



CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND PEACEBUILDING SKILLS SUMMER SCHOOL OBJECTIVES, TIMETABLE AND STAFF PROFILES

Introduction

The Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations at Coventry University (UK) and Kadir Has University (Turkey) present this experiential skills-building workshop on conflict resolution. Conflict is an inevitable part of change and development in all communities, from local to international, but the mishandling of it can cause significant harm. In this workshop, we offer insights into the dynamics of conflict at all levels, from personal to global. We teach essential skills for understanding and responding to conflict in ways that promote human security and dignity, and introduce tools to enable students to encounter others positively and build healthy relationships across difference.

As well as providing an introduction to conflict analysis, we seek to strengthen participants' competencies in the range of skills needed to resolve conflict effectively, including communication, negotiation, and personal and situational awareness. We do this by case-studying the approaches of others seeking to manage conflict constructively around the world, from diplomats to activists, journalists to politicians, and trying out conflict resolution methods which can be used in a range of contexts. The course caters to a wide range of participants – from advanced-year undergraduate students, graduate students, and non-academic professionals working in development, humanitarian action, security and business.

Learning objectives

- To gain insight and understanding of different pathways to resolve conflict at interpersonal, community and international levels.
- To be able to identify and respond to different factors which underlie conflict and impact on its resolution, including identity, power dynamics and ownership.
- To explore the importance of voice and inclusion in resolving conflict, for instance through exploring the transformative potential of reconciliation work and the crucial role that advocacy plays in challenging the social injustices and inequalities at the root of many conflicts.
- To gain an awareness of non-violent forms of conflict resolution and how non-violent methods and tactics can be effective in bringing about social change, and to explore the dilemmas that arise when force is deployed in the name of peace, for instance through peacekeeping missions and humanitarian intervention.
- To develop applied skills in conflict analysis, negotiation, dialogue and communication in order to live and work effectively with groups in diverse contexts.

How the course is taught

We draw from multiple disciplines across the social sciences to present a diverse and topical programme based on experiential learning, making use of a range of instructional tools including role plays, case studies and debates. We provide students with ample opportunity to actively experiment in order to engage with key concepts in a participatory and meaningful way. The content material introduces participants to the challenges, dilemmas and opportunities involved in conflict resolution work and to our distinctive approach which seeks to find long-term solutions to conflict based on the principles of inclusivity, relationship-building and non-violence.

	10.00 – 11.30	11.45 – 13.00	14.00 – 15.30	15.45 – 17.00
Monday	<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Getting to know each other, introductions by each person. Explanation of the course structure and schedule. Ground rules/housekeeping, etc. 	<p>Conceptualising conflict</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A contextual understanding of conflict and peace at global, community and interpersonal levels. Introduction to key conflict theory and its application. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued from Session 2 	<p>Conflict analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is conflict analysis? Peacebuilding and political economy approaches Tools for analysing conflict situations Mapping stakeholders and key issues Making connections
Tuesday	<p>Working through issues in conflict resolution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolution vs. transformation Peace vs. Justice Working at multiple levels (upper-level vs grassroots). Timeframes, etc. 		<p>Making use of advocacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding the links between social justice and peace/conflict Speaking out about injustices and making the case for change. Case studies of successful advocacy movements. Developing action plans based on scenarios. 	
Wednesday (Global/national focus)	<p>Principles of negotiation, mediation, and other methods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Characteristics of a mediator. The importance of consent, trust and long-term engagement Models of mediation explained. Perspectives of both upper-level and grassroots level actors. 		<p>Preventing violent conflict</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding operational and structural approaches to prevention Linking early warning with early response and addressing feedback loops Case studies from Nigeria, Solomon Islands and Kenya Practical entry points for prevention activities 	
Thursday (Community focus)	<p>Community reconciliation and peacebuilding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principles of local ownership. Community level work and action. 		<p>Voice, inclusion and participation in peacebuilding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consequences of exclusion Mechanisms for inclusion – transitional processes, dialogues, legal frames 	<p>Laws of war</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An introduction to international humanitarian law Scenario: applying the laws of war in a besieged city under fire
Friday	<p>Facilitating and participating in a dialogue process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principles of dialogue Looking at obstacles to openness; key skills for convenors; creating a comfort zone, agreeing ground rules and other important aspects. Including a simulated dialogue. 		<p>Reflection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conclusions. Moving forward. Wrapping up. 	<p>Celebratory Excursion and Meal</p>

Workshop Facilitators

Laura Payne is *Research Fellow* at the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations (CTPSR) at Coventry University in the UK. Ms. Payne has particular expertise in working with peacebuilding actors from non-academic and non-expert backgrounds working on the front lines of conflict in their communities, including extensive experience working with local civil society groups in Africa and Asia. She has previously run workshops across a broad range of conflict contexts to share skills in conflict resolution and peacebuilding practice. Her field experience includes applied research in Turkey, Nigeria, Solomon Islands, Israel and Palestine, and Iraqi Kurdistan.

Dr. Chuck Thiessen is *Research Fellow in Peacebuilding* with CTPSR at Coventry University. Dr. Thiessen is a scholar and practitioner whose academic research has focused on international peacebuilding and conflict resolution processes in Afghanistan and other war-torn contexts. Previous to his current position Dr. Thiessen worked in Kabul, Afghanistan as a Research Manager for a peacebuilding NGO. He has consulted for several international NGOs in Afghanistan, and has managed a variety of peacebuilding and development projects in Afghanistan and Uzbekistan.