

PEACEMAKERS' IDEAS ABOUT MAKING AND MAINTAINING PEACE

This is an invited roundtable conference to take place in Oslo, Norway, October 25–27, 2007. It will be hosted by the Norwegian Nobel Institute and the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, which celebrates its sesquicentennial in 2007.

The conference

The conference will take the form of a series of conversations among the members of a small invited group of leading peacemakers from Europe and the United States who have been involved in creating peace in the Middle East and the former Yugoslavia. The discussions will focus on several broad questions from the scholarly literature on peacemaking—with sessions on the causes, negotiations, and aftermaths of conflicts, as well as on some of the moral dilemmas central to peacemaking.

The conference is a so-called eyewitness conference, where key decision-makers and practitioners of diplomacy meet to debate the issues surrounding peacemaking and peacebuilding. It works as a form of group interview that aims to bring to the table information and knowledge that would not emerge as easily either from individual interviews or from consulting written sources. The discussions will be led by respected scholars in the field and also attended by a selected group of historians and political scientists.

By transcribing the conference sessions we will create a small archive with relevance to scholars interested in the various aspects of peacemaking. These transcripts will be a valuable supplement to personal memoirs and other written sources.

The project's aim

The overarching goal of the conference is to arrive at novel perspectives, informed by personal experience, on the challenges of creating and maintaining peace. We would like to build a bridge between the ideas and knowledge of high-ranking practitioners of diplomacy and the academic debate on peacemaking.

The discussions at the conference will provide the primary material for a book, which will take the form of a set of intellectual biographies of those peacemakers who take part in the roundtable conference. By linking the knowledge of practitioners more closely to

the scholarly debate, this book will attempt to offer an account of peacemaking that is at once personally and theoretically informed. Scholars who take part in the conference will write the chapters of the book to be edited by Professor Helge Pharo and Postdoctoral Fellow Mona Fixdal.

Participants

Jan Egeland, Special Adviser to U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Peter Galbraith, former U.S. Ambassador to Croatia

Hans Hækkerup, former Special Representative of the U.N. Secretary-General and head of the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

Søren Jessen-Petersen, former Special Representative of the U.N. Secretary-General and head of the U.N. Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

James Leonard, former head of the U.S. delegation to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva

Samuel Lewis, former U.S. Ambassador to Israel

Lord Owen, former E.U. Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia (ICFY)

Wolfgang Petritsch, former High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina

General Sir Michael Rose, Commander of the U.N. Protection Force, Bosnia-Herzegovina (UNPROFOR)

Harold Saunders, former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs

Thorvald Stoltenberg, former Special Representative of the U.N. Secretary-General for the Former Yugoslavia and U.N. Co-Chairman of the ICFY

The discussions will be led by Gary Bass (Princeton University), Geir Lundestad (the Norwegian Nobel Institute), Olara Otunnu (LBL Foundation for Children), Daniel Serwer (United States Institute of Peace), and Abiodun Williams (United Nations).

The following scholars will take part in the conference and contribute to the book: Cecilia Albin (Uppsala University), Karin Aggestam (Lund University), Sumantra Bose (London School of Economics), Mona Fixdal (University of Oslo), Jan Willem Honig (King's College, Cambridge), Peter Viggo Jacobsen (University of Copenhagen), Reneo Lukic (Université Laval), Henriette Riegler (Austrian Institute for International Affairs), Anne Julie Semb (University of Oslo), Hilde Henriksen Waage (University of Oslo) and Jay Winter (Yale University).

Erik Solheim, Norwegian Minister of International Development, will give the opening address at the conference.

Steering committee

The project's steering committee consists of Postdoctoral Fellow Mona Fixdal, Professor Helge Pharo, Professor Hilde Henriksen Waage and Professor Øyvind Østerud, all at the Center for Contemporary History at the University of Oslo. Øyvind Ekelund is administrative coordinator for the conference.

For more information about the conference:

Question about the conference can be directed to Mona Fixdal (m.c.fixdal@iakh.uio.no) or by phone + 47 926 19 564) or Øyvind Ekelund (oyvind.ekelund@iakh.uio.no) or by telephone + 47 22 84 47 08).