and history telling) but also the need to include gender perceptions in the peace process, to disarm, to adopt a bottom-up approach, to deal with political prisoners, to change the education system, to promote human rights and international law, as well as the need for

Participants gathering their thoughts on women's role in peacebuilding.



freedom concerning gender, nationality, culture or language. In bringing this vision of peace to life, participants highlighted the need for a united movement toward peace. This would require mutual respect between Turkish and Kurds, at the high level but mostly at the local one. The participants also mentioned that the peace process should be opened to the public and dealt with by communities and neighbourhoods.

During the concluding remarks, the participants expressed gratitude for the intimate nature of the event, everyone felt comfortable speaking and contributing to the debate. It has however been suggested to extend the conversation to other groups such as children or LGBT+ people and to organise a discussion between political opponents for them to find common interests.

Media Representatives Seminar: 'Constructive Dialogue and Reflecting on Tangible Steps'

Istanbul, 14 November 2022

On the 14th of November, DPI organised an interactive seminar with media representatives. It aimed to provide a space for participants to reflect on strategic ways to operationalise lessons learned in DPI's activities, and it enabled the participants to continue promoting dialogue and discuss tangible steps forward.

Participants who represented the diverse political spectrum in Turkey were encouraged to reflect on and articulate their vision of peace and how peace should be communicated in media by reflecting on the lessons learned from the previous peace process experience, in light of the upcoming elections.

In this seminar, journalists from various media organizations examined in depth the obstacles to a more sensitive and im-

partial media structure regarding peace and conflict resolution in Turkey. Even when there is no political agenda and will for peace, it has been determined what kind of support is needed for journalists and journalism to develop a professional culture sensitive to social peace and the benefits of peace. It was emphasized that journalism that adheres to the principles of accuracy and integrity contributes to a constructive culture, and therefore, the journalist's adherence to these principles is sufficient for a culture of peace and reconciliation.

In difficult times, journalists have adopted as their sole principle, for their own professional and public benefit, that reconciliation, dialogue, and conflict transformation must remain on the agenda.

ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

Meeting with Mehmet Kaya 'The Current Economic Situation in Turkey' *London, 27-29 January 2022*

This meeting took place in London from the 27th to the 29th of January and aimed to evaluate what happened in 2021 as well as to plan the 2022 cooperation with the Diyarbakir Chamber of Industry and Commerce. In such a period when the economy in Turkey has the power to determine the future of peace in the country, this event highlighted that peace processes are not only and necessarily about the rectification of a conflict's 'root causes', but also about what matters most to the main stakeholders when a peace process is strongly needed in a given country. DPI believed that attempts to achieve sustainable peace must expand beyond the conventional actors involved in peace-making and that donor agencies, businesses, as well as diaspora communities can all help to enhance forward-thinking peace processes.

The keynote speaker for the meeting was Mehmet Kaya, Chairman of the Diyarbakir Chamber of Industry and Commerce (DTSO), and representative of the business actor's organisation based in the main con-

flict-affected regions in Turkey. Throughout the event, he discussed the current economic situation in Turkey and explored ways to promote the importance of the economy and peace in finding a comprehensive solution to the Kurdish issue. Precisely, throughout 2-day meetings, our activity considered the contributions provided by DPI's economy meetings held in 2021 in collaboration with DTSO to discuss the economic benefits of peace and examined how the report on the impact of four decades of conflict on the economy of Turkey has generated interest among our stakeholders and the public. These developments suggested that there is a need and appetite for debates on the economic rationale for peace in Turkey by exploring the direct and indirect effects of peace-building on economic growth and stability, especially considering the current state of the country's economy.

The meeting provided an in-depth assessment of the present situation in Turkey, focusing on the state of the economy and its

implications for future developments in the country. Annual inflation has surged above 30% in Turkey, underlining the country's economic turmoil and the importance of urgently addressing the economy. The economic situation is affecting the everyday life of ordinary citizens, as well as negatively impacting the ruling party's governance and popularity. Thus, the success and support of the AK Party are heavily dependent on their measures towards improving the economy. However, the economy cannot be improved solely through domestic reform, but it should include trade, foreign investment, and regional development, as well. This will also involve the need for stability and the rule of law in the region. Consequently, the election period in Turkey will have an impact on the country's development. Effectively, any economic reforms by the government before the elections will likely be short-term tactical solutions to artificially reduce inflation and win over some support from the public. However, the speaker argued that an improved state of the economy would probably not be reached before the elections. Regarding the Kurdish issue, every party needs to gain the trust of the Kurdish voters to win the elections. Small steps are being taken for the progress of the Kurdish issue (such as optional courses for the Kurdish language in schools, and cultural activities with former Kurdish public figures) but stronger initiatives would be necessary to tackle the polarisation of the electorate. The ongoing armed conflict continues to have negative implications, not only for Turkey's economy but also for its neighbouring countries. In particular, the Syrian conflict, which contributed to the end of the peace process in 2015, is closely interconnected with the Kurdish issue. Therefore, addressing the



DPI's staff members gathered with the Diyarbakir Chamber of Industry and Commerce to discuss the economy and its implications for peace in Turkey.

Kurdish issue in Turkey would be a huge step forward in the conflict in both countries, and would contribute to the stability and development of the whole region.

Overall, the assessment meeting and the developments discussed supported the notion that there is a small window of opportunity for a potential peace process in Turkey, and the economy will have a large part to play. With the upcoming elections in Turkey, DPI will maintain its discussions on peace dividends and continue to put the peace process at the forefront of the agenda with different actors, partners, and policymakers. DPI will continue to further explore the relations between the economy and peace during 2022 in collaboration with DTSO. The upcoming events, which will be held in Diyarbakir and Erbil, will focus on the economic costs and dividends of peace in Turkey. This assessment meeting forms part of a larger series of activities planned in the context of continuation of the project: "Forging Pathways to Peace and Democracy in Turkey", supported by the Norwegian, Irish, and Swiss governments.

Meeting with Nagehan Alçi 'The Current Situation in Turkey'

Dublin, 1-3 February 2022

Between the 1st and the 3rd of February 2022, DPI held an in-person assessment meeting in Dublin. This meeting aimed to discuss the recent developments in Turkey and the region, particularly focusing on the Kurdish issue and the resolution process. These meetings fall within the organisation's broader objective to strengthen dialogue and collaboration among the diverse groups in Turkey's society, considering the issue of societal polarization. Assessment meetings and briefing sessions provide insight into the current situation in Turkey and the region and allow the participants an access to experts with whom they can exchange experiences and lessons learned on the practical aspects of conflict resolution. This meeting covered key areas affecting the current situation in Turkey, including the state of the peace process, freedom of expression, human rights, the economy, and government policy. These will all be important topics which will dominate the political agenda as the country prepares for the upcoming elections due next year. Throughout the visit, Nagehan Alçi, a journalist and TV presenter from Turkey, provided her expert perspective on the current situation and engaged in several discussion sessions with our staff.

Alçi provided an assessment of the current state of the media in Turkey. As a reflection of the political and social atmosphere, the media is very polarised, divided between pro-government and anti-government camps. Therefore, the scope for discussing conflict resolution in the media is limited. There have also been recent restrictions on freedom of speech and expression in the country, as well as a rise in ethnic nationalisation and anti-Western sentiment in Turkey, both fuelled by politics. Regarding the Kurdish issue, AK Party's strategy remains unchanged, it has even damaged the Kurdish voter base because of the alliance with the MHP and the HDP closure case. Accordingly, the election period can provide a narrow window of opportunity for the peace process, democratisation, and the Kurdish issue; and the media can provide an important role during this period. As it stands, the media in Turkey cannot prepare society for conflict resolution. Polarisation and the limited space for transparency continue to pose significant challenges for the media in Turkey. Therefore, it is important to consider what media actors can do in the face of such challenges. It was suggested that journalists can publish different experi-



DPI's CEO, Kerim Yildiz, accompanied by Nagehan Alçi and Bertie Ahern.

ences from other conflict cases to equip the population at large with lessons from other peace processes.

Following the DPI assessment meeting which also included a meeting with former Taoiseach and DPI's Council of Experts, Bertie Ahern, Nagehan Alçi produced two articles published in Haberturk where she discussed the Northern Ireland experience. The articles highlighted that despite the difficult times, it is important to keep hope for peace; and to have a successful and sustainable peace

process, it is crucial to have dialogue and ensure that all parties are heard. The event was part of DPI's ongoing assessment and briefing and mentoring activities, which provide an important contribution to the organisation's work focused on preparing society for any future peace process in Turkey. These meetings emphasise the importance of continuing dialogue and broadening bases for participation in democratisation and inclusive resolution processes even in the most challenging times.

Meeting with Gulseren Onanc 'The Current Situation in Turkey' *London, 14 March 2022*

As part of the assessment series, DPI held an in-person assessment to discuss the current situation in Turkey, on 14 March 2022 in London. The speaker for the meeting was Gülseren Onanç, activist, founder of the Equality, Justice and Women Platform in Turkey and former Assembly Member of the Turkish Republican People's Party (CHP). The meeting aimed to discuss the current situation in Turkey and the opportunities for pushing the resolution of the Kurdish issue on the Turkish political agenda. The meeting which took place in DPI's London office

examined DPI's activity as well as the general situation of politics in Turkey, the people's current reaction to the situation and their willingness to push for improvement in all areas of society. The assessment meeting explored the possibility of the elections representing a narrow window of opportunity to encourage the peace process by preparing social groups and public perception.

The speaker started the discussion by mentioning the threat of autocracies developing in multiple countries as the pandemic gave many political leaders the possibility to declare an emergency state and to disrupt all democratic mechanisms that held their authority in check. Such a trend was defined as a concerning factor that is furthering the polarization of our world. The speaker highlighted the importance of organisations like DPI which try to establish a continuous pro-peace dialogue between relevant actors in the region. She continued by explaining that Turkey's uncertain future will play out in a year with the

Participants listening to the speaker's analysis.



Gulseren Onanc discussing the current situation in Turkey with DPI's CEO.

elections predicted to take place in October 2022 or April 2023. These same elections will determine whether the Kurdish issue can be solved in a near future and whether this tackling of the conflict can change the collective picture for Turkey. She asserted that more than ever, the society in Turkey values peace and wants to stop human and economic casualties. One key factor for a potential change in the democratic landscape in the country is the recent coalition between the six major opposition parties. Another consideration would be the development of organised groups such as the women's movement, the LGBTQ+ and Youth groups which demand imminent change for society in Turkey.

The assessment meeting provided the participants, which included journalists, lawyers, and political scientists as well as DPI staff, an opportunity to discuss the current situation in Turkey. The assessment meeting and the following discussion suggested that there is an opportunity for the upcoming general election to provide an opening for discussions on different social issues affecting society in Turkey. DPI will continue working on bringing together various experts and actors who can support the resuming of the peace process as well as organising events that encourage the discussion on the resolution of the Kurdish issue and therefore help prioritize the peace process on the Turkish political agenda.

Meeting with Ahmet Mümtaz Taylan 'Mapping a Cultural Repertoire of Peace in Turkey'

London and Dublin, 29 and 31 March 2022

As part of the art and culture assessment series, DPI held an in-person meeting in London to discuss the cultural repertoire of peace in Turkey as well as the current situation in the country, on the 29th of March 2022 in London and on the 31st of March 2022 during DPI's Board meeting in Dublin. The speaker for the meeting was Ahmet Mümtaz Taylan, a well-known TV, film and theatre actor as well as an awarded director in Turkey. The meeting aimed to discuss the role of art and culture in conflict resolution as art as a medium and the art community as an actor who can be powerful in moving the conversation forward and imagining what peace would look like in Turkey. The narratives that culture and art can convey about the causes and consequences of conflict, the works that can be visually delivered to the public, and the opportunities for a culture of peace to be created through these works were also among the topics that were addressed.

The meeting provided an insightful discussion on DPI's activities, the current political and social situation in Turkey, as well as art's potential to help further the peace process in Turkey. The speaker recounted his experience of being appointed, as an actor, to Diyarbakir's state Theatre and how this led him to realise that many Turkish citizens believed that keeping the Kurds poor and segregated would avoid

social disruption. According to him, the theatre in Diyarbakir had been opened, like many institutions, to keep the Kurds in line. He denounced the colonial intent behind such institutions. The speaker explains that his experience as an actor has led him to meet many people and develop a strong interest in their stories. He explained that the Southeast region of Turkey was abandoned by politicians until the elections came up.

The speaker mentioned that art on its own is not as efficient in changing the situation as it is made out to be but can contribute to society through its healing virtues. Art can help with Turkey's social polarization by pushing against self-censorship and censorship which are rampant in Turkey and damage freedom of speech. The current issue with censorship in art is that it is expensive to perform or exhibit art without the support of the government or a strong artistic union. This tendency promotes further separation between the Turkish and the Kurdish members of the art community because they must start from scratch if they want to produce art, as their cultural identity is repressed by the ruling block. In Turkey, art can promote democratization because the art and culture community can reach levels of popularity which are inaccessible to politicians. He explains that artists can try to show their art in small



Participants listening to the speaker about the role of arts and culture in peace processes.

rooms or sell it to digital platforms such as Netflix.

The assessment meeting further provided the participants with an opportunity to discuss the need for artists and peacebuilding organisations to help prepare the society for peace before any possible process in Turkey. The speaker continued the assessment by mentioning artists' need to change their way to ally with Turkish and Kurdish artists and to find new approaches to communicate with the youth. Mümtaz Taylan also provided insight into the current economic and political situation in Turkey. He discussed how the economic crisis is unprecedented and destroyed people's optimism. This situation is used by political parties to conceal important social issues within Turkey. The presidential system has notably reinforced censorship issues because now, political parties need to extend their electorate beyond their traditional targets, therefore parties cater to all sensitivities. Beyond this, any political criticism can bring people to court. He also

mentioned that his expectation from DPI's work was limited but then he immediately decided to get involved after attending an online meeting where he witnessed DPI bring together various political parties through a fruitful discussion. He mentioned this gives him faith in dialogue.

Overall, the assessment highlighted the importance of dialogue and peacebuilding in Turkey. It successfully allowed the participants to understand how art and culture can provide another perspective on conflict resolution by encouraging community cohesion, challenging identities, and providing a platform to discuss conflict resolution with a wider audience. The assessment suggested that organizations like DPI are needed to work on problems stemming from polarization by bringing various actors together and keeping the discussion between these actors alive. It formed a larger part of DPI's art, culture and conflict resolution programme which is supported by the Norwegian, Swiss, and Irish governments.

Meeting with Cansu Çamlıbel 'Current Situation in Turkey and Political Dynamics Towards General Elections' *London, 27 May 2022*

The meeting aimed to get Çamlıbel's assessment of the political situation in Turkey before the elections and to listen to her take on whether there is a window of opportunity to advance peace process issues or wider discussions within Turkish society and if so, with which partners.

Ms Çamlıbel started by giving an overview of current alliances prior to the

elections and her take on the AKP and President Erdogan's Kurdish policy since his rise to power in 2002. In summary, in light of the backlashes concerning Kurdish issues since 2015, the keynote speakers expressed doubts about any further rapprochement with the Kurds.

Believed that any negotiations on a potential peace process with AK Party



Participants surrounding Ms Çamlıbel to discuss political dynamics towards the elections.

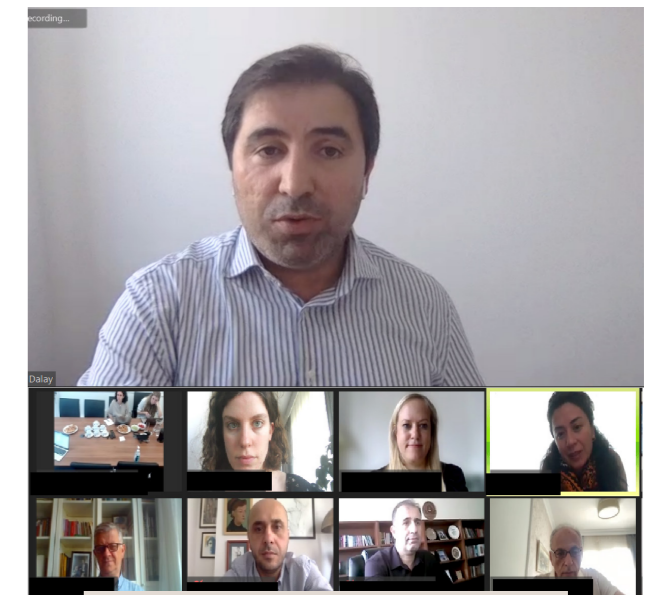
would discredit Kurdish parties in public opinion in Turkey and lose them the public support needed for an ongoing peace process. In the second half of the meeting, Ms Çamlıbel shared some statistics on social media use by the Turkish population. She stressed the importance of social media, and the Generation Z votes which will, according to her assessment, be a decisive factor in the upcoming elections. Her suggestion to DPI was to include younger party members and youth organizations in peace table meetings.

She acknowledged the relevance of receiving the support of young people in Turkey for a peace process, as well as of strengthening alliances with opposition journalists in Turkey.

It was her position that this election will not mainly be concerned with the Kurdish question but rather the return to a parliamentary system. The Kurdish voters should therefore be asked to wait and support the opposition alliance. Then, she said a genuine opportunity for peace negotiations will present itself in the time after the election.

Meeting with Galip Dalay 'Current Situation in Turkey in the Context of Conflict Resolution' *Online, 30 June 2022*

Held online on the 30th of June, the last assessment meeting of the year aimed to provide a structure for measuring the impact and reach of DPI's work on the Turkey programme. As a part of the meeting, there was an assessment session to discuss the current political situation in Turkey. Mr Galip Dalay, an esteemed scholar and think-tanker specialising in Turkish politics provided an analysis of the current political situation in the context of conflict resolution. This was followed by a question-and-answer session.



Galip Dalay assessing the implication of DPI's work on the peace process in Turkey.

ASSESSMENT AND RESEARCH REPORTS IN 2022

DPI's panel of experts write leading briefings and assessments of the conflict resolution process in Turkey and the wider region. You will find below a selection of assessments and research reports which have been published by DPI in 2022. Please note that these assessments do not necessarily reflect DPI's official position and opinions nor those of DPI's funders.

Conflict Resolution and Constitution Making in Turkey by

Professor Dr. Fazil Hüsnü Erdem Professor,
Dr. Sevtap Yokuş, Dr. Vahap Coşkun and Dr. Zeynep Ardic

The following research contains a series of studies on the role of constitution-making, in the conflict resolution process in Turkey, as a deeply polarized society. Constitutions serve a fundamental role in the functioning of states, as they regulate the executive, legislative and judicial branches of a country and guarantee the rights of citizens. If a constitution lacks these guarantees, it can open the door to the oppression of groups and eventually it may lead to conflict.

The first study considers the incrementalist approach to constitution-making, which has been specifically designed for use in polarised societies and applies it to the current situation in Turkey. Then, the second study focuses on the balance of power in Turkey, stressing the need to support mechanisms that promote democratisation and to consider the opportunities in which the presidential system can be useful for peacebuilding. Other opportunities regarding the constitution-making

process are outlined in the third study, which highlights the need for a new constitution by outlining the priorities of the constitutional process in polarised societies, considering a new constitution to be a possible pathway to the resolution of the Kurdish Issue. Finally, the fourth study discusses the importance of building confidence among the population before introducing a new constitution. The report also assesses the undemocratic process by which the Turkish Constitution of 1982

came to be and the recent efforts to write a new constitution in Turkey. The four studies are part of DPI's project titled 'The Legal Basis for Peace', which aims to understand the role that legal foundations and constitution-making processes can play as part of conflict resolution efforts. This project is part of a larger series of programmes developed by DPI, titled "*Forging Pathways to Peace and Democracy in Turkey*", which are supported by the Norwegian, Swiss and Irish governments.

Digital Technologies and Conflict Resolution by

Dr. Emre Eren Korkmaz and Aiden Slavin

This research report analyses the relationship between digital technologies and conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Throughout this report, critical discussions are held concerning emerging technologies; previous technological contributions to peace initiatives worldwide; advantages and disadvantages of ICTs within the realm of peacebuilding; and technological prevalence within the Turkish context. To conclude, this report demonstrates a need for future research, not only to aid in the development of innovative peace solutions but also to address contemporary concerns of misuse and potential hindrances technology may cause. DPI would like to express its thanks to the author for producing this engaging report. The views and opinions expressed in the report remain those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official position of DPI.

The Art of Resolution: The Role of Culture and the Arts in Conflict Transformation by

Dr Edel Hughes

Over the last decades, art has taken the stage as a crucial tool for reconciliation and peacebuilding. In this study, the author provides a rich background establishing art as a transformer of conflict. Dr Hughes identifies several broad themes from the growing literature in this field such as art as a diplomacy tool, a medium to draw attention to the realities of conflict, and as a bridge-builder bringing together all sides of the conflict.

After elaborating on arts' potential in peacebuilding and reconciliation processes, Dr Hughes supports this with case studies on Colombia and the Troubles in Northern Ireland. Regarding the latter, Dr Hughes draws attention to the murals commemorating the Troubles in Derry and Belfast. These murals exemplify how art can be used in truth-telling and healing. Dr Hughes then moves on to the role that art played leading up to the peace accord of 2016 in Colombia. During the conflict and signing of the peace accord in 2016, formal programmes and grassroots initiatives were implemented that used music to address the effects of violence and to promote reconciliation among Colombians. She discusses large-scale and successful projects, such as the social music programme *Música para la Reconciliación*, as well as smaller and grassroots projects like the use of art therapy on FARC fighters after the peace agreement.

This study was the first research report of the DPI project, "*Voicing Peace and Fostering Inclusivity in Turkey*", which is also part of DPI's new conflict resolution series: Mapping a Cultural Repertoire of peace in Turkey (*Barişın sanat ve kültür repertuarını yapmak*) and is co-funded by the European Union, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Government of Ireland.

The Current Situation in Turkey: Political Dynamics in Turkey Ahead of the 2023 General Elections by

Ali Bayramoğlu

This report focuses on the social and political dynamics in Turkey on the road to the elections. Highlighting the rise of authoritarianism following the transition to the Presidential System of Government, Bayramoğlu notes that pushing Kurdish actors out of politics is among the most notable instances of this rise. Bayramoğlu foregrounds the underlying dynamics of this general framework and the importance of accurately analyzing Turkey in the run-up to the elections. He emphasises that during this anticipatory period, the social, political, and global circumstances, the political balances, and actors, as well as the uncertainties surrounding the Presidential elections must be carefully investigated. During the run-up to the elections, Bayramoğlu notes that five factors, in particular, may influence the political trajectory, and balances among the political actors. These factors are **1)** inflation and the economic crisis, which are exacerbated by the irrational actions of the government, **2)** Erdoğan's potential decision to resort to manipulation regarding the Kurdish issue and İmralı to hurt support for the HDP, **3)** geostrategic developments, which help equate Erdoğan with success and growth in foreign policy, **4)** the Six-Party Alliance's presidential candidate, and **5)** the effect of the results of the parliamentary election on the outcome of the second round of presidential elections, which are to take place fifteen days later. The report meticulously interprets Turkey's internal dynamics and the characteristics of its political parties and provides a framework to the reader on the run-up to the elections.

DPI's STAFF

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 several 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 of 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.

Dr Esra Elmas

Senior Regional Strategy Analyst

In addition to her role as Senior Regional Strategy Analyst at DPI, Dr Esra is co-founder of İstanbul Bilgi University Centre for Conflict Resolution Studies and Research, and she also worked as the Head of Turkey Programme at DPI for five years. She received her PhD in Sociology from École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS) and Political Science (Department of Conflict and Development Studies) from Ghent University. Her publications cover areas such as Turkish modernisation, internal migration, civil-military relations, sacralization of politics and the history of Turkish media. Esra's 2007 book, 'My Dear Atatürk', examines the way in which primary school students in Turkey perceive Atatürk, Turkey's founder.

Katya Paus

Programme Officer

Katya joined DPI in January 2020 as Programme Officer. She holds a BA in Social Sciences (main areas of focus Anthropology and Sociology) from University College Utrecht and a MA in Conflict Resolution in Divided Societies from King's College London. Her academic work mainly focused on militarization of education in Turkey and the relationship between public space and collective memory in the Middle East. Katya previously did internships at Agos Newspaper and the Truth, Justice and Memory Center in Istanbul. She is fluent in Turkish, English and Dutch.

Dieu Nguyen

Finance Manager

Dieu Nguyen has worked in the UK not-for-profit sector managing Finance and Funding Development for the past 10 years. Prior to that she worked in Vietnam and Australia in the banking sector. In her current role as Finance Manager at DPI, Dieu works closely with the Board of Directors to recommend and implement improvements to financial policies and procedures, IT systems and facilities. Dieu has extensive experience of managing multiple complex international grants those are funded by European Commission; United Nations; Foreign and Commonwealth Office; Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Netherlands; Government of Ireland; The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs etc.

Saniye Karakas

Head of Legal Programme

Saniye has been working with DPI since 2011. She is a graduate of Dicle University Law Faculty in Turkey. Between 2000 and 2006 she practiced as a lawyer in the areas of criminal and human rights law in Diyarbakir, Turkey. During this time she also participated in numerous voluntary activities of the Diyarbakir Bar Association, the Contemporary Lawyers Association and the Human Rights Association's Diyarbakir branch. After completing an LL.M. in Human Rights at Birkbeck College, University of London, in 2007 Saniye worked at the Kurdish Human Rights Project as a Legal Associate until 2011. She is a researcher at the International State Crime Initiative where she was involved in a project titled 'Civil Society Resistance to State Violence and Corruption-Comparative Study'. She has also contributed to failibelli.org, a website dedicated to monitoring cases opened against perpetrators of crimes committed by state security officers in Turkey.

Akinola Williams

Operations Manager

Akinola Williams joined DPI in March 2019 as the Operations Manager with 20 years law, training, recruitment and management experience. He has worked in legal private practice and the Nigerian Ministry of Justice as well as RG World (Also trading as Rail Gourmet UK Ltd).

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 several 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 of 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 KC – Chair

Nicholas Stewart, KC, is a barrister and Deputy High Court Judge (Chancery and King's Bench Divisions) in the United Kingdom. He is the former Chair of the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales and the 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.

Owen Bowcott

Owen Bowcott is a journalist and was the Guardian's legal affairs and Ireland correspondent. He has previously been a general news reporter, foreign news editor and was the Ireland correspondent during The Troubles. He studied history at Birmingham University and journalism at Cardiff University. He started off working for the Birmingham Post and later joined the BBC, working as a researcher and producer for BBC

News and the current affairs programme Panorama. He has also been a reporter for The Daily Telegraph. He is the co-author of a book, *Beating the System*, about the early years of computer hacking and the criminalisation of online activity.

Priscilla Hayner

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

Arild Humlen

Arild Humlen is a lawyer and Director of the Norwegian Bar Association's Legal Committee. He is widely published within many jurisdictions, with an 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 the Oslo branch of the National Bar Association and also the former chair of the National Bar Association Legal Committee.

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 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 (Southeast 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 InterAction 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 UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to be a Special Envoy on the issue of UN Reform.

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 Asutay

Professor Dr. Mehmet Asutay is a Professor of Middle Eastern and Islamic Political Economy & Finance at the Durham University Business School, UK. He conducts research, teaches, and supervises research on Islamic political economy and finance, Middle Eastern economic development and finance, and the political economy of the Middle East, including Turkish and Kurdish political economies. He is the Director of the Durham Centre for Islamic Economics and Finance and the Managing Editor of the Review of Islamic Economics, as well as Associate Editor of the American Journal of Islamic Social Science. He is the Honorary Treasurer of the BRISMES (British Society for Middle Eastern Studies); and of the IAIE (International Association for Islamic Economics).

Ali 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 the daily Karar. He is a member of the Wise Persons Committee in Turkey, established during the peace process between 2013-2015.

Professor Christine Bell

Professor Christine Bell is a legal expert based in Edinburgh, Scotland. She is a 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 several 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.

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 many 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.

Oral Çalışlar

Oral Çalışlar completed his studies at the Ankara University Faculty of Political Sciences. He was the President of the Club of Socialist Thought at the university, as well as Secretary-General of the Ankara University Student Union. He wrote for the *Türk Solu* journal which was launched in 1967 and for the *Aydınlık* journal which was launched in 1968. He was a member of the editorial board of *Aydınlık* journal. He was arrested after the 12th of March 1971 military coup and remained imprisoned for three years until the Amnesty law was adopted in 1974. He was Editor in Chief for the *Aydınlık* daily newspaper launched in 1978. He was arrested again after the 12th of September 1980 military coup and released in August 1988 after four years in prison. Then, he lived in Hamburg between 1990 and 1992 upon the invitation of the Senate of Hamburg and worked for *Cumhuriyet* daily between 1992 and 2008. He broadcasted television programmes on different channels, including TRT, 24TV, 360, and SKYTÜRK before being transferred from *Cumhuriyet* daily to *Radikal* daily in 2008. Between 2004-2007, he was in the board of the Turkish Journalists Association. He has a permanent-press card. He became Editor in Chief for *Taraf* daily in 2013 and was part of the Wise People Committee in the same year. Later, he 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. He returned to *Radikal* daily and started writing for *Posta* daily after 2016 when *Radikal* was discontinued. He continued to work as a commentator on TV news channels. Overall, he has 20 published books, including *The Leaders' Prison*, *Hız. Ali*, *Mamak Prison from the 12th of March to 12th of September*, *The Kurdish Issue with Öcalan and Burkay*, *My 68 Memoirs*, *The Alevis*, *When Deniz and Friends Were Executed*, *My Childhood in Tarsus*, *The History of Gulenism*. These were the recipient of a large number of journalism and research awards. Married (1976) to the author and journalist İpek Çalışlar, he is also the father of the author Reşat Çalışlar.

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 a former war correspondent. He served as special adviser to former Turkish president Turgut Özal. Cengiz Çandar is a Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the Stockholm University Institute for Turkish Studies (SUITS).

Dr. Vahap Coşkun

Dr. Vahap Coşkun is a Professor of Law at the University of Diyarbakır where he also completed his bachelor's and master's degrees in law. Coşkun received his PhD from Ankara University Faculty of Law. He has written for *Serbestiyet* and *Kurdistan 24* online newspapers. He has published books on human rights, constitutional law, political theory, and social peace. Coşkun was a member of the Wise Persons Committee in Turkey in the team that was responsible for the Central Anatolian Region.

Dr. Esra Çuhadar

Dr. Esra Çuhadar currently works on the United Nations standby team of senior mediation advisers as a process design and inclusion expert. She has worked with various civil society and governmental actors and supported numerous dialogue and mediation initiatives in S. Caucasus, Ukraine, Turkey, Cyprus, and between Israel-Palestine, Greece-Turkey, Turkey-Armenia, and Somalia-Somaliland. She has more than twenty years of experience in researching, teaching, and practicing dialogue facilitation, mediation, and conflict assessment. She is a thought leader on designing inclusive peace processes with her extensive research and applied work in this area. She worked to advance the inclusion of civil society and women in places including Afghanistan, Cameroon, Turkey, and Venezuela. She contributed to women's capacity building in

peacebuilding and co-founded the Turkey antenna of the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network in 2019. Prior to joining the stand-by team, Esra worked as a senior expert on dialogue and inclusion at the United States Institute of Peace, as a regional mediator for the World Bank, advisor to the mediation support unit of the OSCE, senior research fellow at Inclusive Peace, and associate professor at Bilkent University in Turkey. Esra received and managed numerous research grants, received awards and fellowships, and published extensively in leading journals and books on inclusive peace process and dialogue design, and evaluation of peacebuilding. Esra Cuhadar received her MA and Ph.D. from Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs of Syracuse University in the USA. She speaks English and Turkish.

Ayşegül Doğan

Ayşegül Doğan is a journalist who has conducted interviews and created news files and programmes for independent news platforms. She studied at the Faculty of Cultural Mediation and Communications at Metz University and the 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 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 the National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations in Paris. She worked in political communications for a long time. From its establishment in 2011 to its closure in 2016, she worked as a programme 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 on the 31st of 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 a Permanent representative on the North Atlantic Council and as 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

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

Professor Salomon Lerner Febres

Professor 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 from 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 at 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

Professor Mervyn Frost is a 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 Gorman, Director, Eurasia, David has more than 25 years of experience in the field of peace-making. 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, and 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 Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) after previously serving as 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).

Dr. Edel Hughes

Dr. Edel Hughes is a Lecturer in Law at the School of Law, National University of Ireland, Galway. Before joining NUI Galway, Dr. Hughes was a Senior Lecturer in Law at Middlesex University and previously worked at the University of East London 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 in these areas.

Kezban Hatemi

Kezban Hatemi received her bachelor's degree in law from the 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 interest 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 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 the "Humanity Initiative for Bosnia" and after her return from Bosnia, she participated in various conferences and symposiums as a speaker 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 of 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 to achieve a sense of lasting peace in the democratization and solution process. She is a member of the Democratic Progress Institute's Council of Experts, and she is the president of the Democracy Platform.

Nazan Haydari

Nazan Haydari is Professor of Media Department at İstanbul Bilgi University, Turkey. Her research area consists of intercultural communication, feminist media studies, and critical media pedagogy with a particular interest in communication for peace building, community media, participatory action research and gendered radio histories. She is the director of Center for Conflict Resolution Studies and advisory board member for the Center for Intercultural Dialogue (<https://centerforinterculturaldialogue.org/>) She was involved in the development of various participatory media projects with street-involved children, and disadvantaged youngsters. She is the co-editor of Case Studies in Intercultural Dialogue (2015, Kendal Hunt). Currently working towards the completion of a co-authored book manuscript on an oral history project with women radio broadcasters of 1970s in Turkey. She holds PhD in Telecommunications and MAIA in Communications and Development from Ohio University.

