

# Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution Certificate Program At-A-Glance

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## Course Description

The Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution Certificate Program is a comprehensive program focusing on the theory, models, and skills applicable to peacebuilding and conflict resolution which may be applied in transitional societies, complex humanitarian emergencies and war-torn societies.

The course is designed to provide participants with the opportunities to build bridges between theory and practice for those who must work together to make peace, keep peace and build peace in increasingly challenging conflict situations. Negotiation and mediation skills, and dispute resolution system design are central to the program.

The course encompasses a wide range of materials in a highly interactive learning environment. Participants will be introduced to the latest theories, models and skills in the context of the most current developments in international conflict resolution. The realities of conflict characteristic of the immediate post cold war period and the challenges that intervening actors must face is the point of departure.

Since Peacebuilding centres more on how we think about and address conflict rather what we know about a specific conflict, this program is not designed to impart large amounts of factual information. Instead, this program introduces course participants to theories, models and theory-informed skills that are intended to assist with the challenges that participants confront in an operational context.



## Course Objectives

The overall objective of the Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution Certificate Program is to collectively learn from the expertise and experience of both program instructors and participants who represent a broad range of subject knowledge and awareness relating to peacebuilding. Specific objectives include the following:

1. To define and situate peacebuilding as one of the three peace-nurturing functions.
2. To appreciate the challenges and understand the range of activities entailed in peacebuilding, such as: physical, social, political, and economic reconstruction; and building the capacity through system design for non-violent expression and resolution of conflict.
3. To foster improved relations among the actors involved in peacebuilding and international conflict resolution including: NGOs, armed forces, police, diplomats, governments officials, researchers, and policy analysts.
4. To raise awareness of the overall context of peacebuilding and international conflict resolution, including the legal, social, political and economic dimensions.
5. To explore and understand the relevance of specific contextual factors including: the UN Charter, conventions, protocols, international human rights, and humanitarian law, rules of engagement, the role of the state and sovereignty.
6. To gain theoretical awareness and practical understanding of contemporary conflict and political violence and models of analysis and resolution.
7. To develop negotiation and mediation skills to be applied in peacebuilding and international conflict resolution.
8. To encourage cross-cultural awareness and to develop sensitivity and appreciation for the role of culture and its impact on inter-ethnic, internal and inter-state conflict.



## General Scope

The general scope of this course includes several inter-related themes, including:

- Bridging the Peace Nurturing Culture Gap
- Bridging the Knowledge-Action Gap
- Restructuring Power
- The Search for Reconciliation

## Participant Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course participants will:

1. Appreciate the range of theories relating to peacebuilding and have applied some of the tools for analyzing conflicts.
2. Be aware of the three peace-nurturing functions including: peacemaking and peacekeeping.
3. Understand the role of human rights and humanitarian law in the context of peacebuilding.
4. Know about the challenges military actors face in peacebuilding situations.
5. Have discussed dispute resolution capacity building in a diversity of conflict scenarios.
6. Be able to identify different styles of negotiation and know the characteristics of each.
7. Have interest-based negotiation and mediation skills, and dispute resolution systems design.
8. Have improved communication, questioning, analytical and problem solving skills in resolving conflict.
9. Appreciate the relative contributions of members of the peacebuilding community and work more effectively with these partners.
10. Have received insight into Special Topics like: writing funding proposals, dealing with victims of trauma, and personal care in conflict environments



## Participant Requirements

As a course participant you will find that the teaching method does not emphasize lectures; rather you will be encouraged and challenged to bring your personal experiences and professional skills of analysis and problem-solving to a series of discussions, cases, and negotiation and mediation role plays. The teaching method employs adult education techniques featuring simulated skill development exercises from which theory is extracted, then tested in new learning situations provided throughout the course.

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