



# GENEVA PEACE TALKS



# Building Bridges

**21 September 2017**

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# GENEVA PEACE TALKS 2017

## BUILDING BRIDGES

Every year, the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The United Nations General Assembly has declared this a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and people.

Organized under the theme “Building Bridges,” this year’s Geneva Peace Talks aim to encourage and promote breaking out of silos and working together to generate common understandings and solutions in today’s times where uncertainty has become the new norm. Through personal stories, speakers will share tangible experiences and ideas to inspire people and spark a discussion on how each and every one of us can play a role in reaching out and building bridges. The Talks highlights that, now more than ever, we need to work together to achieve long lasting peace. The Geneva Peace Talks symbolically stand for a Geneva spirit to resolve conflict through finding common ground amongst diversity and this year aims to contribute to this path towards more peaceful societies.

## ABOUT THE PEACE TALKS

The Peace Talks is a global initiative, now in its fifth year, which builds on the idea that everyone can play a part in building peace. The Peace Talks focus on personal stories as a vehicle for sharing ideas and practical solutions, and for inspiring action. Through city-specific events, speakers from all walks of life deliver a short inspirational talk, known as a “Peace Talk.”

The Peace Talks started in 2013 through the first ever Geneva Peace Talks, co-organized by the United Nations Office at Geneva, Interpeace and the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, with the support of the Swiss Government. Since then, it has become the flagship event to mark the International Day of Peace, held every year at the Palais des Nations. The Peace Talks have also been held at the United Nations Office in Nairobi as well as at the Swedish Parliament and City Hall in Stockholm, the Global Centre for Pluralism in Ottawa, and London City Hall.

The objectives of the Peace Talks are to:

- **Demonstrate** that peaceful solutions to conflict exist
- **Showcase** inspiring stories
- **Raise Awareness** that each and every person has a role in building peace
- **Inspire** action in everyday life and on a global scale.

# PROGRAMME

- 16:30 Geneva Peace Talks
- 18:30 Reception
- 19:30 Conclusion of the event

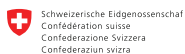
# ORGANIZERS

The Geneva Peace Talks is co-organized by the United Nations Office at Geneva, Interpeace and the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform.



# PARTNERS

This year's edition is held in partnership with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces and the Global Shapers Community Geneva. The event is made possible with the generous support of the Swiss Confederation, the Republic and State of Geneva, the City of Geneva, and Mirabaud Bank.



A special thanks to Darwin Digital, Peace Talks' Digital Partner.



## SPEAKERS

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### **Brigadier General Álvaro Pico Malaver:**

**Álvaro** is a Brigadier General of the National Police of Colombia and the Head of the Police Unit for Peacebuilding (UNIPEP). He is part of the governmental delegation in the peace negotiations with the ELN in Quito, Ecuador, and was part of the technical sub-commission for the peace negotiations with the FARC-EP in Havana, Cuba. He has a Bachelor's degree in administrations and criminalistics, is a specialist in security and human resources management with a diploma in the administration of justice and diligence of identification as well as in the management of public security. He was the Director of Interpol Colombia, Director of Schools of the Police, and Director of the General Santander School and Commander of the Metropolitan Police of Cúcuta.



### **Azra Hadzic:**

**Azra** is an architect who spent most of her career (1992-2014) at the Institute for the Protection of Monuments within the Federal Ministry of Culture and Sports in Sarajevo. More than twenty years of work allowed her to gain a specific experience in the preparation of project documentation for conservation, restoration and reconstruction of architectural and archaeological heritage, supervision of building works, development of management plans, as well as to participate in the projects that included co-operation with international organizations. Until the end of 2013, she was a member of the National Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina for Co-operation with UNESCO and since 2014, she works as an independent expert on conservation and restoration projects both in and outside of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



## Christian Picciolini:

After leaving the American hate movement he helped build in the 1980s and 90s, **Christian** graduated from DePaul University and became a respected peace advocate. He won an Emmy Award in 2016 for his role in directing and producing an anti-hate advertising campaign that helped disengage youth from white supremacist groups. Most notably, in 2011 he co-founded Life After Hate, an NGO dedicated to helping others gain the knowledge necessary to disengage from violent extremism. In 2015, Christian published “Romantic Violence: Memoirs of an American Skinhead” where he details his involvement in the early American white power skinhead movement.



## Dan Stein and Saba Temelso:

**Dan** is a social do-gooder who often has his fingers in several different pies but focuses his efforts on projects that build community and **Saba** is a refugee from Eritrea who has been living in Geneva for over 5 years. After organizing a community kitchen in Geneva for several years and contributing to a refugee kitchen project called Options Food Lab in Athens, Dan recently co-founded the Swiss NGO Cuisine Lab and the Refugee Cultural Festival which demonstrate his interest in harnessing creativity and culture, to share and learn from each other. Saba is passionate about cooking and serving others, working as a chef at Cuisine Lab. People who have tried her injera, a bread typical from Eritrea, say it is one of the best they’ve ever had.



## Hassan Ismail:

**Hassan** is the focal person for Interpeace's Kenya Program and currently leading the nascent Mandera pilot peacebuilding program. He has over 18 years of experience working in Northern Kenya, Somalia and Nairobi. He has, over this period, worked with Oxfam Québec, GENCAD International, Islamic Relief Worldwide, the Kenya Red Cross, the Kenya Teachers Service Commission, and as an independent consultant for various UN agencies, INGOS and regional bodies. Born and raised in North Eastern Kenya, Hassan holds an MA in Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding. He is close to finalizing a PhD in Leadership and Governance and is an active member of the Kenya Red Cross' National Disaster Response Team.



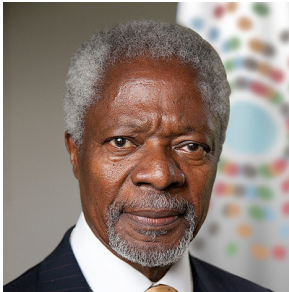
## Heba Aly:

**Heba** strives to put quality, independent journalism at the service of the most vulnerable people on earth. She spent one decade reporting from conflict zones in the Middle East, Africa and Central Asia before taking over the leadership of IRIN News, one of the world's leading sources of field-based journalism about humanitarian crises. In her work for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Bloomberg and the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting, from Syria to Afghanistan, from Sudan to Libya, she has seen societies torn apart by war and politics, as well as the power of the human spirit to rise above these divisions.



## Hyung Joon Won:

**Hyung** is a South Korean violinist trained at the Juilliard School. In 1990, he performed at the World Economic Forum which celebrated the 1990 reunification of East and West Germany. This inspired him to think of music as a medium of reconciliation. In 2009, with the hope of creating a joint North and South Korea orchestra, he founded the Lindenbaum Festival Orchestra. Since 2009, he is planning to hold a joint orchestra concert between the Koreas. Hyung believes that eventually, his dream will come true. His relentless efforts towards making his dream a reality is captured in the documentary film named “9 at 38,” soon to be released.



## Kofi Annan:

**Kofi A. Annan** was the 7th Secretary-General of the United Nations. In 2001, he and the United Nations were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace. In 2007, he set up the Kofi Annan Foundation to mobilize leaders of all sectors to provide leadership where it was needed most. The Foundation works on the premise that there can be no long-term peace without development and no sustainable development without peace. Mr. Annan chaired the Global Commission on Elections, Democracy and Security and in January 2013, launched the West Africa Commission on Drugs as a response to the surge in drug trafficking and consumption in West Africa and their impact on security, governance and public health. He is an active member of The Elders, an independent group of global leaders who work together for peace and human rights, and in 2013 was appointed its Chair.



## Sihem Bensedrine:

**Sihem** is the head of the Tunisian Dignity and Truth Commission, tasked to investigate crimes committed under the country's pre-revolutionary regimes. A high-profiled Tunisian journalist and human rights activist, she has been at the forefront of the fight for human rights in Tunisia, including freedom of speech and women's rights. A graduate of philosophy of the University of Toulouse (France), she was among the founding members of the Tunisian Human Rights League, which received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2015 as part of the "National Dialogue Quartet". In 2011, she received the Human Rights Watch "Alison de Forges Award for Extraordinary Activism".



## Sonja Stojanovic Gajic:

**Sonja** is the Director of the Belgrade Centre for Security Policy, a leading Western Balkan security think tank. Having grown up during the nineties as a youth activist in the war-affected Balkans, she got involved in security sector reforms, as she realised that that sector was potentially the biggest spoiler of nascent peace and democratisation in the region she lives in. She has more than 15 years of dealing with security sector reforms across the Balkan region, through research and engagement with governmental and non-governmental actors across borders. She initiated the Security Research Forum Belgrade-Pristina-Tirana that worked on decreasing security dilemma in Serbian-Albanian relations.



# MUSICIANS

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## Djaza:

**Djaza** is a trio composed of musicians and a singer who gather around a repertoire of traditional and a popular music of Algeria called Chaâbi. Originating from Arabo-Andalusian music, the Chaâbi style (meaning popular in Arabic) was born in the early twentieth century in Algiers, in the heart of the Casbah. The lyrics are at the heart of this music style, where ancient poetry mixes with lyrics on everyday life, love, exile, and nostalgia. The trio was born from the meeting between two friends, Anouar (mandolin and vocals) and Youcef (bandjo), which are joined by Ali (derbouka).



