

# Rejuvenating Peace Processes: Lessons Learned

23 May 2025

Point Hotel Taksim, Istanbul

The 20th century was marked by numerous conflicts, each with varying degrees of violence. In response, many negotiated peace agreements were signed in the closing decades of the 20th century and the early years of the 21st. However, there is still much to understand about the precise conditions and moments when the idea of returning to the negotiating table becomes a reality.

Re-starting peace talks after a breakdown is a complex and delicate process, requiring leaders from conflicting parties to carefully analyze a range of interrelated factors. The success of re-initiating negotiations often depends on key elements such as timing, trust-building, and creating the right environment for productive dialogue.

This conference seeks to convene representatives from conflict parties who have participated in peace negotiations to explore the factors that led to the resumption of talks in their respective countries.

## Conference Program

**13.00** Registration

**13.15** Welcoming speeches

- **Ayşe Betül Çelik**, *Sabancı University*
- **Tina Blohm**, *Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Turkey Office*

**13.30 Panel 1: Rejuvenating Peace Processes**

Chair: **Ayşe Betül Çelik**, *Sabancı University*

- **Miriam Coronel-Ferrer**, *Founding Member, Southeast Asian Women Peace Mediators, Government Negotiator, Philippines*
- **Shadia Marhaban, Co-founder**, *Aceh Women's League; Negotiator, Free Aceh Movement (GAM), Indonesia*
- **Neha Sanghrajka**, *Senior Conflict Sensitivity Advisor for United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Mediator, 2019 Mozambique Peace Agreement*
- **Bronagh Hinds**, *Senior Associate, DemocraShe, Negotiator and Co-founder, Women's Coalition for Multi-Party Talks, Northern Ireland*

**15.30** Coffee break

**16.00 Panel 2: Lessons Learned**

Chair: **Mehmet Gürses**, *University of Central Florida, United States*

- **Joshua N. Weiss**, *Program Director, Bay Path's Master in Organizational Leadership and Negotiation, Harvard University, United States*
- **Mirko Manzoni**, *Ambassador to South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, Mauritius, and Eswatini and Permanent Representative to SADC; Personal Envoy, UN Secretary General for Mozambique (2019-2023)*
- **Mesut Yeğen**, *Founding Editor, Kürt Tarihi Journal; Founding Member, Kurdish Studies Center, Turkey*
- **Mehmet Gürses**, *Najmaldin Karim & Jalal Talabani Chair of Kurdish Studies, University of Central Florida, United States*

**18.00** End of Conference

# Rejuvenating Peace Processes: Lessons Learned

23 May 2025

Point Hotel Taksim, Istanbul



## Ayşe Betül Çelik

*Professor of Political Science and Conflict Resolution, Sabancı University*

Ayşe Betül Çelik received her Ph.D. in political science from the State University of New York at Binghamton in 2002 and is a full Professor at Sabancı University in Istanbul, Turkey. She teaches political science and conflict resolution. She is an expert on ethnic conflict, reconciliation, dialogue, forced migration, peace processes and gender and peacebuilding. She has several articles and a co-authored book on Turkey's Kurdish Question, forced Kurdish migration and role of NGOs in the conflict. She also teaches gender awareness to high school teachers in several cities in Turkey. She is one of the founders of the Turkey Antenna of the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network. Prof. Çelik received "Ufficiale Dell Ordine Della Stella D'Italia"-Official (Ufficiale) of Order of the Star of Italy (Ordine della Stella d'Italia) which is a recognition of the highest degree conferred by the President of the Italian Republic in 2021 for her work in conflict resolution and gender.



## Bronagh Hinds

*Senior Associate, DemocraShe, Negotiator and Co-founder, Women's Coalition for Multi-Party Talks, Northern Ireland*

Bronagh Hinds co-founded the Women's Coalition for multi-party talks and was a negotiator of Northern Ireland's peace agreement. Appointed Deputy Chief Commissioner for Equality she led on implementing its equality and good relations commitments. Transition work with political parties, the Assembly and local government focused on women's leadership, diversity and good governance. Appointed by UNW as a senior expert on women's engagement in peace processes she advised the Syrian Women's Advisory Board during negotiations. Work in conflict regions includes Israel/Palestine, Iraq, Yemen, Afghanistan, Ukraine and Colombia. Activity on UNSCR 1325 spans reviewing Ireland's NAPs, facilitating learning for multilateral bodies and briefing an UNSC Arria-formula meeting. Bronagh has held government appointments in equality, women and local government and as a Senior Fellow in Queen's University Belfast. She previously led CSOs on conflict programming, dialogue initiatives, civil society building and leadership development. Bronagh has received several awards for peace building and women's rights.



## Joshua N. Weiss

*Program Director, Bay Path's Master in Organizational Leadership and Negotiation, Harvard University, United States*

Joshua N. Weiss is the program director for Bay Path's Master in Organizational Leadership and Negotiation and a Senior fellow at the Harvard Negotiation Project. He co-founded the Global Negotiation Initiative and leads Negotiation Works, Inc. As

a consultant, he has worked with Fortune 500 companies, the UN, and various governments. Dr. Weiss is the author of numerous articles and books, including *Getting Back to the Table*, *The Book of Real World Negotiations* and *The Negotiator in You* book series as well as a children's series on creative conflict resolution. His research explores how contemporary technology and storytelling impacts negotiation and conflict resolution. More recently he has focused on how to cope with setbacks and failures in negotiation. Dr. Weiss received his PhD in 2002 from the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University.