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 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 the Managing Editor of the Turkish editing house, İletişim, and a member of the editorial board of the 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 projects 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 currently managing the Migration Learning Exchange programme with The Social Change Initiative (www.thesocialchangeinitiative.org) and working on philanthropy and peacebuilding. Avila was previously Director of Policy & Strategy with the Global Fund for Community Foundations (2014-2016), having held the position of Director of the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland (1994-2014). Avila was born and educated in Dublin, completing her BA (History & Politics) at University College Dublin. She received a MA (International Relations) from Australian National University and completed a PhD (Department of Law) at Queens University Belfast, where she was later awarded a Hon. Doctorate in Social Science. Avila is involved in community development, the Women's Movement, and philanthropy in Northern Ireland since 1975. Prior to her position with CFNI, Avila was the first Women's Officer with the Amalgamated Transport & General Workers' Union (Ireland), serving on the Board of the Northern Ireland Community Relations Council (1994-1997), the Industrial Development Board (NI) and the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU). She has long been involved with a range of peacebuilding initiatives, as well as work on poverty, women's issues, and social needs. A founder member of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition in 1996, Avila served on the Coalition's Negotiating Team for the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement. She

was a founder member of the Foundations for Peace Network and currently serves as Director of the St. Stephen's Green Trust as well as a co-optee on the Ireland Committee of the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and a Board Member of the International Fund for Ireland. Avila has written extensively on community action, peacebuilding, and women's rights. She has published a book – 'Community Action in a Contested Society: The Story of Northern Ireland' (Peter Lang, 2016) and 'Conflict-Affected Environments: Notes for Grantmakers' – (www.thesocialchangeinitiative.org). Avila lives in Belfast and is married with three children and two grandchildren.

Professor Ram Manikkalingam

Professor Ram Manikkalingam is the founder and director of the Dialogue Advisory Group, based in Amsterdam. He also teaches politics at the University of Amsterdam. He has been involved in efforts to reduce violence and promote reconciliation in Northern Iraq, Libya, the Basque Country and Northern Ireland, among other situations. Following the Easter bombings in Sri Lanka, he served as an independent expert to the National Security Advisory Board by the then President. He was also assisting the government in Sri Lanka with reconciliation. Previously, he was Senior Advisor on the peace process to then President Kumaratunga of Sri Lanka. He has served as an Advisor with Ambassador rank at the Sri Lanka Mission to the United Nations in New York. Before that, he led the Rockefeller Foundation's program on international security.

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 the 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 at 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 from 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, Professor 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 some international positions, including membership of the Strategy Committee of the Project on Justice in Times of Transition at Harvard University.

Mark Muller KC

Mark Muller, KC, 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 the 2014 Turkish film, Darbe (Coup), on the 07th of February 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 an 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 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. From 2012 to 2014, Prof. Packer was a Constitutions and Process Design Expert on the United Nation's Standby Team of Mediation Experts attached to the Department of Political Affairs, advising in numerous peace processes and political transitions around the world focusing on conflict prevention and resolution, diversity management, constitutional and legal reform, and the protection of human rights.

Jonathan Powell

Jonathan Powell is the founder and CEO of Inter Mediate, an NGO devoted to conflict resolution around the world. In 2014, Powell was appointed by former Prime Minister David Cameron to be the UK's Special Envoy to Libya. He also served as Tony Blair's Chief of Staff in the opposition from 1995 to 1997 and again as his Chief of Staff in Downing Street from 1997 to 2007. Before 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 their 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, as High Commissioner to Kenya from 1992 to 1995 and Zimbabwe from 1989 to 1992. Sir Kieran was also British Ambassador to Turkey from 1995 to 1997. He speaks Turkish. Since he retired from the UN, he has conducted research at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs (Harvard) and is a member of the Advisory Council of Independent Diplomats (United States). Prendergast also holds many positions, including President of the British Association of Former UN Civil Servants, Trustee of the Beit Trust, and Senior Adviser at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue.

Rajesh Rai

Rajesh Rai is a barrister called in 1993 to Lincolns Inn and practices at the Chambers of John Benson Q. C. where he is joint deputy head of chambers (www.lmcb.com). During this time, he has been the Director of the Joint Council for Welfare of Immigrants (www.jcwi.org.uk), Director and treasurer of the Kurdish Human Rights Project (www.khrp.org), founded and acted as a director of Global Legal Technologies Ltd (“GLT”) pioneering LPO, which he exited in 2006. As a social entrepreneur, Rajesh founded and acted as a director of Human Energy (Uganda) Ltd (“HEU”). He is a founder and director of HIC (www.hicameroun.org), an NGO based in NW Cameroon. He was an exec director of an AIM listed Company, where he managed the company’s renewable energy portfolio. He helped found “BEEBE”, a Mexican renewable energy company, devising its strategy and acting as director. Rajesh has taught meditation since 2012 and is the Executive Director of Poulstone Court Retreat Centre (www.poulstone.com). In 2016, he founded and is promoting his annual initiative; a global non-stop 7-day meditation for Unity (www.meditateforunity.com).

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.

Dr. Mehmet Ufuk Uras

Dr. Mehmet Ufuk Uras is a co-founder and member of the 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 the 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 the 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 the 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 Law Faculty Member at İstanbul Altınbaş University in the Department of Constitutional Law. She holds a PhD in Public Law from the Faculty of Law, İstanbul 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 the undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral levels. She also has experience working as a lawyer in the European Court of Human Rights.

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