## Hyung Joon Won:

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# MODERATORS

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## Achim Wennmann

**Achim** is the Executive Coordinator of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, and Researcher at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP) of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. He is an expert in economic perspectives on violent conflict, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding. His most recent book (with Brian Ganson) is *Business and Conflict in Fragile States: The Case for Pragmatic Solutions* (Routledge/International Institute for Strategic Studies, 2016). He holds a Doctorate in International Relations from the Graduate Institute.



## Viviane Brunne

**Viviane** works for the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, supporting his activities on peace and security, humanitarian affairs, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She has a doctorate in political science and more than 15 years of experience in international political affairs and social and economic development. Her experience combines policy advice to governments and the development of national strategies, research and analysis, capacity building and communication. She has been involved in building bridges between East and West, North and South, with regional experience in Eastern and Western Europe, Asia and Africa.

# ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS .....



The **United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)** is the European Headquarters of the United Nations and serves as the representative office of the Secretary-General at Geneva. As focal point for multilateral diplomacy, UNOG services several thousand meetings every year, making it one of the busiest conference centres in the world. Providing key infrastructure and support, UNOG contributes significantly to the organization's efforts to maintain international peace and security, to advance disarmament, to protect and promote human rights, to eradicate poverty, to implement sustainable development practices and to provide fast, effective humanitarian relief in emergencies – to mention just a few of the tasks. A large number of dignitaries and high-level delegations come to UNOG every year to participate in bilateral exchanges, intergovernmental meetings, conferences and other events, making UNOG a centre for information sharing and exchange. UNOG performs representation and liaison functions with permanent missions, the host Government and other Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, research and academic institutions at Geneva as well as other organizations of the United Nations common system at Geneva. UNOG also facilitates inter-agency cooperation and cooperation with regional organizations. UNOG is headed by a Director-General at the level of Under-Secretary-General.

[www.unog.ch](http://www.unog.ch)    [@UNOGPolitical](https://twitter.com/UNOGPolitical)    [@UNGeneva](https://twitter.com/UNGeneva)



**Interpeace** is an independent, international peacebuilding organization. It was initially established in 1994 by the United Nations to develop innovative solutions to build peace. It has a proven and recognized approach to enable people to build lasting peace. History shows us that peace is possible. From 20 years of experience in peacebuilding, Interpeace knows that peace cannot be imported from the outside and must be built from within a society. This is why it tailors its approach to each society and ensures that the work is locally-driven. Together with local partners on the ground, it jointly develops peacebuilding programmes. It helps to establish processes of change that connect local communities, civil society, government and the international community. As a strategic partner of the United Nations, Interpeace is headquartered in Geneva (Switzerland) and has offices in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), Brussels (Belgium), Guatemala City (Guatemala), Nairobi (Kenya), New York (USA) and Stockholm (Sweden). It supports locally-led peacebuilding initiatives in over 21 countries across Central America, Africa, Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

[www.interpeace.org](http://www.interpeace.org)    [@interpeacetweet](https://twitter.com/interpeacetweet)

GENEVA  
**peacebuilding**  
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The **Geneva Peacebuilding Platform** is an inter-agency network that connects the critical mass of peacebuilding actors, resources, and expertise in Geneva and worldwide. Founded in 2008, the Platform has a mandate to facilitate interaction on peacebuilding between different institutions and sectors, and to advance new knowledge and understanding of peacebuilding issues and contexts. It also plays a creative role in building bridges between International Geneva, the United Nations peacebuilding architecture in New York, and peacebuilding activities in the field. The Platform's network comprises more than 3,000 peacebuilding professionals and over 60 institutions working on peacebuilding directly or indirectly. The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform is a joint project of four institutions: The Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP) of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies; the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP); Interpeace; and the Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva (QUNO).

[www.gpplatform.ch](http://www.gpplatform.ch)    [@GPPlatform](https://twitter.com/GPPlatform)

# PARTNERS



**DCAF**

a centre for security,  
development and  
the rule of law

The **Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)** is an international foundation whose mission is to assist the international community in pursuing good governance and reform of the security sector. The Centre provides incountry advisory support and practical assistance programmes, develops and promotes norms and standards, conducts tailored policy research, and identifies good practices and recommendations to promote democratic security sector governance.

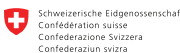
[www.dcaf.ch](http://www.dcaf.ch)



The **Global Shapers Community**, an initiative of the World Economic Forum, is a global network of local communities led by young people who are exceptional in their potential, achievements and drive to make a positive contribution to their communities. We call these local communities “Hubs” and they are based in cities across the world. The Geneva Hub seeks to make the voice and interests of young people count in local and global decisions, as well as to mobilize youth to improve social, economic and environmental wellbeing for people today and tomorrow. Our projects are driven by the real needs of our community and, for this reason we partner with local organizations to make an impact. We strive to link young people with: organizations, multinationals and local leaders.

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The event is made possible with the generous support of the **Swiss Confederation**, the **Republic and State of Geneva**, the **City of Geneva**, and **Mirabaud Bank**.





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