## Mehmet Gürses

*Najmaldin Karim & Jalal Talabani Chair of Kurdish Studies, University of Central Florida, United States*

Mehmet Gürses earned his Ph.D. in 2007 in Political Science from the University of North Texas. He is currently a professor and director of Kurdish Studies at the University of Central Florida. His research interests encompass Kurdish politics, the intersection of religion and politics, ethnic and religious conflicts, post-civil war peacebuilding, and post-war democratization. He is the author of "Anatomy of a Civil War: Sociopolitical Impacts of the Kurdish Conflict in Turkey," published by the University of Michigan Press in 2018. His work has been featured in leading academic journals.



## Mesut Yeğen

*Founding Editor, Kürt Tarihi Journal; Founding Member, Kurdish Studies Center, Turkey*

Mesut Yeğen received Ph.D. in sociology from Essex University. He taught at the Department of Sociology of Middle East Technical University between 1996 and 2010. He was a full-time professor at Istanbul Şehir University from 2010 until the university was shut down by a presidential decree in 2020. He worked in an Istanbul-based think tank, the Reform Institute, between 2021 and 2024. He is the founding editor of the journal, Kürt Tarihi. His research and publications have focused on Turkish nationalism, Kurdish question and citizenship in Turkey. He authored, among others, the following: "Ethnopolitics to geopolitics: the Turkish State and the Kurdish question since 2015"; "Kurdish Nationalism in Turkey: 1898-2018"; "State Violence in 'Kurdistan'; "Turkish Nationhood: Civic and Ancestral and Cultural"; "Armed Struggle to Peace Negotiations: Independent Kurdistan to Democratic Autonomy, or the PKK in Context"; "The Turkish Left and the Kurdish Question"; "Prospective-Turks or Pseudo-Citizens: Kurds in Turkey"; "The Dialectic and the Tragedy of Citizenship" and "Turkish Nationalism and the Kurdish Question".

# Rejuvenating Peace Processes: Lessons Learned

23 May 2025

Point Hotel Taksim, Istanbul



## **Miriam Coronel Ferrer**

*Founding Member, Southeast Asian Women Peace Mediators, Government Negotiator, Philippines*

Miriam Coronel Ferrer is a founding member of the Southeast Asian Women

Peace Mediators and a former UN Standby Team mediator. She led the Philippine government panel that signed the 2014 Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro. A retired professor at the University of the Philippines, she has held leadership roles in peace and human rights programs and has been a visiting professor in several Asian universities. Currently, Prof. Ferrer serves on the boards of the International Crisis Group and Geneva-based Interpeace, and the advisory bodies of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders in New York, the Peace Treaty Initiative of the Institute for Integrated Transitions in Barcelona, and the Negotiations Strategies Institute at Harvard University. Ferrer has received multiple awards, including the 2023 Ramon Magsaysay Award. Prof. Ferrer has published extensively on democratization, civil society, and peace processes in Southeast Asia.



## **Mirko Manzoni**

*Ambassador to South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, Mauritius, and Eswatini and Permanent Representative to SADC; Personal Envoy, UN Secretary General for Mozambique (2019-2023)*

Ambassador Mirko Manzoni has more than 25 years of experience in diplomacy and the humanitarian field and recently concluded his mandate as Personal Envoy of the UN Secretary General for Mozambique (2019-2023). As a lead mediator for and witness to the Maputo Accord, he oversaw implementation and the demobilization of 5221 former combatants. He brings extensive experience in providing good offices and in engaging with governments and international organizations at the highest level. Since November 2023, he has been Switzerland's Ambassador to South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, Mauritius, and Eswatini and Permanent Representative to SADC. Amb Manzoni holds a Master's degree in architecture and an MBA from HEC Lausanne - School of Business.



## **Neha Sanghrajka**

*Senior Conflict Sensitivity Advisor for United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Mediator, 2019 Mozambique Peace Agreement*

Neha Sanghrajka is a negotiator, mediator, and author with extensive experience in peacebuilding and mediation with the United Nations (UN), the African Union (AU) and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD Centre). She was a mediator of Mozambique's 2019 peace accord and worked with Kofi Annan on Kenya's 2007 electoral crisis. Currently, Neha is a Senior Conflict Sensitivity Advisor for UNOPS. She is on the board of the Kofi Annan Foundation, the Berghof Foundation and is a Yale University Peace Fellow and a Fellow at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy. A founding member of Women Mediators across the Commonwealth, Neha holds a Degree in Law and a Master's in International Relations. She has authored several publications including the book "Back from the brink: The 2008 mediation process and reforms in Kenya."



## **Shadia Marhaban**

*Co-founder, Aceh Women's League; Negotiator, Free Aceh Movement (GAM), Indonesia*

Shadia Marhaban is a mediator and steering committee member of the Southeast Asian Women Peace Mediators (SEAWPM), an initiative launched by the Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs in 2020. SEAWPM aims to enhance collaboration and partnerships among national, regional, and global networks on issues related to conflict mediation, peacebuilding, and negotiations. In SEAWPM, she has been a vocal advocate in peacebuilding efforts in Southern Thailand, Mindanao, and Timor-Leste. In 2005, Shadia was a member of the Free Aceh Movement's (GAM) peace negotiating team in Helsinki, which successfully ended 30 years of conflict. Shadia also serves as a consultant for the Berghof Foundation, focusing on resistance and liberation movements for over a decade. In this capacity, she has advised numerous armed resistance movements globally, including in Colombia, Afghanistan, Nepal, Cameroon, and Mindanao. Her work facilitates opportunities for dialogue and peace negotiations. Shadia studied Political Science in Indonesia and was a former Fellow at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard.