



# GENEVA PEACE WEEK 2025 **REPORT**



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# FOREWORD

As the world faces accelerating change, rising tensions, and deepening inequalities, the very pursuit of peace is being profoundly tested. Across continents, new and protracted conflicts continue to claim lives and destabilize communities, while insidious forms of violence, social, economic, and environmental, threaten the security and dignity of countless individuals. In this challenging global context, the 12th edition of Geneva Peace Week called for adaptive, inclusive, and collaborative approaches to peace, emphasizing the urgency of reinforcing dialogue with action.

Under the overarching theme “Peace in Action,” this year’s Geneva Peace Week (GPW) brought together an inspiring and diverse global community determined to transform shared aspirations into tangible progress. From 13 to 17 October 2025, the Maison de la Paix once again became a vibrant meeting point for dialogue, reflection, and collective imagination.

This edition was the most ambitious to date. A record 220 applications were received through the open call, from which 50 proposals were selected by the consortium. The week’s rich and dynamic programme featured over 100 activities, ranging from ceremonies, panels, workshops, and

online discussions to art exhibitions, special events, and networking moments. In total, 137 global organizations contributed to the programme, gathering thousands of peacebuilders from across 156 countries, representing governments, international organizations, NGOs, academia, the private sector, and youth networks.

With 5,700 total session attendances, including 3,300 participants on-site and 2,400 online, Geneva Peace Week 2025 demonstrated the value of the hybrid format, ensuring accessibility and global engagement. This inclusive approach continues to expand the reach of peacebuilding dialogue, allowing new voices and perspectives to enrich the conversation.

This year’s edition also placed a special emphasis on the role of art and culture in peacebuilding. From visual arts and music to film and storytelling, artists were celebrated as essential actors in reimagining peace narratives, fostering empathy, and helping communities heal and reconnect.

Behind the scenes, Geneva Peace Week 2025 was made possible thanks to the continuous support of our donors, whose contributions allowed us to expand our support to organizers and participants alike.

The increased presence of dedicated temporary staff, ranging from hospitality and logistics to event assistance and technical support, ensured a smooth and welcoming experience for all.

For the first time, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform (GPP) also stepped into a more active convening role, organizing and co-organizing 11 events, including high-level panels and special sessions, in addition to coordinating the broader programme. This evolution reflects our shared commitment not only to facilitate dialogue, but also to lead by example in putting peace in action.

As we look to the years ahead, marked by uncertainty and complexity, Geneva Peace Week remains a moment of hope and purpose: a space where those who believe in peace come together to renew their efforts toward a more just and humane future.

**Dany Diogo, Geneva Peace Week Lead,**  
Geneva Peacebuilding Platform.



# OVERVIEW

# SIGNATURE MOMENTS OF GPW25

Geneva Peace Week 2025, held under the theme “Peace in Action,” took place from 13 to 17 October 2025 at the Maison de la Paix. Now in its twelfth year, GPW has established itself as a leading global forum for peacebuilding: a reference point for ideas, action, and innovation that shape the field worldwide. More than an annual event, GPW has become a dynamic platform

where peacebuilders from diverse regions and disciplines come together to connect, exchange knowledge, and showcase practical solutions to today’s most pressing challenges. Through a rich variety of activities, participants engage in reflection and collective learning while elevating approaches that turn visions of peace into concrete action.



**OPENING CEREMONY**  
© Olivier Chamard GPW25



## 1. MESSAGES THAT INSPIRE ACTION FOR PEACE

At a time when public discourse is increasingly polarized and global crises place an unprecedented strain on communities, the role of clear, courageous, and constructive messages for peace becomes ever more vital. Geneva Peace Week 2025 placed a special emphasis on giving the floor to peacebuilders who are leading change in their fields, inviting them to share their experiences, challenges, and visions for a more peaceful future. Their voices, rooted in practice, resilience, and deep local knowledge, served not only to illuminate the complexities of peacebuilding today but also to inspire participants to remain engaged, hopeful, and proactive.

## A PEACE MESSAGE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

The Opening Ceremony of Geneva Peace Week 2025, organized by the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, the United Nations Office in Geneva and the Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, took place on Monday 13 October in the Auditorium Ivan Pictet at the Maison de la Paix and gathered 457 participants. The event set an inspiring tone for the week's reflections and exchanges under the theme Peace in Action. Bringing together diplomats, UN officials, humanitarian leaders, peacebuilding practitioners, and young peacebuilders, the ceremony highlighted both the urgency and the possibility of renewing peace through concrete, inclusive action.

Delivering one of the most powerful moments of the Opening Ceremony,

**“We are witnessing the return of war as a first resort and that should alarm us all.”**

Krähenbühl warned against the dangerous erosion of international humanitarian law and the growing tendency to dehumanize opponents, stressing that the refusal to speak with one's adversary is itself a failure of courage. He called on political leaders, institutions, and individuals alike to rediscover empathy as a guiding force for action, insisting that humanity must never be collateral damage to

Pierre Krähenbühl, Director-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross, offered a solemn and deeply human reflection on the state of contemporary conflicts. Speaking from the perspective of the ICRC's daily work in some of the world's most fragile and violent contexts, he reminded the audience that the normalization of war is one of the greatest moral failures of our time. He described a world where suffering has become routine, compassion selective, and humanitarian principles increasingly disregarded. Yet, his message was not one of despair but of moral urgency: an appeal to resist indifference and reaffirm the shared humanity that binds all sides of a conflict.

geopolitical calculations. His intervention reminded the audience that the true test of our time is not technological advancement or economic power, but the capacity to preserve dignity amid violence. The Peace Message closed in a tone both reflective and defiant: an insistence that peacebuilding begins with protecting life, recognizing the other, and daring to imagine reconciliation even where it seems impossible.

**“If we were a little less casual about wars themselves, we would realize that acting to create peace is not idealism, it is necessity.”**



PIERRE KRÄHENBÜHL, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, ICRC, OPENING CEREMONY

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## A PEACE ADDRESS TO HONOR THE LEGACY OF KOFI ANNAN

The 2025 Kofi Annan Geneva Peace Address, organized by the Kofi Annan Foundation, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, the Geneva Graduate Institute with the support of the Republic and State and the City of Geneva, was held on Tuesday 14 October in the Auditorium Ivan Pictet at the Maison de la Paix, and once again served as the annual high-level lecture of Geneva Peace Week. Drawing 694 participants, the event confirmed the enduring global resonance of Kofi Annan's legacy. This year's address was delivered by Martin Griffiths, former UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, who offered a deeply reflective and urgent message shaped by decades of mediating conflicts around the world.

**“Without listening to the people, peace fails. The people are not a complication; they are the foundation.”**

Paying tribute to Annan's humanity, moral courage, and unwavering optimism in turbulent times, Griffiths painted a sobering portrait of today's world, marked by “long, deadly, and wholly unnecessary wars”, eroding respect for international law, and chronic underfunding of

humanitarian aid. He emphasized that peace requires far more than the absence of violence, calling for the inclusion of affected communities, accountability and human rights, regional and economic reconstruction, and above all, courage from political leaders to step back from power.



MARTIN GRIFFITHS, FORMER UN UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, KAF PEACE ADDRESS

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Drawing on examples from Gaza, Sudan, and Ukraine, he illustrated both the potential and the limitations of mediation when it fails to connect with people's lived realities. Warning of the UN's declining centrality in global peacemaking, he urged its renewal and called for new mediators, especially from the Global South, to rise to leadership. Griffiths' address served both as a tribute to Annan's ideals and a wake-up call to a world in the grip of conflict

fatigue. He offered a diagnosis of the erosion of humanitarian norms, a plea for inclusive and empathetic mediation, a pragmatic balance between justice and dialogue, and a moral appeal rooted in stories of courage and solidarity. He concluded by urging young peacebuilders to “bring us the truth” from the frontlines and to carry forward the humanity and integrity exemplified by Kofi Annan.

**“Kofi Annan never gave up on optimism: a stubborn belief that humanity can still do better.”**

## THE GPP'S BOARD REFLECTIONS ON "PEACE IN ACTION"

During the central debate of the Opening Ceremony, moderated by Prof. Achim Wennmann, Director of Strategic Partnerships at the Geneva Graduate Institute, the six board members of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform reflected on the theme "Peace in Action" through the lens of their respective fields: humanitarian

action, peacemaking, governance, mine action, and diplomacy, exploring current crises from the Middle East to Ukraine, the strain on multilateralism, the need for renewed diplomatic architectures, but also Geneva's potential to strengthen its role in global peace efforts.



BOARD MEMBERS OF THE GPP, OPENING CEREMONY

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**"We must move beyond the false divide between elite diplomacy and grassroots peacebuilding. What we need is an ecosystem approach that connects power, incentives, and people."**

**Hiba Qasas**

Hiba Qasas, Founding Executive Director of Principles for Peace, noted that the Middle East may be at a critical inflection point marked by unexpected realignments among regional and global powers, emphasizing the rise of transactional, networked multilateralism, the importance of mobilizing layered incentives, coordinated diplomacy, and the "missing middle" between elites and grassroots actors, and the courage required to resist cynicism.



**"Geneva remains one of the few places where non-like-minded actors can meet in safety. We must use this strength even more boldly."**

**Amb. Thomas Greminger**

Amb. Thomas Greminger, Executive Director of the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and President of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, underlined the lack of momentum toward a ceasefire in Ukraine, stressing that U.S. leverage remains essential to reinitiate dialogue, while describing GCSP's continued back-channel diplomacy and the need for modest expectations alongside serious preparation for "the day after" through analytical work on future European security.



**“Long-term peace grows from the ground up. Even in the most fragile contexts, local ownership and good governance lay the foundations for stability.”**

**Amb. Nathalie Chuard**

Amb. Nathalie Chuard, Director of DCAF, the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance, highlighted the erosion of trust and the dominance of national defence narratives, calling for a renewed focus on people-centered security, with inclusion, particularly of women, youth, and marginalized groups, as a cornerstone, illustrated through DCAF’s work on tribal codes of honor in Yemen and the importance of long-term governance and accountability.



**AMB. NATHALIE CHUARD, DCAF,  
OPENING CEREMONY**  
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**“We cannot normalize war. Every mine cleared, every life saved, is a small act of defiance against the acceptance of violence.”**

**Amb. Tobias Privitelli**

Amb. Tobias Privitelli, Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, emphasized mine action as a concrete, non-politicized entry point for peace, noting the continued robustness of global mine-action norms despite ongoing use and production of landmines, and pointing to hopeful developments in Syria, Lebanon, and Gaza; he underscored Geneva’s role as a hub for technical, humanitarian, and norm-setting work grounded in the voices of victims.



**AMB. TOBIAS PRIVITELLI, GICHD,  
OPENING CEREMONY**  
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**“States no longer hold the monopoly on power. The future of peace requires new alliances that engage communities, civil society, and the private sector.”**

**Itonde Kakoma**

Itonde Kakoma, President and CEO of Interpeace, stressed that many conflicts stem from unresolved historical grievances and require approaches that address political economy, identity, and intergenerational dynamics, arguing that states no longer monopolize power and that non-state actors and the private sector must be part of future peace architectures, with a shift from projectized interventions toward transformative and collaborative action.



**ITONDE KAKOMA, INTERPEACE,  
OPENING CEREMONY**  
© GCSP GPW25

Collectively, the board affirmed that Geneva is uniquely positioned to provide discreet safe spaces for non-like-minded actors, maintain strong connections to field realities, convene diverse multi-stakeholder ecosystems, and foster innovation and principled pragmatism in peacebuilding; assets that should be leveraged even more boldly to shape global peace efforts.

This year, DCAF and the GCSP marked their 25th and 30th anniversaries respectively, celebrating this milestone together with their sister centre, the GICHD, three pillars of the Maison de la Paix and board members of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform. On this occasion, Amb. Greminger took the floor to highlight these anniversaries as a testament to Geneva’s leadership in peacebuilding. He reflected on the need for institutions to adapt amid shrinking resources, rising conflicts, and declining trust in multilateralism, underscoring the Centers’ continued work in training leaders, shaping global standards, and connecting peace practitioners worldwide, including by supporting and participating in Geneva Peace Week.

## 2. DIPLOMACY AS A BRIDGE TO PEACE

Diplomacy remains a cornerstone of peacebuilding because it creates the space where dialogue can replace division and constructive engagement can take root. It brings people together across political, cultural, and institutional boundaries, helping transform tensions into pathways for cooperation. In moments when trust is fragile and conflicts are deepening, diplomacy offers a way to listen and shape solutions. This spirit of dialogue is at the heart of Geneva Peace Week, where diplomatic actors are not only welcome but essential partners. Here below in alphabetic order the 2025 high-level diplomatic participation :

- 1. AL BULUSHI MOHAMMED**  
Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Oman to the UN at Geneva
- 2. AL-MUFTAH HEND ABDALRAHMAN**  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative, State of Qatar to the UN at Geneva
- 3. AL-SALEH RAED**  
Minister, Ministry for Emergency and Disaster Management, Syrian Arab Republic
- 4. BALALAA ABDULLA**  
Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Energy and Sustainability , United Arab Emirates
- 5. BAKYONO KANZIE SABINE**  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative , Burkina Faso to the UN at Geneva
- 6. CERUTTI GILLES**  
Chief, Humanitarian Diplomacy, Peace and Human Rights Division, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Switzerland
- 7. DA COSTA HELDER**  
Secretary General, G7+ Secretariat
- 8. DIEYE CHEIKH TIDIANE**  
Minister for Water and Sanitation , Republic of Senegal
- 9. ENDERLIN TIM**  
Ambassador and Head, Peace Operations and Peacebuilding , Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Switzerland
- 10. ENDRESEN TORMOD C.**  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Norway to the UN at Geneva
- 11. FASEL ALEXANDRE**  
Ambassador and State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Switzerland
- 12. FERNÁNDEZ PUYANA DAVID**  
Ambassador and Permanent Observer, University for Peace to the UN at Geneva/ Vienna; UNESCO Delegate
- 13. FRUTIGER CHRISTIAN**  
Ambassador, Assistant Director General, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- 14. GALLÓN GIRALDO GUSTAVO ADOLFO**  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the UN at Geneva
- 15. GONÇALVES MIGUEL SARANGA GERALDO**  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the WTO
- 16. GUERBER THOMAS**  
Deputy State Secretary, Head of UN Division, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Switzerland
- 17. HABIB ACHSANUL**  
Ambassador / Chargé d'Affaires, Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the UN at Geneva and WTO
- 18. MARENAH CHERNO**  
Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Gambia to the UN at Geneva
- 19. NDIRANGU WAWERU JAMES**  
Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Kenya to UN in Geneva
- 20. PIPAN ANITA**  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the UN in Geneva
- 21. PAPA MIROSLAV**  
Special Representative of the Secretary General, Council of Europe
- 22. RAKOVEC MARKO**  
Director-General for International Law and Protection of Interests , Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovenia
- 23. RAPP STEPHEN**  
Ambassador, Senior Visiting Fellow of Practice, Blavatnik School
- 24. SALVATORE ARMENTANO ANTONIO**  
Chief, Mine Action Programme, United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), Colombia
- 25. TÜRK DANILO**  
Former President of Slovenia, Lead Political Advisor, Geneva Water Hub
- 26. VALOVAYA TATIANA**  
Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva
- 27. VERES AGI**  
Director, UNDP Office in Geneva
- 28. WAGNER PETER M.**  
Head, Service for Foreign Policy Instruments, European Commission
- 29. YOUSSEF HESHAM**  
Ambassador (Retired), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt
- 30. ŽBOGAR SAMUEL**  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations at New York
- 31. ZHANG XIANGCHEN**  
Deputy Director-General, World Trade Organization (WTO)



## GENEVA, CITY OF PEACE : LEGACY AND FUTURE

Ambassador Alexandre Fasel, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, opened the Geneva Peace Week 2025 with a compelling and reflective address that set the intellectual and moral tone for the days ahead. Grounding his remarks in history and the evolving mission of Geneva as a capital of peace, he recalled how the city has long been a meeting point for diplomacy, humanitarian action, and visionary thinking. Drawing inspiration from the 1925 Locarno Conference, which helped rebuild trust in the aftermath of World War I, Fasel reminded participants that peace has never been the absence of conflict, but the result of sustained courage, cooperation, and imagination.

**“Peace will never be a given ; it must be nurtured, protected, and constantly reimagined.”**

AMB. ALEXANDRE FAZEL, STATE  
SECRETARY, SWITZERLAND, OPENING  
CEREMONY

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OPENING CEREMONY  
© GCSP GPW25

He spoke about today's international environment: one marked by renewed warfare, technological disruption, and the erosion of trust in global governance. Yet, rather than succumb to despair, he urged a collective return to the spirit of constructive multilateralism that Geneva symbolizes. Fasel described Peace in Action as both a call and a challenge: to

move from rhetoric to implementation, from fragmented responses to integrated solutions, and from exclusion to inclusion. He underlined that the strength of Switzerland's foreign policy lies in its commitment to dialogue, neutrality, and innovation, while emphasizing that these values must be constantly renewed to remain relevant.

**“Geneva is not only a venue for debate but a living workshop of ideas and collaboration.”**

His message resonated as a reminder that peacebuilding is not a diplomatic luxury, but an existential necessity in a fractured world.

## UN PERSPECTIVES ON MULTILATERALISM AND PEACEBUILDING

Speaking on behalf of the United Nations, Alexandre Zouev, Acting Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism at the United Nations, delivered a thoughtful and forward-looking address that reaffirmed the UN's enduring commitment to peace, multilateralism, and human dignity.



His remarks linked the theme of Peace in Action to the organization's foundational principles: the belief that dialogue, cooperation, and empathy must guide humanity's response to the challenges of violence and division. Zouev began by acknowledging the growing complexity of the global security environment, where

terrorism, extremism, and conflict continue to undermine trust between nations and communities. Yet, his message was one of resilience and shared responsibility, calling on all actors to translate aspirations into tangible progress.

**“Words, plans, and frameworks are essential but they must lead to impact in lives, in relationships, and in institutions.”**

He praised Geneva Peace Week as a unique and indispensable space for inclusive reflection and courageous engagement, noting that peacebuilding today requires not only governments and institutions but also youth, women, civil society, and local communities working together across divides. Zouev underlined that the United Nations was itself born

out of the ashes of conflict, and its mission remains to transform the hard lessons of war into frameworks for cooperation and mutual respect. He spoke of the urgent need to bridge the gap between policy and practice, between speeches made in conference halls and the lived realities of people enduring violence and displacement.

**“Let us commit to peace in action not as a slogan, but as a lived, shared, common journey.”**

Emphasizing prevention as the cornerstone of sustainable peace, Zouev reminded the audience that countering terrorism and violent extremism cannot rely solely on security responses. Instead, it must be rooted in inclusion, education, dialogue, and human rights. He called for renewed trust in multilateralism, not as a

bureaucratic ideal, but as a living system of shared accountability and solidarity. In a world increasingly polarized by ideology and fear, he urged participants to see Peace in Action as both a moral obligation and a practical roadmap for collective survival.

## AN AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE ON DIALOGUE AND COMMUNITY MEDIATION

**“As diplomats, we meet people of all horizons : culture is what connects us before politics begins.”**

Ambassador Sabine Bakyono Kanzie, Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the United Nations in Geneva, gave remarks at the Closing Ceremony by situating peace within the cultural and human fabric of societies. Drawing on Burkina Faso’s rich traditions of dialogue and community mediation, she highlighted how culture and diplomacy are intertwined in building bridges between peoples. She emphasized that culture is a form of soft power, a language that can reach where politics cannot.

She reflected on how traditional African mechanisms of conflict resolution, rooted in collective wisdom and storytelling, embody values of reconciliation, patience, and shared humanity. In her diplomatic experience, she has witnessed how bringing cultural understanding into negotiations can transform the tone and outcomes of discussions. She further called for revaluing culture not as an accessory to diplomacy, but as its foundation.

**“Through culture, we find common ground even when negotiation seems impossible.”**



AMB. SABINE BAKYONO KANZIE, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BURKINA FASO, CLOSING CEREMONY

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### 3. THE POWER OF STORIES TO BUILD PEACE

Storytelling is essential to peacebuilding because it humanizes those often seen as “the other,” creates space for multiple truths, and helps communities transform painful histories into shared understanding. By making complex issues relatable, stories bridge divides that politics alone cannot, fostering empathy, supporting healing, and empowering marginalized voices to shape their own futures. Storytelling strengthens inclusive dialogue, challenges harmful narratives, and inspires the collective imagination needed for societies to move from conflict toward cooperation and lasting peace. For this reason, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, together with Interpeace, has made storytelling a central feature of the forum by including a special edition of the PeaceTalks during Geneva Peace Week since its 10th anniversary. The 2025 edition took place on Wednesday 15 October and brought together 182 participants.

### FROM BULLETS TO STORIES

Lea Baroudi, Founder and Director of MARCH Lebanon, shared an inspiring testimony about reconciliation through creativity in one of Lebanon’s most divided cities, Tripoli. Coming from a background in business and psychology, she never imagined becoming a peacebuilder. But driven by curiosity about

human behavior, she began working in neighborhoods torn apart by sectarian violence, where Sunni and Alawite communities had fought 42 rounds of clashes across the ironically named Syria Street.

**“It’s not about change, it’s about helping people go back to who they were before the fear took over.”**

Her innovative approach used theater as a tool for healing. Fighters from both sides, once armed enemies, came together to perform a play based on their own lives: “Love and War on the Rooftop”. Through storytelling, they discovered their shared humanity. This initiative evolved into a community café on the former frontline, a space that became a hub for dialogue, reconciliation, and reintegration for over 700 former fighters and women. Lea

emphasized that the key to peace lies not in changing people but in helping them return to their true selves, before trauma, fear, and manipulation took hold. She reminded the audience that peacebuilding must engage emotions as much as logic, because “conflict is emotional, not rational.”



LEA BAROUDI, GPW PEACETALKS  
© Olivier Chamard GPW25



PISHKAFTI SHOKRI, GPW PEACETALKS  
© Olivier Chamard GPW25

## FROM TRAUMA TO DIALOGUE

Pishkafti Shokri, Head of Program at the Geneva Call's Iraqi Mission, is a member of the Yazidi community. He spoke about his experience promoting peace and preventing violence in Iraq's fragile post-ISIS context. He reminded the audience that Iraq's immense diversity, whether ethnic, religious, or cultural, is a source of richness that has too often become a cause of division and bloodshed.

He recounted how the Yazidis have faced 44 genocidal campaigns in their history, the most recent in 2014, when ISIS killed, enslaved, and displaced thousands. After the collapse of ISIS, mistrust between Yazidis and neighboring Sunni Arab communities ran deep. Pishkafti shared a powerful story of crisis mediation, when the return of Sunni families to Sinjar sparked tensions and almost reignited violence.

**“We cannot make peace only with moderates; we must talk with those who are hardest to reach.”**

Through Geneva Call's work, religious leaders from both sides, Yazidi spiritual figures and Sunni imams, were brought together for dialogue. Instead of revenge, they issued a joint statement to calm the situation. This led to the creation of interactive dialogue forums between

former enemies, including local armed actors. His testimony illustrated that peace is possible only when communities take ownership and when dialogue involves those least inclined to talk.

## FROM EXILE TO EMPOWERMENT

Aline Ndenzako, President of the organization *Burundi: Shared Memories, Shared Future*, spoke with emotion about her family's story of exile and survival during Burundi's violent history. She recounted the tragedies that marked her childhood, from

the fall of the monarchy to ethnic massacres and repeated cycles of displacement. Yet her talk was also a tribute to the strength and dignity of women in her family who refused to be defined by victimhood.

**“The scars of our memories are there to remind us of hope for the future.”**

Inspired by this legacy, she founded *Burundi: Shared Memories, Shared Future*, an association that uses collective memory as a force for unity. Through her work, she seeks to uncover silenced histories, document testimonies, and promote intergenerational dialogue. She spoke of how her family engaged in a process of truth-telling about the assassination of her uncle, King of Burundi, involving both victims' and

perpetrators' descendants. This experience revealed the complexity of reconciliation, that even those who committed violence were often manipulated and victimized by larger systems of power. Her message was clear: peace begins with understanding before condemnation, and remembrance is not about reopening wounds but about illuminating a path toward a shared future.



ALINE NDENZAKO, GPW PEACETALKS  
© Olivier Chamard GPW25

## FROM OCCUPATION TO MEDIATION

Martin Albani's, Senior Advisor in Peacebuilding, Mediation and Negotiation, speech wove together personal reflection and professional insight. Drawing on his childhood in East Germany under a communist regime, he recalled the peaceful revolution of 1989 and the fall

of the Berlin Wall, an event that shaped his belief in the transformative power of nonviolence and collective courage.

**“If you fight hatred with more hatred, you recreate the very thing you oppose.”**

From his years as a European Union diplomat involved in mediation processes worldwide, he distilled three core lessons: vision, determination, and humility. Peacebuilding, he explained, is rarely linear and demands persistence through setbacks. He urged the audience to celebrate even small victories, such as short ceasefires, as meaningful progress. Martin also reflected on the deeply

human side of negotiation, the courage required for victims to sit across from those who caused their suffering, and the humility it takes to truly listen. His closing message emphasized that peace must be cultivated internally: we cannot build peace in the world if we have lost it within ourselves.



MARTIN ALBANI, GPW PEACETALKS

© Olivier Chamard GPW25

## 4. NEW GENERATIONS, NEW VISIONS OF PEACE

Geneva Peace Week is a platform that champions youth participation. GPW recognizes that young peacebuilders' voices are essential to enrich collective efforts to build inclusive and sustainable peace. When meaningfully included, youth help bridge divides, broaden perspectives, and strengthen the legitimacy and durability of peace processes. Their engagement is not symbolic; youth deserve a central role in shaping decisions that define their future, ensuring shared ownership of solutions and laying the foundations for long-term, intergenerational collaboration.

## YOUTH AS CO-CREATORS OF PEACE

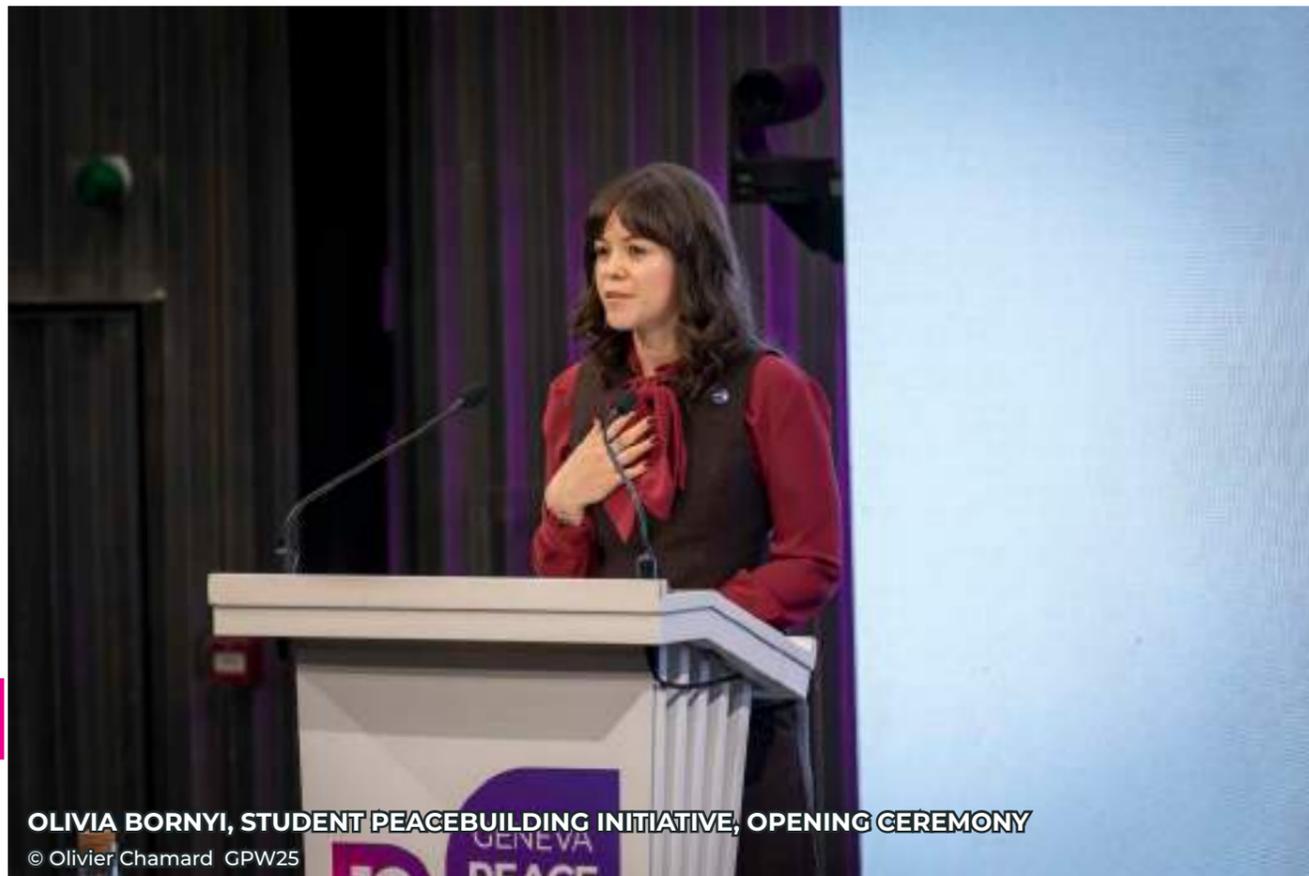
Olivia Bornyi spoke as Co-President of the Student Peacebuilding Initiative of the Geneva Graduate Institute. She reminded the audience that young people are not only the leaders of tomorrow but essential actors in shaping peace today. Her remarks emphasized that peace in action means

empowering youth with trust, mentorship, and meaningful inclusion in decision-making spaces. She underlined that young people across the world are already leading grassroots initiatives, bridging divides, and challenging structures of exclusion. Yet their potential often remains undervalued.

**“Peace is a shared, urgent, and intergenerational responsibility.”**

Ms. Bornyi reflected on her own journey within the peacebuilding community, acknowledging the mentors and institutions that had offered guidance, while calling for stronger intergenerational partnerships grounded in mutual respect and shared purpose. She urged global leaders and institutions to move

beyond tokenism, advocating for systemic inclusion that recognizes youth as co-creators of peace. Her message closed with an inspiring appeal to view peace not as an abstract aspiration but as a daily commitment, nourished through action, collaboration, and imagination.



OLIVIA BORNYI, STUDENT PEACEBUILDING INITIATIVE, OPENING CEREMONY

© Olivier Chamard GPW25



VICTORIA DO NASCIMENTO HOUPERT AND MARTIN GRIFFITHS, KAF PEACE ADDRESS

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## AN INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE FOR PEACE

For the second consecutive year, the Kofi Annan Geneva Peace Address featured an intergenerational dialogue, bringing Martin Griffiths into conversation with emerging young peacebuilders. This year's edition highlighted three youth voices: Victoria do Nascimento Houpert, from the Student Peacebuilding Initiative and a Master's student in International Development at the Geneva Graduate Institute; Mariyum Areeb Amjad, Program Officer at HIVE Pakistan; and Dao Manh Nghia, Founder and President of the DMN Initiative and member of the SDGs Council and DMN Foundation. Their contributions underscored the importance of youth

leadership and fresh perspectives within global peace efforts.

Victoria linked her personal experience with the power of creativity in social change. After losing a childhood friend who died awaiting an organ transplant, she and her friends launched an art-based awareness campaign that evolved into an institute for organ donation advocacy. She argued that art and emotion can unlock empathy, essential for both healing and mediation, since “conflict is deeply emotional.” Art, she said, helps people connect to their shared humanity and begin dialogue where logic alone fails.

**“Conflict is deeply emotional, so why shouldn't its solution emerge from emotion too?”**

Mariyum presented the Everyday Peace Indicators (EPI) approach: an academic and participatory methodology that captures how communities define and measure peace in their daily lives. She emphasized that peacebuilding should not be “top-down” or confined to abstract concepts but rooted in the realities of local people. She shared examples, such as women identifying “a washroom with a lock” as their symbol of peace, showing how tangible needs and dignity matter as much as political agreements.

**“Our communities know best what peace looks like because they live the conflict every day.”**

Dao spoke passionately about the unique role of youth in rebuilding trust where it has been shattered. Using metaphors such as “melting the wall of ice” between opposing sides, he described young people as human connectors who forge relationships through shared experiences, translators of hope who transform fear into understanding, and living reminders of what is at stake for future generations. He emphasized that youth must not be treated as symbolic participants but recognized as essential actors at negotiating tables, particularly in peace and security dialogues.

**“Our presence at the table asks: is today’s fight worth sacrificing our children’s future?”**



MARIYUM AREEB AMJAD, KAF PEACE ADDRESS

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DAO MANH NGHIA, KAF PEACE ADDRESS

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The Maison de la Paix is home to the vibrant student community of the Geneva Graduate Institute, who participate enthusiastically in Geneva Peace Week. This year, their engagement went far beyond attendance: students organized their own panel, hosted a Peace Café, curated a film screening they produced, and

contributed as speakers across several events. Their active involvement reflects both their commitment to be part of a community that works on building a sustainable and better future and the role of students/youth in shaping Geneva’s peacebuilding ecosystem.

# PEACE IN ACTION IN AN INTERCONNECTED WORLD

The theme of Geneva Peace Week 2025 “Peace in Action” served as a timely reminder that, in today’s global landscape, translating words into meaningful action is not only essential but urgent. Our world is increasingly interdependent: crises intersect, challenges amplify one another, and the paths to lasting peace demand approaches that transcend single disciplines or sectors. Throughout the week, this understanding shaped discussions that highlighted how long-term peace can only be achieved when we consider the full complexity of our

shared realities, rather than relying on short-term or isolated solutions. The diversity of topics explored during GPW25 reflected this necessity. Participants engaged with issues ranging from the dynamics of contemporary conflict to the protection of individuals and communities, the implications of emerging technologies, and the far-reaching impacts of climate change. The following section highlights some key takeaways provided by organizers. All submitted reports are available on the Geneva Peace Week website.

## 1. ADDRESSING CORE CONFLICT DYNAMICS

Given the current global context, with conflicts intensifying, humanitarian needs rising, and multilateral diplomacy under strain, it is notable that the keyword “Armed Conflict, Civilian Protection and Humanitarian Action” emerged as the most prominent during the call for applications, attracting 26 session proposals. It is the reflection of an acute recognition that addressing core conflict dynamics requires renewed attention to protection, governance, diplomacy, and the lived realities of affected populations.

## BETWEEN RUPTURE & RESOLUTION: IS A POLITICAL PATH STILL POSSIBLE FOR ISRAEL-PALESTINE & THE REGION ?

*Peace Panel*

Principles For Peace Foundation, Geneva Initiative, Palestinian Peace Coalition

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

#### • GROWING INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT :

After years of limited action, the Israel–Palestine situation is receiving renewed global and regional attention. New coordination platforms, such as the Global Alliance led by France and Saudi Arabia, show rare alignment between regional actors and Western partners. This creates a fragile but important opportunity to move toward a political, security, and economic framework that considers both Palestinian rights and Israeli concerns. Continued international commitment will be essential.

#### • CHANGING POLITICAL MOOD AFTER THE CEASEFIRE :

Public opinion in both Israel and Palestine has been very polarized, but the ceasefire immediately shifted perceptions and political conversations. This shows how quickly public attitudes can change in response to events, an important factor when evaluating the possibility of political progress.

#### • CENTRAL ROLE OF THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY (PA) :

Despite its challenges, the PA remains the only functioning institutional structure capable of supporting Palestinian governance. Any transition from conflict to peace will require reforms that make the PA more inclusive, representative, and accountable, reinforcing the principle that Palestinians must govern themselves.

#### • MEETING URGENT NEEDS WHILE BUILDING LONG-TERM HOPE :

Improving living conditions and meeting immediate needs in Gaza is crucial, but these short-term steps must contribute to a credible long-term political vision. Visible improvements in daily life are key to rebuilding trust and restoring hope in a future Palestinian state.

#### • IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AND SEQUENCED PROCESSES:

Meaningful and sustained involvement from regional and international actors, potentially supported by mechanisms such as a UN Security Council mandate, will be necessary to make progress. Lessons from other post-conflict settings show the importance of well-sequenced, internationally supported transitions that also restore local ownership.

## BEYOND COMPLIANCE IN A CHAOTIC WORLD: ACHIEVING FULLER PROTECTION IN ARMED CONFLICT

*Peace Panel*

Fight for Humanity, Beyond Compliance Consortium, the University of York, the Centre on Armed Groups, Utrecht University, the Center for Civilians in Conflict

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

#### • A PEOPLE-CENTRED “HARM + NEEDS” FRAMEWORK BROADENS HOW PROTECTION IS UNDERSTOOD :

It is essential to map people’s lived experiences onto both legal and non-legal responses enabling a more complete understanding of what communities actually endure in conflict. This framework captures not only direct violence but also the structural and often invisible forms of harm that shape daily life.

#### • COMPLIANCE AND RESTRAINT ARE SHAPED BY MORE THAN LEGAL OBLIGATIONS :

Evidence from multiple contexts showed that armed actors’ behaviour is strongly influenced by moral identity, social belonging, tactical considerations, and community expectations. Legal norms matter, but they interact with these social and psychological drivers, which often play an even greater role in shaping restraint.

#### • HARM IS MULTIDIMENSIONAL AND EXTENDS FAR BEYOND PHYSICAL INJURY :

Researchers highlighted that affected populations understand harm in expansive terms, including psychological trauma, economic disruption, cultural loss, environmental degradation, and long-term community impacts. This multidimensional view challenges protection approaches that focus too narrowly on bodily integrity or immediate threats.

#### • LOCAL ACTORS, ESPECIALLY JUNIOR MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES, HOLD MORE HOLISTIC PERSPECTIVES :

Fieldwork from Somalia and Ukraine revealed that community members and lower-ranking armed actors often articulate more comprehensive understandings of harm, needs, and restraint than senior leadership. Their insights link immediate risks to broader issues of justice, recovery, dignity, and social cohesion, making their participation essential.

#### • IHL REMAINS FOUNDATIONAL BUT MUST BE COMPLEMENTED BY BROADER STRATEGIES :

International Humanitarian Law cannot alone generate the restraint needed to protect civilians. Its effectiveness increases when combined with International Human Rights Law, political engagement, diplomacy, and development initiatives that address underlying drivers of harm and behaviour.

#### • MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IS ESSENTIAL FOR EFFECTIVE PROTECTION :

A genuine harm + needs approach requires directly involving people impacted by conflict in identifying harms, assessing priorities, and shaping responses. Their participation ensures that protection strategies are grounded in real contexts and address both immediate suffering and long-term recovery.

## CONVERGENCE & DIVERGENCE IN REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL DYNAMICS IN PEACEBUILDING & PEACE-MAKING : THE CASE OF AFGHANISTAN SINCE DOHA TALKS

*Peace Panel*

Center for Dialogue and Progress-Geneva, Center for Dialogue & Solidarity Roma, Centre for Afghanistan Policy Studies

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

#### • THE DOHA PROCESS WAS STRUCTURALLY FLAWED AND HELPED SET THE STAGE FOR TODAY’S CRISIS :

The U.S.–Taliban negotiations prioritized withdrawal and counterterrorism over the aspirations of the Afghan people. By legitimizing the Taliban without securing guarantees for an inclusive political order, the process dismantled two decades of progress and deepened mistrust both within Afghanistan and across the region.

#### • REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DIVISIONS INTENSIFIED AFTER DOHA, UNDERMINING COHERENT PEACE EFFORTS :

The agreement exposed and exacerbated geopolitical rivalries. Regional actors pushed for the withdrawal of U.S. and NATO forces for their own strategic interests, resulting in fragmented engagement and diverging visions for Afghanistan’s future. These divergences continue to complicate any meaningful peacebuilding pathway.

#### • AFGHANISTAN REMAINS AN ACTIVE AND IDEOLOGICALLY DRIVEN CONFLICT WITH REGIONAL SPILLOVER RISKS :

Experts described Afghanistan not as a post-conflict setting but as a violent jihadi state project. The Taliban’s ambitions extend beyond national borders, heightening the risk of extremist expansion, instability across neighbouring states, and regional insecurity.

#### • EMERGING NUCLEAR SAFETY CONCERNS POSE A SERIOUS NEW THREAT :

The Taliban’s control over the Afghan Nuclear Institute and reports of covert cooperation with Iran and Russia raise profound non-proliferation questions. These developments could signal an emerging nuclear security risk with implications far beyond Afghanistan.

#### • THE EXCLUSION OF WOMEN CONTINUES TO DISMANTLE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE AND SOCIETAL RESILIENCE :

Despite global commitments under the Women, Peace and Security agenda, Afghan women have been almost entirely eliminated from public life and decision-making. The Taliban’s large-scale investment in ideological madrasa systems, contrasted with the closure of girls’ schools, is accelerating radicalization and removing a critical pillar of sustainable peace.

#### • PAST STRATEGIES ARE NO LONGER VIABLE; A FUNDAMENTALLY NEW APPROACH IS NEEDED :

The Taliban cannot lead Afghanistan toward peace. Instead, the international community must support Afghan democratic forces and civil society by creating safe spaces, both in the region and in Europe, where they can organize, strategize, and rebuild the foundations of pluralism. Empowering these actors is essential to preventing Afghanistan from becoming a renewed arena for geopolitical confrontation.

## TAKING THE LAW OUT OF THE BOOKS

*Peace Workshop*

Jean Pictet Competition, International Committee of the Red Cross

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

#### • EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING STRENGTHENS UNDERSTANDING OF IHL IN NEGOTIATION SETTINGS :

The simulation engaged participants in realistic, practice-based exercises and helped deepen their grasp of how International Humanitarian Law that shapes peace negotiations, making legal principles more tangible and directly applicable to real-world diplomatic challenges.

#### • DIVERSE PARTICIPANTS CAN RAPIDLY GENERATE CONSTRUCTIVE AND PRINCIPLED OUTCOMES :

Despite varied backgrounds and limited prior interaction, participants collaborated effectively and produced high-quality negotiation results in a short timeframe. This illustrates the potential of structured simulations to foster meaningful dialogue even among unfamiliar actors.

#### • HUMANITARIAN NEGOTIATION REQUIRES MULTIDISCIPLINARY SKILLS AND STRUCTURED METHODOLOGIES :

Presentations by experts from the Jean Pictet Competition and the Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation highlighted that effective negotiation relies not just on legal knowledge, but also on a clear pedagogical approach, sound methodology, and an understanding of political and operational constraints.

#### • SIMULATIONS GENERATE STRONG INTEREST AND ENGAGEMENT, INCLUDING AMONG SENIOR PROFESSIONALS :

The exercise attracted a full room and sparked interest from participants at all levels, showing that immersive negotiation scenarios are a powerful tool for building capacity in IHL and humanitarian diplomacy, particularly among practitioners who must navigate complex political and legal environments.



GPW PARTICIPANTS AT A PEACE PANEL

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## 2. PLACING INDIVIDUALS AT THE HEART OF PEACE

Amid today's complex crises, GPW25 reaffirmed a simple truth: sustainable peace begins with people. Across the week, discussions highlighted how the experiences, rights, and needs of individuals must guide peacebuilding efforts, from addressing mental health and psychosocial support, to ensuring the dignity and inclusion of women,

older persons, and marginalized groups. Sessions also drew attention to the long shadow of enforced disappearances and other violations that disrupt families and communities for generations. By centering the voices and well-being of individuals, peacebuilding becomes not only more humane, but also more effective and resilient.

## FROM RISK TO RESILIENCE : EMBEDDING HUMAN RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE IN PEACEBUILDING

*Peace Panel*

International Organization for Migration, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, United Nations University Centre for Policy Research Geneva, Talking Drum Studio: Liberia Peace Center

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

#### • HUMAN RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE (HRDD) SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD AS A PROACTIVE FRAMEWORK RATHER THAN A COMPLIANCE EXERCISE :

It enables organizations to anticipate and address potential human rights risks linked to their activities, strengthening accountability and preventing harm before it occurs.

#### • HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING PROVIDES EARLY WARNING SIGNALS THAT TRADITIONAL PEACEBUILDING APPROACHES OFTEN OVERLOOK :

Reporting rooted in lived experiences and inequalities helps identify emerging grievances and social tensions, offering crucial insights into conflict drivers.

#### • COMMUNITY-LEVEL ENGAGEMENT IS ESSENTIAL FOR HRDD TO BE EFFECTIVE AND CREDIBLE :

Involving local actors through accessible and participatory methods builds trust, surfaces risks that external actors may miss, and supports more sustainable and inclusive peacebuilding outcomes.

#### • SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS MUST BE ALIGNED IN COUNTER-TERRORISM EFFORTS :

When human rights safeguards are sidelined, security-driven approaches can create new grievances and undermine stability; rights-based frameworks help ensure accountability, fair processes, and community confidence.

#### • INTEGRATING HRDD INTO PEACEBUILDING STRENGTHENS RELEVANCE, LEGITIMACY, AND RESILIENCE :

By addressing social, gendered, and psychological dimensions of harm, HRDD helps bridge gaps between external peacebuilders and local realities, counters elite capture, and promotes more equitable and people-centered peace processes.

## THE SEARCH FOR THE FORCIBLY DISAPPEARED : A KEY CONTRIBUTION TO PEACEBUILDING

*Peace Panel*

Convention Against Enforced Disappearances, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

#### • TRUTH IS AN ESSENTIAL FOUNDATION FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE :

Lasting peace requires uncovering the fate of the disappeared and acknowledging what happened, rather than suppressing or delaying truth-seeking efforts. Without truth, societies remain suspended in uncertainty, unable to heal or rebuild trust.

#### • FAMILIES OF THE DISAPPEARED ARE CENTRAL ACTORS IN PEACEBUILDING :

Their persistence, advocacy, and lived experience make them powerful agents of change. Recognizing and supporting their role strengthens social healing, promotes accountability, and ensures that peace processes reflect the needs of those most affected.

#### • DOCUMENTATION AND EVIDENCE PRESERVATION ARE VITAL FOR JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY :

Reliable information, forensic work, and careful record-keeping are essential to counter denial, prevent manipulation, and build cases that can lead to truth, justice, and reparations in the future.

#### • INCLUSIVE AND DEMOCRATIC SPACES ARE NEEDED FOR VICTIMS TO SPEAK FREELY :

Peacebuilding requires environments where families can share their experiences without political interference or instrumentalization. These spaces help restore dignity, enable collective healing, and ensure victims' voices shape national and international responses.

#### • STRONG INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION STRENGTHENS EFFORTS TO ADDRESS ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES :

Cooperation among families, civil society, and international mechanisms is crucial to advance truth-seeking, share information, and support accountability processes that individual actors cannot achieve alone.

#### • MEMORY AND COMMEMORATION MUST BE PROTECTED AS PART OF NATIONAL HEALING :

Preserving the stories and legacies of the disappeared helps communities confront the past, recognize harms, and rebuild social cohesion, preventing erasure and repetition of violations.

#### • PEACE IS DEFINED BY THE PRESENCE OF JUSTICE AND RIGHTS, NOT SIMPLY THE ABSENCE OF VIOLENCE :

Addressing enforced disappearances requires guarantees of non-repetition, access to justice, effective reparations, and meaningful participation of victims as part of a comprehensive peace agenda.

#### • A GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR VICTIMS COULD STRENGTHEN SOLIDARITY AND COLLECTIVE ADVOCACY :

International initiatives that bring together families of the disappeared, such as global assemblies or representative bodies, can amplify their demands, promote shared learning, and increase global visibility of the issue.

#### • THE UPCOMING 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONVENTION ON ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES IS A CRITICAL MILESTONE :

This moment provides an opportunity to assess progress, renew commitments, and push for stronger implementation to protect individuals and support affected families.

#### • SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY ARE MORAL AND POLITICAL IMPERATIVES FOR PEACEBUILDING :

Upholding the rights of victims and confronting the legacy of disappearances are indispensable steps toward rebuilding trust, preventing future abuses, and establishing a durable and just peace.

## PEACE DIALOGUE, PARTICIPATION AND INCLUSIVITY IN PEACEBUILDING: LINKING GENEVA AND NEW YORK THROUGH CIVIL SOCIETY, OLDER PERSONS AND WATER DIPLOMACY

*Peace Panel*

Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

#### • INCLUSIVITY IN PEACEBUILDING IS ESSENTIAL :

Ensuring that peace is built on robust foundations requires the meaningful participation of all communities, groups, and stakeholders, including often under-represented groups, especially women, youth, and older persons. Without inclusion, peace processes and peacebuilding efforts risk lacking both effectiveness and legitimacy. However, ensuring inclusivity must be about more than merely “ticking the box”.

#### • RECOGNIZING THE CRITICAL CONTRIBUTION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS :

CSOs play a vital role in peacebuilding, acting as first responders, guarantors of accountability, providers of expertise, and bridges between institutions and policy-making spaces. However, their participation often continues to be ad hoc and insufficiently institutionalized, limiting their influence and risking overlooking some key actors. CSOs must be recognized as more than mere implementation partners or “subcontractors” in peacebuilding, and must be seen as strategic partners.

#### • IMPORTANCE OF TRUST AS A BUILDING BLOCK OF PEACE :

All aspects of peacebuilding rely, to an extent, on trust. Alongside high-stake political efforts to resolve conflict and violence, establishing trust is therefore absolutely essential to ensuring durable peace. Enhancing inclusion and participation is a key step towards establishing trust, and reinforcing the legitimacy of peacebuilding policies.

#### • THE NEED FOR CONTINUED EFFORTS TO BRIDGE GENEVA AND NEW YORK :

A well-known challenge in global peacebuilding, there continues to be a need for stronger synergy between Geneva’s ecosystem, rich and diverse, with unique expertise in the area of human rights and

humanitarian action, among others, and New York’s peace and security architecture. Policy coherence and cross-pillar collaboration are crucial, but practical obstacles remain, and efforts to overcome them must receive adequate support.

#### • RAISING AWARENESS ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF OLDER PERSONS :

Older persons play key roles as mediators, mentors, and repositories of collective memory, yet they remain underrepresented in peacebuilding, whether at the global level or in peace processes on the ground. Peacebuilding stakeholders and states need to ensure a better inclusion of older persons, which also requires better addressing their specific needs and rights, including through a binding international instrument.

#### • THE POTENTIAL OF WATER DIPLOMACY:

Cooperation over shared water resources, in addition to being indispensable, is also a proven tool for building trust and preventing conflict. While still sometimes perceived as a niche topic, water diplomacy provides a wealth of experience and lessons that can be utilized in other areas, and given the strategic nature of water resources, it should be integrated into peacebuilding strategies at all levels.

#### • MOBILIZING STATES IN SUPPORT OF CIVIL SOCIETY AGENDAS :

Given the continued preeminence of states in peacebuilding, the collaboration between CSOs and willing states is essential and can be very impactful. States that are sensitive to the pleas of CSOs in specific areas, for instance in water diplomacy or when it comes to older persons, must take proactive steps to make their voices heard and effectively support their agenda.

## FROM MARGIN TO CENTRE: ACKNOWLEDGING & STRENGTHENING MINORITY WOMEN’S ROLE IN PEACEBUILDING

*Peace Panel*

Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Gender Issues Programme, High Commissioner on National Minorities, Council of Europe, Legal Action Worldwide

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

#### • THE INTERSECTION OF GENDER AND MINORITY IDENTITY REMAINS UNDER-ADDRESSED AND REQUIRES STRONGER EVIDENCE :

Persistent gaps in research and data collection prevent a full understanding of the multiple and overlapping forms of discrimination minority women face. Better disaggregated data is essential to inform policies that accurately reflect their realities and needs.

#### • LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY STRENGTHENS MINORITY WOMEN’S ACCESS TO RIGHTS, JUSTICE, AND RESOURCES :

Existing international frameworks, such as regional conventions and global declarations on minority and Indigenous rights, provide important avenues for addressing violations and advancing claims. Leveraging these tools can help break systemic barriers to justice and visibility.

#### • MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION DEPENDS ON ADEQUATE RESOURCES AND SUSTAINED SUPPORT FOR MINORITY WOMEN’S ORGANISATIONS :

Local groups often operate with limited funding despite playing crucial roles in community-level reconciliation, recovery, and advocacy. Ensuring they have financial support, capacity-building opportunities, and leadership development strengthens their ability to engage effectively in peace processes.

#### • GRASSROOTS ORGANISATIONS ARE TRUSTED ACTORS AND KEY DRIVERS OF RECONCILIATION :

Their community-level legitimacy enables them to address sensitive issues, support restorative practices, and surface concerns that may be overlooked in formal processes. Investing in their capacities increases their influence and ensures peacebuilding efforts are grounded in lived experience.

#### • TRANSFORMING DOMINANT NARRATIVES IS ESSENTIAL TO OVERCOMING SOCIETAL AND INSTITUTIONAL BARRIERS :

Public discourse often misrepresents or marginalises minority women, reinforcing discrimination and exclusion. Creating safe and inclusive spaces for participation, and amplifying minority women’s voices, helps shift perceptions and enables their contributions to be fully recognised.

#### • ADDRESSING PEACEBUILDING THROUGH AN INTERSECTIONAL LENS IS CRITICAL TO DISMANTLING STRUCTURAL INEQUALITIES :

Sustainable inclusion requires acknowledging how gender, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, and other identities interact to shape discrimination. Recognizing these intersections enables more effective responses and ensures that peace processes reflect the diversity of experiences within minority communities.



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### 3. NAVIGATING THE DOUBLE-EDGED NATURE OF TECHNOLOGY

A century ago, transformative technologies reshaped everyday life and laid the foundations of the modern world. Today, a new wave of innovations, from digital platforms to artificial intelligence, is once again redefining how societies function, interact, and respond to global challenges. These technologies hold immense potential to strengthen peacebuilding efforts, improve access to

information, and support more inclusive and effective decision-making. Yet they also carry significant risks when left unchecked, from amplifying inequalities to enabling new forms of harm. As these tools rapidly evolve, the central challenge lies in ensuring they operate within responsible, well-governed frameworks so their benefits can be harnessed while their dangers are mitigated.

## DRAFTING A SHARED COMPASS: CO-CREATING A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE RESPONSIBLE USE OF AI IN PEACEBUILDING

*Peace Workshop*

Agency for Peacebuilding, CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation, CyberPeace Institute

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **AI CREATES MAJOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEACEBUILDING :**

AI enhances conflict analysis, enables better listening to communities, and improves decision-making through forecasting, automation, and mediator assistance tools like LLMs. These tools broaden participation and increase contextual awareness in peace processes.

- **AI ALSO INTRODUCES SIGNIFICANT RISKS THAT THREATEN PEACE PROCESSES :**

Vulnerabilities include cyberattacks, data exposure, model bias, cultural misinterpretation, inadequate security protocols, and potential manipulation of AI-driven platforms. These risks can undermine trust, distort negotiations, and endanger communities.

- **CYBER THREATS TARGETING PEACEBUILDERS ARE INCREASING RAPIDLY :**

Peacebuilding organizations have experienced over 11,670 recorded cyber incidents in recent years, with a global rise of 58% in weekly cyberattacks, showing that peacebuilders are high-value targets for malicious actors leveraging AI.

- **CONCRETE RISK SCENARIOS SHOW HOW AI CAN BE MANIPULATED :**

Scenarios include attackers influencing AI-mediated sentiment analysis in community consultations or using AI-powered spear-phishing to steal sensitive negotiation data, both of which threaten the integrity of peace processes.

- **EFFECTIVE AI GOVERNANCE AND CAPACITY-BUILDING ARE ESSENTIAL :**

The workshop highlighted the need for training, coordination, robust security protocols, bias mitigation, data protection, and inclusive design. Co-creating a code of conduct or “Shared Compass” is necessary to guide responsible AI use in peacebuilding.

## HOW AI CAN POWER DECISION-MAKING IN FRAGILE CONTEXTS: INTRODUCING THE PEACE NAVIGATOR

Peace Workshop

Principles for Peace Foundation, Institute for Economics and Peace

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

#### • ENHANCED AND TIMELY SITUATIONAL AWARENESS :

The Peace Navigator significantly strengthens the peace ecosystem by equipping decision-makers, particularly those operating in fragile, fast-evolving contexts, with timely, consolidated, and context-sensitive insights. By processing vast quantities of data in real time, the platform allows policymakers to anticipate risks before they escalate, enabling more proactive and targeted responses. This real-time situational awareness supports early warning systems, crisis prevention, and more efficient deployment of financial and operational resources.

#### • A ROBUST, PRINCIPLE-BASED ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK :

Aligned with the Eight Principles for Peace, the tool translates complex peace dynamics into a structured, measurable, and actionable framework. Its 40 validated indicators, co-developed with the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), offer a holistic and normatively grounded approach to understanding peace. Rather than merely tracking conflict symptoms, the Peace Navigator examines the legitimacy of institutions, the inclusivity of governance, the accountability of security actors, and the extent to which dignity, pluralism, solidarity, and subsidiarity are upheld. This principle-driven architecture guides users toward interventions that reinforce not only stability but also long-term legitimacy and resilience.

#### • CONTEXTUAL, DATA-DRIVEN INSIGHTS AT SCALE :

Leveraging advanced AI, the platform synthesizes both quantitative and qualitative data from a diverse set of trusted sources and over 50,000 webpages and 29,000 documents spanning 56 fragile states across more than two decades. This integration of historical, political, and social information provides evidence-based insights that move beyond surface-level indicators. The tool's multidimensional analysis illuminates underlying drivers of

peace and fragility, facilitating nuanced understanding and helping practitioners design context-appropriate strategies that are grounded in both data and lived realities.

#### • A TRANSFORMATIVE TOOL FOR PREDICTIVE ANALYSIS AND STRATEGIC PLANNING :

By combining machine learning with structured indicators, the Peace Navigator not only assesses current conditions but also detects emerging vulnerabilities and shifting trends. This predictive capability enables actors to recalibrate strategies based on evolving dynamics and to identify key entry points for interventions. Whether tracking erosion in political rights or improvements in community security, the tool supports adaptive peacebuilding, helping governments, donors, and civil society remain responsive, informed, and forward-looking.

#### • STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY AND COHERENCE ACROSS THE PEACE ECOSYSTEM :

The platform provides a common analytical language grounded in the Principles for Peace, helping align diverse stakeholders around shared evidence and priorities. Its visualizations, such as radar charts, historical trend lines, and principle-based scores, facilitate transparent, accountable decision-making. By translating fragmented data into coherent narratives, the Peace Navigator helps actors move beyond siloed approaches toward more coordinated and principled action.



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## 4. EXPLORING ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE DIMENSIONS OF PEACE

In a world increasingly consumed by the resurgence of authoritarianism and conflicts, climate change and environmental degradation have slipped into the background of global concern. Yet their impact on humanity is already a reality and certain to intensify in the years ahead, shaping displacement, resource scarcity, insecurity, and social tensions.

Recognizing that environmental stability is inseparable from lasting peace, GPW25 ensured space within its programme to bring these critical issues back to the forefront. Through dedicated discussions, the week highlighted why addressing climate and environmental risks must remain a central pillar of peacebuilding.

## LAND RESTORATION AS A PATHWAY TO PEACE AND SECURITY

*Peace Panel*

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Geneva Centre for Security Policy

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

#### • LAND RESTORATION IS A PEACE AND SECURITY IMPERATIVE :

Degraded land erodes livelihoods, governance, and social cohesion, reinforcing cycles of fragility. Restoring it revitalises ecosystems and economies while strengthening resilience and stability.

#### • ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS ARE DEEPLY INTERCONNECTED :

Conflict, resource scarcity, and ecological decline are mutually reinforcing; addressing them requires integrated, cross-sectoral approaches that connect environmental recovery with social and governance resilience.

#### • COMMUNITY-LED GOVERNANCE BUILDS PEACE FROM THE GROUND UP :

Inclusive, locally driven management of land and water resources fosters trust and cooperation. Linking dialogue to tangible improvements in access, livelihoods, or services ensures durable collaboration and legitimacy.

#### • COORDINATED NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS DELIVER MULTIPLE BENEFITS :

Aligning implementation of the Rio Conventions on land, climate, and biodiversity can advance environmental goals while reducing competition, improving food and water security, and supporting human security.

#### • PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS THE ENVIRONMENTAL-DEVELOPMENT-PEACE NEXUS MULTIPLY IMPACT :

Joint planning between ministries, institutions, and peacebuilding actors connects technical capacity, finance, and local knowledge to achieve sustainable, peace-positive outcomes.

#### • INNOVATIVE AND RISK-SENSITIVE FINANCING IN FRAGILE AND CONFLICT-AFFECTED SETTINGS (FCAS) IS ESSENTIAL:

Blended finance, transparent data systems, and risk-sharing mechanisms can channel investment toward restoration in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

#### • DATA AND TECHNOLOGY ENABLE BETTER DECISION-MAKING :

Geospatial mapping, early warning systems, and initiatives such as Mapping Pathways for Security (MPS) help prioritise interventions, de-risk investment, and strengthen cooperation across borders.

#### • LOCALLY GROUNDED RESTORATION ENSURES LEGITIMACY :

Projects reflecting the lived experiences of farmers, women, and displaced communities foster ownership and make environmental and peacebuilding gains more durable.

#### • CREDIBLE, CO-CREATED RESEARCH DRIVES POLICY ACTION :

Reliable, relevant, and timely evidence, developed in collaboration with policymakers, helps translate the land-climate-peace nexus into coordinated, practical responses.

## LOCALLY LED ACTION ON CLIMATE, PEACE, AND STABILITY: EXPERIENCES FROM LATIN AMERICA, THE MIDDLE EAST, CENTRAL AND SOUTH ASIA

*Peace Panel*

United Nations Environment Programme, Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza Costa Rica, Scientific Information Centre of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination of Central Asia Uzbekistan, Lebanon Reforestation Initiative Lebanon, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development Nepal

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

#### • CLIMATE-SECURITY CHALLENGES ARE HIGHLY CONTEXT-SPECIFIC AND VARY ACROSS REGIONS :

Experiences from Latin America, the Middle East, Central Asia, and South Asia demonstrated that climate risks, such as water scarcity, land degradation, and livelihood insecurity, manifest differently depending on local ecosystems, political conditions, and community vulnerabilities. Effective responses must therefore be tailored to local realities rather than applying uniform solutions.

#### • LOCALLY LED, NATURE-BASED APPROACHES PROVIDE COST-EFFECTIVE AND INTEGRATED PATHWAYS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE, PEACE, AND SECURITY LINKS :

Community-driven strategies such as ecosystem restoration, reforestation, and sustainable resource management can simultaneously reduce environmental pressures, strengthen social cohesion, and mitigate conflict risks, especially in fragile or conflict-affected settings where traditional interventions may be less feasible.

#### • REGIONAL COOPERATION AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR BUILDING RESILIENCE :

Collaborative efforts across borders and between local groups help address shared environmental challenges and reduce tensions over natural resources. These partnerships also support scaling up successful practices by creating networks for learning, trust-building, and conflict prevention.

#### • EMPOWERING LOCAL ACTORS WITH RESOURCES AND DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY STRENGTHENS OWNERSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY :

When communities, local organizations, and regional institutions have the means and autonomy to lead climate adaptation and environmental management, they develop solutions that are more culturally relevant, long-lasting, and supported by the people most affected.

#### • LINKING LOCAL EXPERIENCE TO GLOBAL POLICY STRENGTHENS COLLECTIVE ACTION :

The EU-UNEP Partnership plays a key role in connecting community-level insights to international discussions, promoting alignment between practice and policy, and enabling continuous exchange of knowledge, supported by new initiatives such as the Knowledge Hub for Locally Led Action on Climate, Peace and Security.

# THE INTERSECTION OF ART AND PEACEBUILDING

At Geneva Peace Week, art and culture play a special role in opening minds and widening the space for dialogue. In a setting that brings together people from so many backgrounds, disciplines, and lived experiences, creative expression becomes a meeting point where ideas can be explored freely and empathetically. Whether through storytelling, music, theatre, or visual arts, creativity allows participants to engage with peace not only intellectually but emotionally and collectively. It invites us to see one another beyond our positions, to imagine new possibilities, and to hold space for perspectives that are often overlooked. In this way, art and culture complement the week's diversity of conversations and help cultivate the openness, curiosity, and shared humanity that make Geneva Peace Week a unique platform for peacebuilding.



STUDENTS OF THE ASHOKA GROUP OF SCHOOLS, GPW PEACETALKS

© Olivier Chamard GPW25

## 1. EXHIBITIONS : MAKING PEACEBUILDING VISIBLE

Creativity took center stage at Geneva Peace Week 2025, where a series of exhibitions invited participants to explore peace, justice, and human rights through artistic narratives and embodied experience. In *Asimetría*, Colombian artist and filmmaker Erika González in collaboration with Lara Sutter from Satellites of Art, presented a collection

of collages that examine structural asymmetries shaped by gender inequality, extractivism, and colonization. Drawing from her years of activism, González's work exposed the hidden fractures that run through contemporary societies. Her pieces blended personal and political memory, emphasizing art's capacity to both testify and transform.



ERIKA GONZÁLEZ

© Olivier Chamard GPW25



**ÁLVARO QUIROZ, 2024 LAUREAT OF THE YOUNG ACTIVISTS SUMMIT**

© Olivier Chamard GPW25

Mexican artist Álvaro Quiroz, in partnership with Briana Calderón, brought a moving tribute through *Echoes of Reality*, a series of mixed-media portraits honoring activists who were killed while defending human rights. Painted on black nylon fabric taken from body bags, each portrait served as a reminder of the risks borne by those who confront injustice. The exhibition echoed the visual language of protest posters, foregrounding the fragility of life and the enduring courage of those who fight for collective dignity.

The exhibition *HE[R]EAL – Her Reality* spotlighted the often-unseen journeys of women combatants transitioning from war to peace. Curated by Victoria Krueger, an International Junior Consultant with UNDP specializing in DDR and stabilization, this installation

drew attention to the gender dimensions of reintegration and the layered realities faced by women rebuilding their lives after conflict.



**BRIANA CALDERÓN**

© Olivier Chamard GPW25

Together, these creative encounters broadened the scope of GPW25 by positioning art as a space for remembrance, dialogue, and collective reflection. Through diverse mediums and perspectives, the exhibitions invited participants to engage with the human stories behind peacebuilding, challenging them to see, feel, and understand the world through a more intimate and imaginative lens.

Beyond gallery spaces, GPW25 extended its artistic engagement into the city of Geneva with a Geopolitical Intersectionality and Peace Walking Tour organized by Gal Harmat, Senior Researcher at Swisspeace. This immersive experience encouraged participants to reflect on how global power structures, inequalities, and identities intersect in everyday urban landscapes.



**GPW WALKING TOUR**

© Sarah Noble GPW25

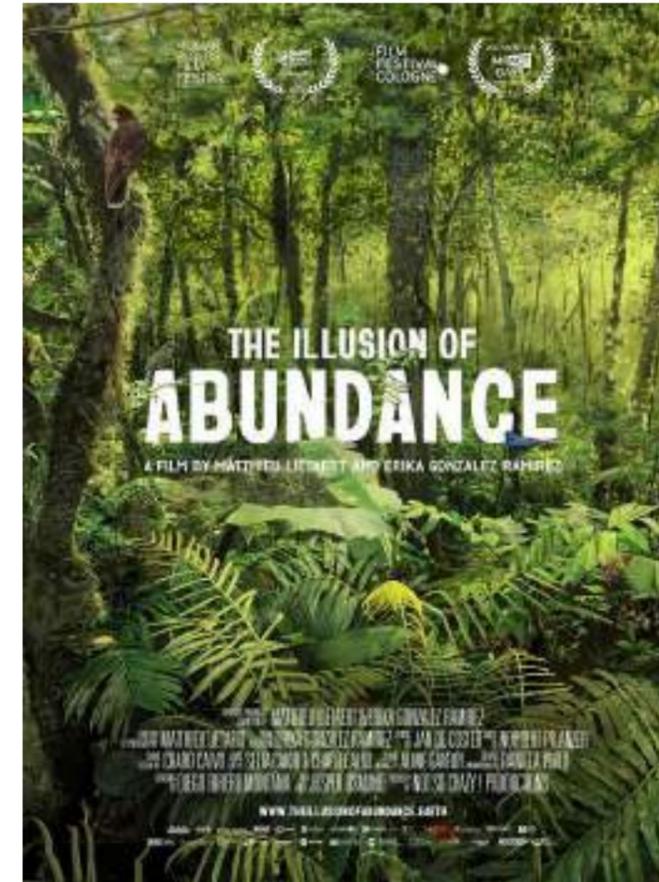
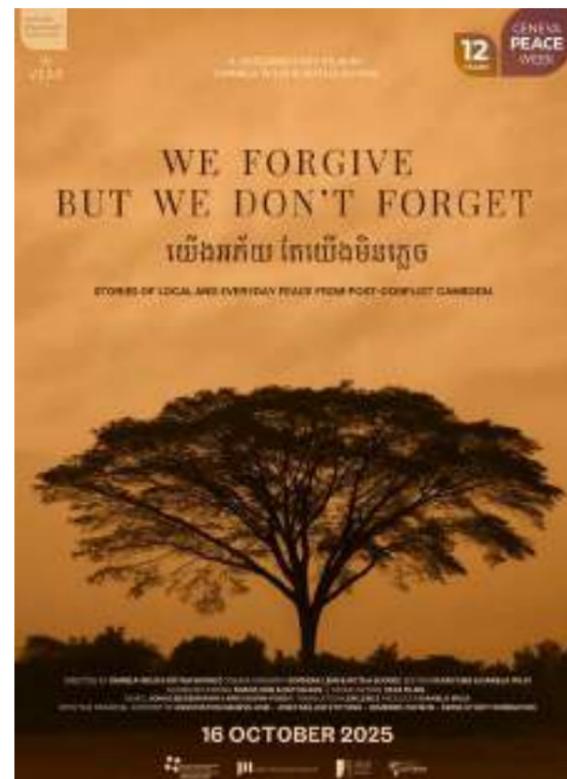
## 2. PEACE ON SCREEN : VOICES AND STORIES FROM THE WORLD

At Geneva Peace Week 2025, three documentary screenings, followed by conversations with documentary directors, invited the audience to reflect on the human dimensions of peace, justice, and resistance across diverse global contexts. As part of the special event Screening for Peace, the documentary *We Forgive but We Don't*

*Forget*, premiered by directors Daniela Wildi and Rotha Suong, offered an intimate portrait of Cambodia more than three decades after the Paris Peace Agreements, shifting the lens from high-level diplomacy to the everyday monks, survivors, artists, and youth whose quiet acts of coexistence sustain the country's long journey toward healing.

**“This film is not about stopping violence, it’s about what happens afterwards. Who sustains peace once the guns are silent?”**

**Daniela Wildi**



*The Illusion of Abundance*, by Erika González and Mathieu Lietaert, confronted viewers with the courage of three Latin American women environmental defenders resisting transnational extractivist industries, exposing the violence, dispossession, and environmental destruction faced by Indigenous and rural communities and calling for greater corporate accountability and global responsibility.

**“We wanted this film to be a political tool, because without regulation, corporations will continue doing abroad what they would never do in their own territories.”**

**Erika González**

**“Justice is a long process, but victims cannot wait. Their voices must be heard now.”**

**Ayeshah Jammeh**

Complementing these narratives, the short film presented in Ayeshah's Podcast: *Forgotten Voices of The Gambia*, organized by Justice Rapid Response, highlighted the personal and political quest for justice after the Jammeh dictatorship, following survivor-advocate Ayeshah Jammeh's efforts to amplify victims' testimonies and make transitional justice processes accessible to all Gambians.

Memory, resistance, accountability, and imagination intersect in the lived experiences of those confronting historical trauma, state violence, and structural inequality. Documentary films therefore play a transformative role in connecting grassroots struggles to global conversations on justice and peace.

### 3. PEACE TAKES THE STAGE

Artists are invited to take the stage during GPW special events to share and bring creative perspectives that complement policy discussions and technical exchanges. Their performances offer moments of emotional connection, and collective imagination, reminding participants that human stories and personal aspirations are at the heart of peacebuilding.



ISANDI WIZARDS, OPENING CEREMONY

© Olivier Chamard GPW25

### SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICA AT THE OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONY

Hailing from South Africa, the Isandi Wizards brought a powerful artistic presence to the GPW25 Opening Ceremony. Led by producer, DJ, and French saxophonist Simbad, with vocalist Asemahle Tsholoba and pianist Brathew Van Schalkwyk, the trio filled the Auditorium Ivan Pictet with the rich, expressive sound of spiritual jazz. Their three-song performance blended African rhythms with themes of collective resilience, equality, and hope.

By inviting the audience to join in singing, they transformed the moment into a shared act of solidarity, reminding everyone that peace is also carried through culture, art, and the shared human spirit.

**“As we sing, we invite you to hold a vision of a world where peace excludes no one.”**

**Asemahle Tsholoba**



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, ASEMAHLE TSHOLOBA, BRATHEW VAN SCHALKWYK, OPENING CEREMONY

© Olivier Chamard GPW25



**NAEL MELERD ON SCREEN, CLOSING CEREMONY**

© Olivier Chamard GPW25

The closing ceremony opened with a poem by Nigerian spoken word artist Maryam Bukar Hassan, United Nations Global Advocate for Peace. Maryam's video performance was a poetic meditation on the meaning of peace. Through vivid imagery and emotional cadence, she redefined peace not as a distant ideal or the mere absence of conflict, but as an active, daily choice rooted in empathy, forgiveness, and courage.

**“Peace is built brick by brick by hands that once knew how to fight.”**

**Maryam Bukar Hassan**

She honored women who rebuild despite wars, describing peace as something carried “quietly through the fire.” Her poem resonated deeply with the audience, connecting the individual and the universal, the inner fears and resentment with the global struggle for coexistence. It was a reminder that peace is both fragile and enduring, requiring imagination, compassion, and resilience.

Burkinabé artist Nael Melerd, a mining engineer, singer-songwriter, three-time slam champion of Burkina Faso, and runner-up at the African Slam Championship, offered a moving artistic contribution. With more than 500 creations to his name, he composed an original song in French, specifically for GPW25 called “Cœur et Esprit”.

**“La guerre rencontre l'homme, l'homme était si naïf, elle lui offre de l'or, lui montre quelques gîtes de diamants. La guerre demande alors à l'homme de l'hospitalité, l'homme lui ouvre son cœur, la guerre s'est installée.”**

**“Coeur et Esprit” by Nael Melerd**

This piece provided an emotional continuity throughout the ceremony, demonstrating how music transcends language, borders, and politics. Drawing on Burkina Faso's traditions of oral storytelling, his work evoked hope, resilience, and shared humanity. Through rhythm and melody, he reminded participants that art is not only to be discussed

but lived and that peace is as much a feeling as it is a policy. His performance captured music's unique ability to act as a form of collective breathing, helping communities release pain, reclaim joy, and imagine new possibilities after conflict.

## CELEBRATING CHILDREN'S VOICES AT GENEVA PEACE WEEK

Two major GPW25 events, namely the 2025 Kofi Annan Geneva Peace Address and the GPW PeaceTalks, included segments to honour children in peacebuilding contexts, celebrating their resilience, adaptive skills and courage. At the Peace Address, clarinetist Lester Chio Alonso, Artist Ambassador of La Banda de Música and volunteer teacher for the association, offered a musical interlude. La Banda

de Música, a French organisation working with children in Mexico and Cuba, has spent more than fifteen years using music as an alternative form of education, fostering improved academic performance, reduced levels of violence, and greater openness to the world through international artistic exchanges.



**LESTER CHIO ALONSO, KAF PEACE ADDRESS**

© Olivier Chamard GPW25



**STUDENTS OF THE ASHOKA GROUP OF SCHOOLS, GPW PEACETALKS**

© Olivier Chamard GPW25

During the PeaceTalks, children from the Ashoka Group of Schools in India travelled for a one week stay in Geneva and dropped by the Maison de la Paix to perform traditional dances, on Peace and Ghoomar songs. Rooted in India's rich artistic heritage, Ashoka integrates cultural expression into

its education programme, encouraging creativity, discipline, and community spirit. Their performance embodied the GPW theme of "Peace in Action," demonstrating how artistic traditions can bridge cultures, strengthen belonging, and inspire solidarity.

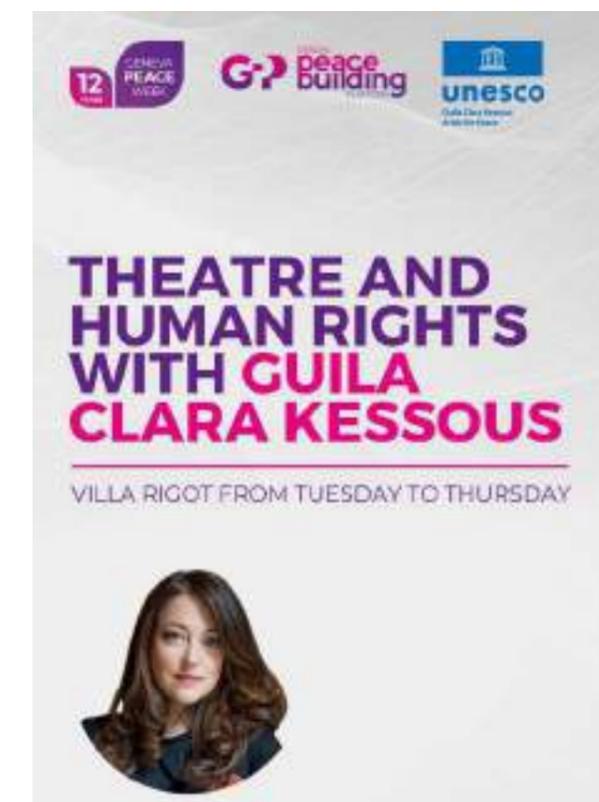
## 4. PARTICIPATORY ART FOR DIALOGUE AND UNDERSTANDING

Geneva Peace Week 2025 expanded its program with a series of creative workshops designed to complement traditional ones. These workshops offered participants an interactive, experiential, and arts-based approach to exploring peacebuilding themes, placing creativity and personal

expression at the heart of collective learning. Unlike conventional formats that focus on analysis and dialogue, the creative workshops encourage participants to engage through movement, storytelling, performance, and collaborative creation.

### THEATRE FOR PEACEBUILDING

As one of the Artists-in-Residence, UNESCO Artist for Peace, Guila Clara Kessous led a week-long artistic residency at the Villa Rigot, dedicated to exploring theatre as a vehicle for human rights promotion and peacebuilding. Grounded in ethical theatre and feminist engagement, her workshops empowered participants as active "spect-actors." Through a series of interactive workshops, she invited participants to engage creatively with key themes such as human dignity, individual freedoms, acceptance of others, women's rights, the experiences of refugees, and Augusto Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed. Artistic expression offers a non-threatening space where emotions and memories can be shared, serving as a form of ethical diplomacy





**GUILA CLARA KESSOUS AND PARTICIPANTS, VILLA RIGOT**

© Tatiana Avanthay GPW25

Across six workshops, Kessous guided participants through role-play, collaborative creation, and dialogical exercises that highlighted theatre’s capacity to foster empathy, challenge social injustice, and support both personal and collective transformation. Her sessions emphasized theatre’s potential to encourage reflection, stimulate awareness, and strengthen the artistic community’s role in peace efforts.

In addition to the residency, Kessous headlined the Peace Café “Toward Artistic Diplomacy: How Can Art Contribute to Peace?”. Joined by artist Anna Torres she discussed the intersections of art, diplomacy, and healing. The event featured a live performance of her song “Mothers of the Earth”, dedicated to supporting Congolese mothers affected by conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

## PEACE IN PRACTICE : AN ARTS-BASED WORKSHOP

This creative workshop, organized by Caux Initiatives of Change, used the example of a light-seeking sea creature as a metaphor to help participants reflect on peace as a movement toward positive change and shared opportunity. The session encouraged participants to view peacebuilding as a practical and creative activity grounded in imagination, curiosity, and empathy.

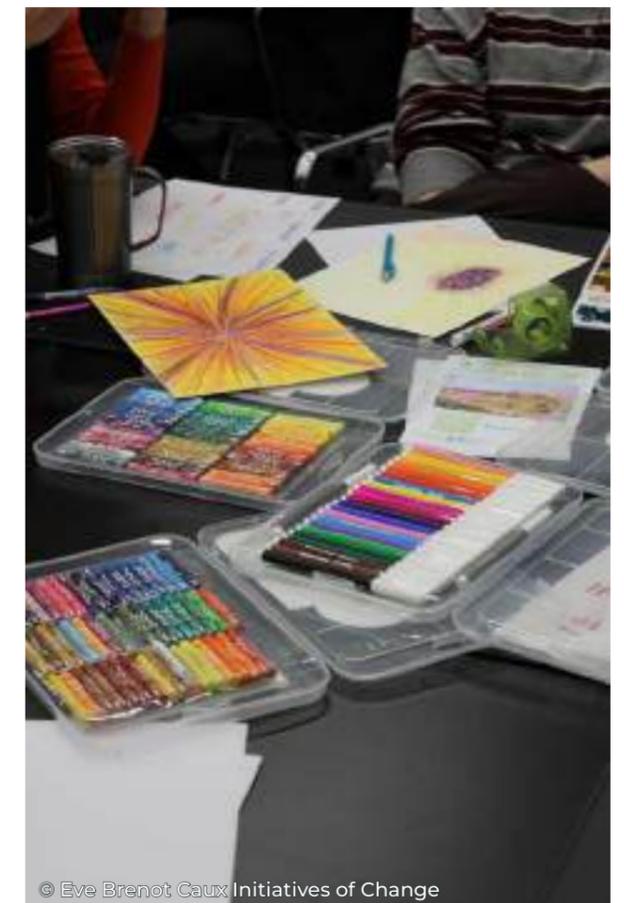
Through hands-on artistic activities and guided reflections, participants explored how creativity can counter feelings of burnout or hopelessness and support the development of new ideas for the future. Participatory

evaluation tools, such as the Fist-to-5 method and open feedback, showed an increase in participants’ sense of confidence and creativity over the course of the workshop. The stories, drawings, and written reflections produced during the session demonstrated stronger empathy and collaboration among participants.

Overall, the workshop emphasized that art is an essential part of peacebuilding. It showed how creative practices can strengthen resilience, build trust, and support constructive action even in uncertain environments.



© Eve Brenot Caux Initiatives of Change



© Eve Brenot Caux Initiatives of Change

## A GLOBAL FORUM FOR PEACE

Over the past twelve years, Geneva Peace Week has evolved into a leading global forum for dialogue, reflection, and collaboration on peacebuilding. What began as a modest initiative has grown into a dynamic platform that convenes practitioners, policymakers, researchers, artists, students, and community leaders from every region of the world. As the ecosystem of peacebuilding has expanded, so too has GPW: its activities, formats, and approaches have diversified, professionalized, and adapted to emerging challenges and new ways of engaging. Today, GPW offers a space where traditional policy discussions meet creative practices, where grassroots experiences inform global debates, and where innovative tools and perspectives are tested, shared, and amplified.

YEAR	TOTAL EVENTS	TOTAL EVENT ORGANIZERS	TOTAL ATTENDANCE
2014	10	9	200
2015	41	50	700
2016	45	62	600
2017	50	100	1,250
2018	65	121	1,300
2019	67	109	1,700
2020	70	280	4,200
2021	30	115	3,000
2022	53	125	2,860
2023	61	149	5,500
2024	70	117	6,700
2025	100	137	5,700

## 1. 100 ACTIVITIES IN ACTION FOR PEACE

Geneva Peace Week stands as an inclusive and welcoming hub for peacebuilders from all backgrounds, an open-door platform where participation is free of charge for both attendees and organizers, ensuring equitable access to dialogue and exchange. With 100 activities across the week in 2025, GPW offered a rich ecosystem of spaces where anyone could join conversations, learn from practitioners, engage with research, experience artistic expression, and connect with peers from around the world. To enhance the participant experience and ensure a smooth, accessible, and hospitable environment, GPW significantly strengthened its onsite support this year: dedicated welcome staff greeted participants throughout the week, trained event assistants and volunteers supported speakers, organizers and participants, and a team of skilled technicians ensured that hybrid sessions, screenings, and performances ran seamlessly. These expanded hospitality services played a key role in creating a warm, professional, and user-friendly atmosphere for all.

All events follow a 90-minute format, but the diversity within this structure is considerable: the week opened and closed with ceremonies; Peace Panels brought policy experts and researchers together for thoughtful, constructive discussions; Peace Workshops prioritized hands-on learning and skills-sharing, with practitioners guiding participants through practical exercises; and online workshops expanded access for those

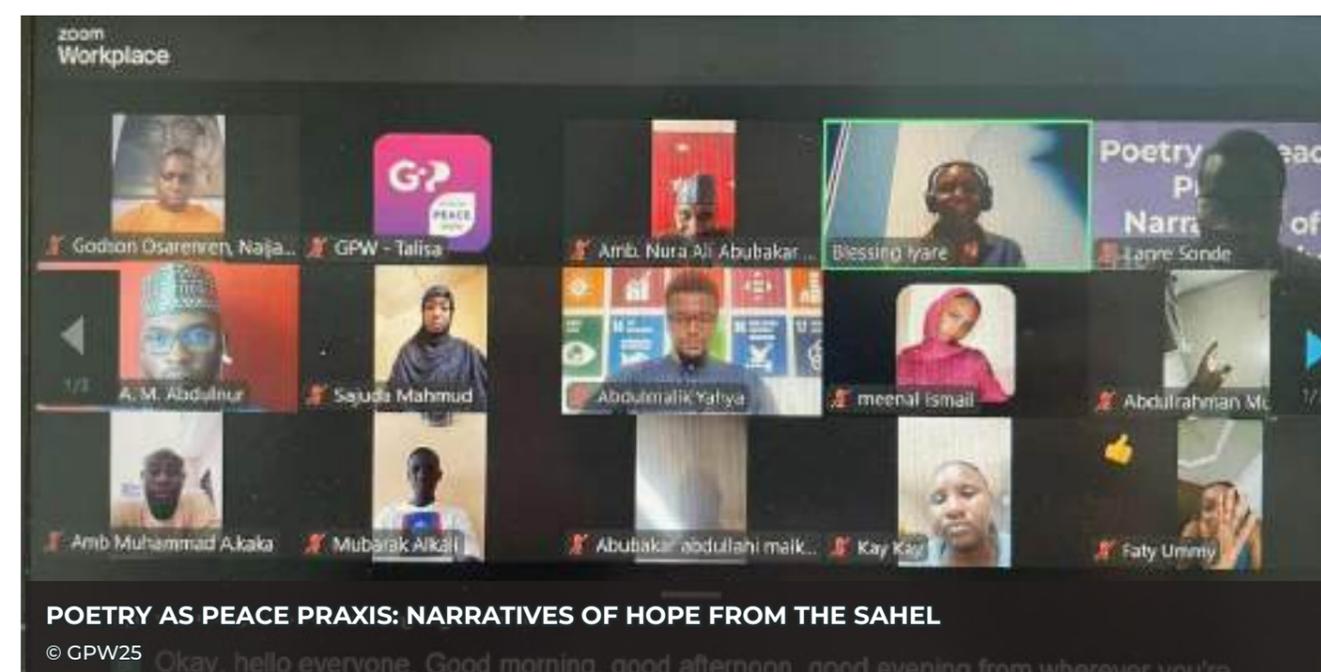


unable to travel to Geneva. Special events such as the Kofi Annan Peace Address, PeaceTalks, and the Screening for Peace series, offered unique moments for reflection and inspiration. A vibrant programme of art and culture, including exhibitions, creative workshops, screenings, performances, and a peace-themed walking tour, invited participants to explore peacebuilding through imagination and sensory experience. Throughout the week, dedicated networking opportunities fostered connections among practitioners, academics, diplomats, youth leaders, artists, and civil society actors, nurturing relationships that often grow into collaborations far beyond GPW. Together, these activities embody the spirit of GPW: open, diverse, participatory, and committed to advancing peace through knowledge-sharing, creativity, and collective action.

## 2. HYBRID AND DIGITAL PEACE ENGAGEMENT

Geneva Peace Week continues to deepen its commitment to diversity, accessibility, and global participation through an ambitious hybrid and digital engagement strategy. Ensuring inclusion across gender, age, geography, and professional sectors is central to GPW's mission, and since its 10th anniversary the Week has been fully accessible online. With the exception of in-person workshops, all events could be followed remotely via Zoom, enabling individuals from every region of the world to participate meaningfully regardless

of location, mobility, or financial constraints. English remains the official language of instruction at GPW; however, to further broaden access, AI interpretation has been available since 2024 thanks to the Wordly software. In 2025, English interventions could be translated into over 200 languages, and throughout the week 930 participants used interpretation services. Reflecting the local context of Geneva, a full French version of the GPW website is also available, with 1,813 visitors consulting the French pages this year.



Digital accessibility also extends to the programme itself through online workshops designed specifically for participants outside Geneva and for organizations with limited resources that might otherwise be unable to contribute. One notable example was Poetry as Peace Praxis: Narratives of Hope from the Sahel, organized by the Sahel Scribes Poetry Club (Nigeria), which attracted 84 participants across several African countries. The workshop demonstrated how young people in the Sahel, facing violent conflict, climate stress, and unemployment, use poetry as a tool for peace, healing, and resilience. With more than 300 youth members across Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi, and Zimbabwe, the

Sahel Scribes showcased poetry as a form of peace praxis: an act of memory, resistance, and response to silenced narratives. The interactive session featured performances, panel dialogue, breakout writing groups, and an open mic, leading participants to co-create around 20 new peace poems that will contribute to a growing digital anthology of youth peace narratives. This initiative reflects how hybrid engagement not only widens participation but also amplifies underrepresented voices, fosters cross-border connections, and ensures that global peacebuilding is shaped by diverse communities and perspectives.

### 3. A WEEK OF INCLUSIVE AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY CONVERSATIONS

Geneva Peace Week 2025 continued to extend diversity and inclusivity in its approach to dialogue by moving beyond fixed thematic tracks and instead organizing the programme around a set of evolving keywords. Introduced in 2024 and expanded in 2025, this flexible framework acknowledges that peacebuilding unfolds in varied contexts and inherently cuts across disciplines, sectors, and geographies. The keywords allowed organizers and participants alike to explore peace from multiple entry points, including armed conflict and humanitarian response, climate and environmental change, governance and institutions, gender and intersecting identities, new technologies, youth empowerment, mental health, and the arts, while also engaging with foundational issues such as prevention, mediation, human rights, accountability, food security, and the root causes of violence.

This multidimensional structure encouraged connections between fields that are too often treated separately: data science met diplomacy, mental health intersected with disarmament debates, artistic practices informed policy conversations, and local community insights shaped discussions on multilateralism and future peace operations. By fostering dialogue across these diverse keywords, GPW25 created a space to identify actionable solutions, strengthen collaborative networks, and generate fresh perspectives on today's most pressing peace and security challenges. Importantly, the Week emphasized voices from the field, amplifying practitioners, community leaders, and youth who brought forward real-world experiences of navigating conflict, resilience, and social transformation. To ensure continued knowledge-sharing, a set of session reports is available, capturing

insights and notes provided directly by organizers. Anchored in interdisciplinarity and openness, GPW25 reaffirmed that effective peacebuilding requires engaging across boundaries, disciplinary, institutional, and geographic, and cultivating conversations that are as diverse and complex as the challenges facing our world.

researchers, and civil society leaders, GPW cultivates a space where diverse perspectives can interact, challenge one another, and spark meaningful collaboration. This commitment to partnership is embedded in the programme design: all selected organizations are required to co-organize activities with at least one other institution, reinforcing the collaborative spirit at the heart of GPW and ensuring that sessions reflect plural viewpoints, cross-sectoral expertise, and shared ownership.

The demand to contribute to GPW grows every year. In 2025, the call for proposals reached a new milestone with 220 applications, three times more than in 2024, for only 50 available slots. This increasingly competitive process, overseen by the GPW Consortium, underscores the high quality and diversity of initiatives seeking to engage with the Week. In a year marked by unprecedented financial challenges in International Geneva due to significant budget cuts across multilateral institutions, GPW placed special emphasis on elevating Geneva-based organizations whose work remains essential to the global peace and security ecosystem. This prioritization ensured that their expertise, local anchoring, and ongoing contributions were visible at a moment when the international system is under strain.



Sessions report available on the GPW Website

### 4. GLOBAL PARTNERS FOR PEACE

Geneva Peace Week serves as a vital platform for connecting organizations based in Geneva with partners from around the world, enabling them to share knowledge, experience, and innovative practices across the vast landscape of peacebuilding. By bringing grassroots practitioners into dialogue with high-level policymakers, diplomats,

Despite these challenges, GPW25 brought together 137 organizations spanning UN agencies, NGOs, academic institutions, grassroots networks, artistic collectives, and regional peace initiatives. A full list of participating institutions is available in the Facts and Figures section.



PEACE DIALOGUE - PARTICIPATION AND INCLUSIVITY IN PEACEBUILDING: LINKING GENEVA AND NEW YORK THROUGH CIVIL SOCIETY, OLDER PERSONS AND WATER DIPLOMACY

© Olivier Chamard GPW25



# FACTS AND FIGURES

# PROGRAMME

Geneva Peace Week 2025, held under the theme “Peace in Action,” took place from 13 to 17 October 2025 at the Maison de la Paix. Over the course of five days, the programme featured 100 activities, including ceremonies, panel discussions, workshops, special events, art exhibitions, and networking opportunities. The detailed programme is presented below.

## MONDAY, 13 OCTOBER

**17:00 - 18:30** **HIGH-LEVEL OPENING CEREMONY : PEACE IN ACTION**  
*Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland (FDFA), United Nations Office at Geneva*

**OPENING CEREMONY**

**18:30 - 20:00** **OPENING COCKTAIL**  
*Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland (FDFA), the Canton and the City of Geneva*

**NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY**



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## TUESDAY, 14 OCTOBER

**08:30 - 09:00** **NETWORKING BREAKFAST**  
*Geneva Peacebuilding Platform*

**NETWORKING**

**09:00 - 10:30** **ASIMETRÌA: MEET THE ARTIST**  
*Satellite of Arts, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform*

**ART EXHIBITION**

**09:00 - 10:30** **FROM RISK TO RESILIENCE: EMBEDDING HUMAN RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE IN PEACEBUILDING**  
*International Organization for Migration, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations University Centre for Policy Research Geneva (UNU CPR), Talking Drum Studio: Liberia Peace Center (TDS Liberia)*

**PEACE PANEL**

**09:00 - 10:30** **FROM TIPPING POINTS TO TURNING POINTS: TOOLS FOR CLIMATE, PEACE AND SECURITY**  
*Kofi Annan Foundation, Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development (SeeD), Saferworld, KRIS for Peace*

**PEACE WORKSHOP**

**09:00 - 10:30** **BETWEEN RUPTURE & RESOLUTION: IS A POLITICAL PATH STILL POSSIBLE FOR ISRAEL-PALESTINE & THE REGION?**  
*Principles for Peace, Geneva Initiative, Palestinian Peace Coalition*

**PEACE PANEL**

**09:00 - 10:30** **MULTILATERALISM RE-IMAGINED - INTERRUPTING REPEATING CYCLES OF CONFLICT IN AN INCREASINGLY POLARIZED DISTRUSTFUL WORLD**  
*The World Bank, UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), African Union*

**PEACE WORKSHOP**

**09:00 - 10:30** **WPS IN ACTION: CONNECTION AND SOLIDARITY**  
*Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP), DCAF – Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance, Berghof Foundation, Peace Women, UN Women*

**PEACE WORKSHOP**

**09:00 - 10:30** **THEATRE AND HUMAN DIGNITY**  
*Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, UNESCO Artist for Peace*

**ART EXHIBITION**

10:30 - 11:00	COFFEE BREAK <i>Geneva Peacebuilding Platform</i>	NETWORKING	15:00 - 16:30	CLIMATE ACTION FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACE: LESSONS & OPPORTUNITIES FROM ASIA AND THE PACIFIC <i>Centre on Conflict, Development &amp; Peacebuilding, adelphi global, and Toda Peace Institute</i>	PEACE PANEL
11:00 - 14:00	ECHOS OF REALITY: MEET THE ARTIST <i>Centre on Conflict, Development &amp; Peacebuilding, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform</i>	ART EXHIBITION	15:00 - 16:30	FIRESIDE CHAT WITH SHIRIN EBADI <i>Geneva Peacebuilding Platform</i>	SPECIAL EVENT
11:00 - 12:30	MOVIE SCREENING : THE ILLUSION OF ABUNDANCE <i>Satellites of Art, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform</i>	ART EXHIBITION	15:00 - 16:30	THEATRE AND INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS <i>Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, UNESCO Artists for Peace</i>	ART EXHIBITION
11:00 - 12:30	BEYOND COMPLIANCE IN A CHAOTIC WORLD – HOW A HARM + NEED APPROACH CAN ACHIEVE FULL(ER) PROTECTION IN ARMED CONFLICT <i>Fight For Humanity, Beyond Compliance Consortium &amp; University of York, Centre on Armed Groups, Center for Civilians in Conflict</i>	PEACE PANEL	15:00 - 16:30	BEYOND POWER AND TERRITORY: WOMEN, RIGHTS, AND SYSTEMIC APPROACHES TO SUSTAINABLE PEACE <i>Geneva Center for Security Policy, GCSP, Nobel Women's Initiative, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, WILPF, International Gender Champions</i>	PEACE PANEL
11:00 - 12:30	LOCAL SOLUTIONS TOWARDS PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE IN FORCED DISPLACEMENT CONTEXT IN MENA AND ASIA REGIONS <i>UN University for Peace, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform</i>	PEACE PANEL	16:30 - 17:00	COFFEE BREAK <i>Geneva Peacebuilding Platform</i>	NETWORKING
11:00 - 12:30	PRACTICAL, NONVIOLENT APPROACHES TO INTERRUPTING VIOLENCE <i>Non Violent Peace Force</i>	PEACE WORKSHOP	16:30 - 17:00	HE[R]EAL: RECLAIMING DDR THROUGH WOMEN'S EYES <i>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and The Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA)</i>	ART EXHIBITION
11:00 - 12:30	PEACE IN PRACTICE: AN ARTS-BASED WORKSHOP <i>Caux Initiatives of Change Foundation</i>	PEACE WORKSHOP	17:00 - 18:30	2025 KOFI ANNAN GENEVA PEACE ADDRESS <i>Kofi Annan Foundation, Geneva Graduate Institute, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, Canton and City of Geneva</i>	SPECIAL EVENT
12:30 - 13:00	LUNCH COFFEE BREAK <i>Geneva Peacebuilding Platform</i>	NETWORKING			
13:00 - 14:30	ASIMETRÌA: MEET THE ARTIST <i>Satellite of Arts, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform</i>	ART EXHIBITION			
13:00 - 14:30	BREAKING IN, SPEAKING OUT: OPPORTUNITIES AND BARRIERS FOR YOUTH IN MEDIATION <i>Peacebuilding Initiative (PBI)</i>	PEACE PANEL			
13:00 - 14:30	HOW CAN THE PEACEBUILDING ARCHITECTURE REVIEW STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS ECOSYSTEM IN PREVENTION AND PEACEBUILDING? <i>The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland (FDFA), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)</i>	PEACE PANEL			
13:00 - 14:30	BUILDING A FRAMEWORK FOR INTEGRATING MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL WELLBEING INTO PEACE POLICIES <i>Healthnet TPO, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, International Organization for Migration</i>	PEACE WORKSHOP			
13:00 - 14:30	THE FUTURE OF PEACE OPERATIONS: INSIGHTS FROM WOMEN, PEACE & SECURITY, SECURITY SECTOR GOVERNANCE, AND PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS <i>DCAF – Geneva Center for Security Sector Governance, Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)</i>	PEACE PANEL			
13:00 - 14:30	CEASEFIRES AND PEACE PROCESSES: LESSONS FOR POLICY AND PRACTICE <i>Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Centre for Security Studies ETH Zurich</i>	PEACE PANEL			
14:30 - 15:00	COFFEE-BREAK <i>Geneva Peacebuilding Platform</i>	NETWORKING			

Geneva Peace Week had the pleasure of hosting a fireside chat with Nobel Peace Prize laureate Shirin Ebadi. The discussion explored how authoritarianism destabilizes societies and fuels violence while silencing voices for peace. Drawing on the case of Iran, it highlighted the links between dictatorship, corruption and poverty, and examined the relationship between domestic social movements and international support.

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE, SHIRIN EBADI

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**DR. ANNYSSA BELLAL AND AMB. DAVID FERNANDEZ PUYANA**

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<b>10:30</b> - <b>11:00</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b> <i>Geneva Peacebuilding Platform</i>	<b>NETWORKING</b>
<b>11:00</b> - <b>14:00</b>	<b>ECHOS OF REALITY: MEET THE ARTIST</b> <i>Centre on Conflict, Development &amp; Peacebuilding, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform</i>	<b>ART EXHIBITION</b>
<b>11:00</b> - <b>12:30</b>	<b>ALGORITHMS OF DIVISION OR DIALOGUE ? COUNTERING AI-FUELLED POLARISATION FOR PEACE IN ACTION</b> <i>Globethics, TechEthics</i>	<b>PEACE WORKSHOP</b>
<b>11:00</b> - <b>12:30</b>	<b>THEATRE AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE OTHER</b> <i>Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, UNESCO</i>	<b>ART EXHIBITION</b>
<b>11:00</b> - <b>12:30</b>	<b>HOW AI CAN POWER DECISION-MAKING IN FRAGILE CONTEXTS: INTRODUCING THE PEACE NAVIGATOR</b> <i>Principles for Peace Foundation – P4P, Institute for Economics and Peace</i>	<b>PEACE WORKSHOP</b>
<b>11:00</b> - <b>12:30</b>	<b>FROM MARGIN TO CENTRE: ACKNOWLEDGING &amp; STRENGTHENING MINORITY WOMEN'S ROLE IN PEACEBUILDING</b> <i>Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Council of Europe (CoE), Legal Action Worldwide (LAW)</i>	<b>PEACE PANEL</b>
<b>11:00</b> - <b>12:30</b>	<b>PARTNERSHIPS FOR PEACE: ADVANCING NATIONALLY LED CONFLICT PREVENTION EFFORTS</b> <i>DPPA – United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, UNDP – United Nations Development Programme, SDC Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation</i>	<b>PEACE PANEL</b>

## WEDNESDAY, 15 OCTOBER

<b>08:30</b> - <b>09:00</b>	<b>NETWORKING BREAKFAST</b> <i>Geneva Peacebuilding Platform</i>	<b>NETWORKING</b>
<b>09:00</b> - <b>10:30</b>	<b>ASIMETRÌA: MEET THE ARTIST</b> <i>Satellite of Arts, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform</i>	<b>ART EXHIBITION</b>
<b>09:00</b> - <b>10:30</b>	<b>80 YEARS OF THE UN MULTILATERALISM: REINFORCING A TIMELESS FRAMEWORK FOR GLOBAL PEACE</b> <i>United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), The Permanent Mission of Switzerland</i>	<b>PEACE PANEL</b>
<b>09:00</b> - <b>10:30</b>	<b>PRIORITISING PEACE AND JUSTICE: ADVANCING AND HARMONISING LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORKS IN SYRIA</b> <i>International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI), Syrian Legal Development Programme (SLDP)</i>	<b>PEACE PANEL</b>
<b>09:00</b> - <b>10:30</b>	<b>TAKING THE LAW OUT OF THE BOOKS: SIMULATION ON RESPECT FOR IHL AS A TOOL FOR PEACE NEGOTIATION</b> <i>Committee for the Jean-Pictet Competition</i>	<b>PEACE WORKSHOP</b>
<b>09:00</b> - <b>10:30</b>	<b>DATA-DRIVEN PEACE: THE WAY FORWARD FOR UN PROGRAMMING IN CONFLICT TRANSITIONS</b> <i>UNIDIR's Managing Exits from Armed Conflict Initiative, UNDP, IOM, and DPO</i>	<b>PEACE WORKSHOP</b>
<b>09:00</b> - <b>10:30</b>	<b>FROM PEACE NEGOTIATIONS TO STABILIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION: THE ROLE OF BUSINESSES IN THE AFTERMATH OF CONFLICT</b> <i>Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, Independent Diplomat</i>	<b>PEACE PANEL</b>



**SARAH NOBLE, LEA BAROUDI, SOFIA STRIL REVER, ALINE NDEZAKO, PISHKAFI SHOKRI, MARTIN ALBANI AND DANY DIOGO**

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<b>11:00</b> - <b>12:30</b>	<b>SUSTAINING PEACE THROUGH HEALTH: HOW CAN HEALTH ACTORS FOSTER DIALOGUE, COOPERATION AND TRUST?</b> <i>World Health Organization (WHO)</i>	<b>PEACE PANEL</b>
<b>12:15</b> - <b>14:00</b>	<b>AN ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN FEDERATION : AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH TO PEACE</b> <i>Geneva Graduate Institute</i>	<b>PEACE PANEL</b>
<b>12:30</b> - <b>13:00</b>	<b>LUNCH COFFEE BREAK</b> <i>Geneva Peacebuilding Platform</i>	<b>NETWORKING</b>
<b>13:00</b> - <b>14:30</b>	<b>ASIMETRÌA: MEET THE ARTIST</b> <i>Satellite of Arts, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform</i>	<b>ART EXHIBITION</b>
<b>13:00</b> - <b>14:30</b>	<b>CLEARING THE PATH TO PEACE: HUMANITARIAN DEMINING IN PEACE AGREEMENTS</b> <i>The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)</i>	<b>PEACE PANEL</b>
<b>13:00</b> - <b>14:30</b>	<b>FLOWING TOGETHER: PARTICIPATORY METHODS FOR WATER AND PEACE</b> <i>Deltares, Geneva Water Hub, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)</i>	<b>PEACE WORKSHOP</b>
<b>13:00</b> - <b>14:30</b>	<b>POETRY AS PEACE PRAXIS: NARRATIVES OF HOPE FROM THE SAHEL</b> <i>Sahel Scribes Poetry Club (SSPC), Naija Poetry Fest Community (NPF), Connected Development (CODE), Mentminds, Arewa Peace Ambassadors Forum</i>	<b>PEACE WORKSHOP</b>
<b>13:00</b> - <b>14:30</b>	<b>DRAFTING A SHARED COMPASS: CO-CREATING A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE RESPONSIBLE USE OF AI IN PEACEBUILDING</b> <i>Agency for Peacebuilding (AP), CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation, CyberPeace Institute</i>	<b>PEACE WORKSHOP</b>
<b>13:00</b> - <b>14:30</b>	<b>PEACE DIALOGUE - PARTICIPATION AND INCLUSIVITY IN PEACEBUILDING: LINKING GENEVA AND NEW YORK THROUGH CIVIL SOCIETY, OLDER PERSONS AND WATER DIPLOMACY</b> <i>Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform</i>	<b>PEACE PANEL</b>
<b>14:30</b> - <b>15:00</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b> <i>Geneva Peacebuilding Platform</i>	<b>NETWORKING</b>
<b>15:00</b> - <b>16:30</b>	<b>ARMS CONTROL IN THE MIDDLE EAST, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEACE AFTER THE FALL OF THE ASSAD REGIME</b> <i>The Small Arms Survey, DCAF, Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)</i>	<b>PEACE PANEL</b>
<b>15:00</b> - <b>16:30</b>	<b>THE SEARCH FOR THE FORCIBLY DISAPPEARED: A KEY CONTRIBUTION TO PEACEBUILDING</b> <i>Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, Convention Against Enforced Disappearances</i>	<b>PEACE PANEL</b>
<b>15:00</b> - <b>16:30</b>	<b>THEATRE AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS</b> <i>Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, UNESCO Artist for Peace</i>	<b>ART EXHIBITION</b>
<b>15:00</b> - <b>16:30</b>	<b>RECLAIMING IDENTITY IN THE JOURNEY OF RECONCILIATION</b> <i>World Evangelical Alliance (WEA), Peace and Reconciliation Network (PRN), Musalaha – A Vision of Reconciliation, Healing Hearts Transforming Nations, ONE Coaching &amp; Conflict Management, Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM)</i>	<b>PEACE WORKSHOP</b>

<b>15:00</b> - <b>16:30</b>	<b>PEACE &amp; DISPLACEMENT IN THE DIGITAL AGE: ADDRESSING CAUSES &amp; PAVING THE WAY FOR VOLUNTARY DIGNIFIED RETURN LEVERAGING THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES</b> <i>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland (FDFA) Peace &amp; Human Rights Division</i>	<b>PEACE PANEL</b>
<b>15:00</b> - <b>16:30</b>	<b>ANTICIPATING RISK, ENABLING PEACE: DATA-DRIVEN PREVENTION OF ELECTORAL VIOLENCE IN AFRICA</b> <i>The Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development (SeeD), InterPeace, WANEP</i>	<b>PEACE WORKSHOP</b>
<b>16:30</b> - <b>17:00</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b> <i>Geneva Peacebuilding Platform</i>	<b>NETWORKING</b>
<b>16:30</b> - <b>17:00</b>	<b>HE[R]EAL: RECLAIMING DDR THROUGH WOMEN'S EYES</b> <i>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and The Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA)</i>	<b>ART EXHIBITION</b>
<b>17:00</b> - <b>18:30</b>	<b>2025 PEACETALKS: GENEVA PEACE WEEK EDITION</b> <i>Interpeace, Geneva Peabuilding Platfrom</i>	<b>SPECIAL EVENT</b>
<b>08:30</b> - <b>09:00</b>	<b>NETWORKING BREAKFAST</b> <i>Geneva Peacebuilding Platform</i>	<b>NETWORKING</b>



**BEHIND THE SCENES: HELUIDIO ALBINO AND DR. ANNYSSA BELLAL**

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**TECHNICAL TEAM**  
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## THURSDAY, 16 OCTOBER

<p><b>09:00</b> - <b>10:30</b></p>	<p><b>ASIMETRÌA: MEET THE ARTIST</b> <i>Satellite of Arts, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform</i></p>	<p><b>ART EXHIBITION</b></p>
<p><b>09:00</b> - <b>10:30</b></p>	<p><b>THE ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT: HOW CAN SECURITY GOVERNANCE LAY THE FOUNDATIONS FOR STABILITY?</b> <i>DCAF - Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance, The Palestinian Centre of Research and Strategic Studies (PCRSS), Strategic Studies Centre</i></p>	<p><b>PEACE PANEL</b></p>
<p><b>09:00</b> - <b>10:30</b></p>	<p><b>LESSONS FROM SURVIVORS: PROMOTING A VICTIM-CENTERED APPROACH IN THE GAMBIA'S TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE PROCESS</b> <i>Justice Rapid Response, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Canada, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Gambia, International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)</i></p>	<p><b>PEACE PANEL</b></p>
<p><b>09:00</b> - <b>10:30</b></p>	<p><b>PEACEBUILDING AND CIVILIAN PROTECTION: LESSONS FROM DARFUR AND CONFLICT AFFECTED REGIONS IN NIGER</b> <i>Danish Refugee Council, Non-Violent Peaceforce</i></p>	<p><b>PEACE WORKSHOP</b></p>
<p><b>09:00</b> - <b>10:30</b></p>	<p><b>YOUTH LEADING THE WAY FOR PEACE</b> <i>JRNY Consulting</i></p>	<p><b>PEACE WORKSHOP</b></p>
<p><b>09:00</b> - <b>10:30</b></p>	<p><b>ANCHORING PEACE IN TRADE MEMBER-DRIVEN PATHWAYS FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND STABILITY</b> <i>Interpeace and World Trade Organization's Trade for Peace Programme</i></p>	<p><b>PEACE PANEL</b></p>

<p><b>09:00</b> - <b>10:30</b></p>	<p><b>THEATRE AND REFUGEES</b> <i>Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, UNESCO Artist for Peace</i></p>	<p><b>ART EXHIBITION</b></p>
<p><b>10:30</b> - <b>11:00</b></p>	<p><b>COFFEE BREAK</b> <i>Geneva Peacebuilding Platform</i></p>	<p><b>NETWORKING</b></p>
<p><b>11:00</b> - <b>14:00</b></p>	<p><b>ECHOS OF REALITY: MEET THE ARTIST</b> <i>Centre on Conflict, Development &amp; Peacebuilding, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform</i></p>	<p><b>ART EXHIBITION</b></p>
<p><b>11:00</b> - <b>12:30</b></p>	<p><b>REBOOTING THE INTERNATIONAL PEACEBUILDING SYSTEM: A CALL FOR HYDRODIPLOMACY</b> <i>Geneva Water Hub</i></p>	<p><b>PEACE PANEL</b></p>
<p><b>11:00</b> - <b>12:30</b></p>	<p><b>HARVESTING PEACE: FOOD, JOBS, AND SOCIAL COHESION IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED SETTINGS</b> <i>International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), Interpeace, Danish Refugee Council (DRC)</i></p>	<p><b>PEACE PANEL</b></p>
<p><b>11:00</b> - <b>12:30</b></p>	<p><b>LAND RESTORATION AS A PATHWAY TO PEACE AND SECURITY</b> <i>United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)</i></p>	<p><b>PEACE PANEL</b></p>
<p><b>11:00</b> - <b>12:30</b></p>	<p><b>TIME TO SPEAK! CIVIL SOCIETY VOICES FOR PEACE AT THE SECOND WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT</b> <i>United National Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), Society and Culture Interdisciplinary Research Spotlight, University of Warwick, Warwick Interdisciplinary Research Centre for International Development, University of Warwick (WICID)</i></p>	<p><b>PEACE WORKSHOP</b></p>
<p><b>11:00</b> - <b>12:30</b></p>	<p><b>WOMEN AND YOUTH TAKING ACTION FOR PEACE - WHO IS A PEACEBUILDER?</b> <i>PeaceWomen Across the Globe, Peacebuilding Initiative</i></p>	<p><b>PEACE WORKSHOP</b></p>
<p><b>11:00</b> - <b>12:30</b></p>	<p><b>INTRODUCTION TO AUGUSTO BOAL'S THEATRE OF THE OPPRESSED</b> <i>Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, UNESCO Artist for Peace</i></p>	<p><b>ART EXHIBITION</b></p>
<p><b>12:30</b> - <b>13:00</b></p>	<p><b>LUNCH COFFEE BREAK</b> <i>Geneva Peacebuilding Platform</i></p>	<p><b>NETWORKING</b></p>
<p><b>13:00</b> - <b>14:30</b></p>	<p><b>ASIMETRÌA: MEET THE ARTIST</b> <i>Satellite of Arts, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform</i></p>	<p><b>ART EXHIBITION</b></p>
<p><b>13:00</b> - <b>14:30</b></p>	<p><b>CONVERGENCE &amp; DIVERGENCE IN REGIONAL &amp; INTERNATIONAL DYNAMICS IN PEACEBUILDING &amp; PEACE-MAKING: THE CASE STUDY OF AFGHANISTAN SINCE DOHA TALKS</b> <i>Center for Dialogue and Progress - Geneva (CDP-G), Center for Afghanistan Policy Studies (CAPS), Center for Dialogue and Solidarity - Rome (CSD-R)</i></p>	<p><b>PEACE PANEL</b></p>
<p><b>13:00</b> - <b>14:30</b></p>	<p><b>PEACE CAFÉ - TOWARDS ARTISTIC DIPLOMACY: HOW CAN ART CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE?</b> <i>Student Peacebuilding Initiative</i></p>	<p><b>PEACE PANEL</b></p>
<p><b>13:00</b> - <b>14:30</b></p>	<p><b>LOCALLY LED ACTION ON CLIMATE, PEACE, AND STABILITY: EXPERIENCES FROM LATIN AMERICA, THE MIDDLE EAST, CENTRAL AND SOUTH ASIA</b> <i>Student Peacebuilding Initiative</i></p>	<p><b>PEACE WORKSHOP</b></p>



**IMAGINATION IN PRACTICE: PEACE RESPONSIVE APPROACHES THROUGH THE CREATION, ACTION, ACTION FRAMEWORK**

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE), Costa Rica, Scientific Information Centre of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination of Central Asia (SIC ICWC), Uzbekistan, Lebanon Reforestation Initiative (LRI), Lebanon, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal

13:00 - 14:30

PEACE WORKSHOP

**YOUTH AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE A DECADE AFTER UNSCR 2250: ADVANCING MEANINGFUL INCLUSION IN PEACE AND SECURITY**

Global Youth Caucus on SDG16 (SDG16 GYC)

13:00 - 14:30

PEACE WORKSHOP

**IHL AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR PEACE: PROTECTING PEOPLE, BUILDING FUTURES**

Interpeace, International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC), Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Bled Strategic Forum, Geneva Call

13:00 - 14:30

PEACE PANEL

**COFFEE BREAK**

Geneva Peacebuilding Platform

14:30 - 15:00

NETWORKING

**FIGHTING FOR A VOICE: WOMEN EX-COMBATANTS AND THE POLITICS OF REINTEGRATION**

Center on Armed Groups, United Nations Department of Peace Operations (UNDPO), DDR Section New York United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Crisis Bureau New York/Geneva

15:00 - 16:30

PEACE PANEL

**A BILLION REASONS TO EMBRACE INCLUSIVE SPORT**

UNESCO, The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar, DECATHLON

15:00 - 16:30

PEACE PANEL

**YOUTH AS CATALYSTS FOR PEACE AND CIVILIAN PROTECTION: LINKING UNSCR 2250 AND THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS AGENDA**

Centre for Peace Mediation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)

15:00 - 16:30

PEACE PANEL

**NEGOTIATING ACROSS THE DIVIDE: FROM THE FRONTLINES TO THE DIPLOMATIC TABLE**

Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation (CCHN)

15:00 - 16:30

PEACE WORKSHOP

**COFFEE BREAK**

Geneva Peacebuilding Platform

16:30 - 17:00

NETWORKING

16:30 - 17:00

**HE[R]EAL: RECLAIMING DDR THROUGH WOMEN'S EYES**  
 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and The Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA)

ART EXHIBITION

17:00 - 18:30

**SCREENING FOR PEACE: WE FORGIVE BUT WE DON'T FORGET**  
 Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, Geneva Graduate Institute

SPECIAL EVENT

**FRIDAY, 17 OCTOBER**

09:00 - 10:30

**GEOPOLITICAL INTERSECTIONALITY AND PEACE WALKING TOUR**  
 Caux Initiatives of Change, Swisspeace

SPECIAL EVENT

11:00 - 12:30

**CLOSING CEREMONY: ARTS AND PEACE ENCOUNTERS**  
 Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, Caux Initiative of Change

CLOSING CEREMONY

12:30 - 14:00

**CLOSING COCKTAIL**  
 Geneva Peacebuilding Platform

NETWORKING



# ORGANIZATIONS, SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS

## PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Geneva Peace Week serves as a unique forum where organizations based in Geneva, together with their international partners, come together to exchange knowledge, share practices, and explore a wide range of peace-related themes across contexts and disciplines. This edition brought together 137 partner organizations.

1. Act On Your Future
2. Adelphi global
3. African Union
4. Agency for Peacebuilding
5. Arcadia University
6. Arewa Peace Ambassadors Forum
7. Berghof Foundation
8. Beyond Compliance Consortium
9. Bled Strategic Forum
10. Canton and City of Geneva
11. Caux Initiatives of Change Foundation
12. Center for Afghanistan Policy Studies
13. Center for Civilians in Conflict
14. Center for Dialogue and Progress – Geneva
15. Center for Dialogue and Solidarity – Rome
16. Center on Armed Groups
17. Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue
18. Centre for Peace Mediation
19. Centre for Security Studies ETH Zurich
20. Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation
21. Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding
22. Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development
23. Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza
24. China Foreign Affairs University
25. CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation
26. Committee for the Jean-Pictet Competition
27. Confidence, Mediation and Trust Building
28. Connected Development
29. Convention against Enforced Disappearances Initiative
30. Council of Europe
31. CyberPeace Institute
32. Danish Refugee Council
33. DCAF – Geneva Center for Security Sector Governance
34. Decathlon
35. Deltares
36. Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Switzerland
37. Development Partnerships Office
38. Fight for Humanity
39. Folke Bernadotte Academy
40. Geneva Call
41. Geneva Center for Security Policy
42. Geneva Graduate Institute
43. Geneva Initiative
44. Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
45. Geneva Water Hub
46. Globethics
47. Global Youth Caucus on SDG16
48. Healing Hearts Transforming Nations
49. Healthnet
50. Healthnet TPO
51. Humanitarian Dialogue
52. Independent Diplomat
53. Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic
54. Initiatives of Change
55. Institute for Economics and Peace
56. Interpeace
57. International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute
58. International Center for Transitional Justice
59. International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
60. International Committee for the Red Cross
61. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
62. International Gender Champions
63. International Labour Organization
64. International Organization for Migration
65. JRNY Consulting
66. Justice Rapid Response
67. Kofi Annan Foundation
68. KRIS for Peace
69. Kuki Inpi Manipur
70. Lebanon Reforestation Initiative
71. Legal Action Worldwide
72. Mentminds
73. Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
74. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Canada
75. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Gambia
76. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands
77. Musalaha – A Vision of Reconciliation
78. Naija Poetry Fest Community
79. New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy
80. Nobel Women's Initiative
81. Non-Violent Peaceforce
82. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
83. ONE Coaching and Conflict Management
84. Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe
85. Palestinian Centre of Research and Strategical Studies
86. Palestinian Peace Coalition
87. Partnerships and Multilateralism for Peace
88. Peace and Reconciliation Network
89. Peacebuilding Initiative
90. Peacebuilding Support Office
91. PeaceWomen Across the Globe
92. Permanent Mission of Switzerland
93. Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations Office
94. Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar
95. Principles for Peace Foundation – P4P
96. Saferworld
97. Sahel Scribes Poetry Club
98. Satellite of Arts
99. Scientific Information Centre of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination of Central Asia
100. Small Arms Survey
101. Society and Culture Interdisciplinary Research Spotlight
102. Strategic Studies Centre
103. Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
104. Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
105. Swisspeace
106. Syrian Legal Development Programme
107. Talking Drum Studio: Liberia Peace Center
108. TechEthics
109. The ImPact
110. Toda Peace Institute
111. UPeace
112. UNESCO Artiste pour la paix
113. UNESCO Qatar
114. United National Research Institute for Social Development
115. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
116. United Nations Department of Peace Operations
117. United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
118. United Nations Environment Programme
119. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
120. United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
121. United Nations Institute for Training and Research
122. United Nations Mine Action Service
123. United Nations Office at Geneva
124. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
125. United Nations Peacekeeping
126. United Nations University Centre for Policy Research Geneva
127. United Nations University for Peace
128. United Nations Women
129. University of Warwick
130. University of York
131. Warwick Interdisciplinary Research Centre for International Development
132. West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
133. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
134. World Bank
135. World Evangelical Alliance
136. World Health Organization
137. World Trade Organization

## SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS

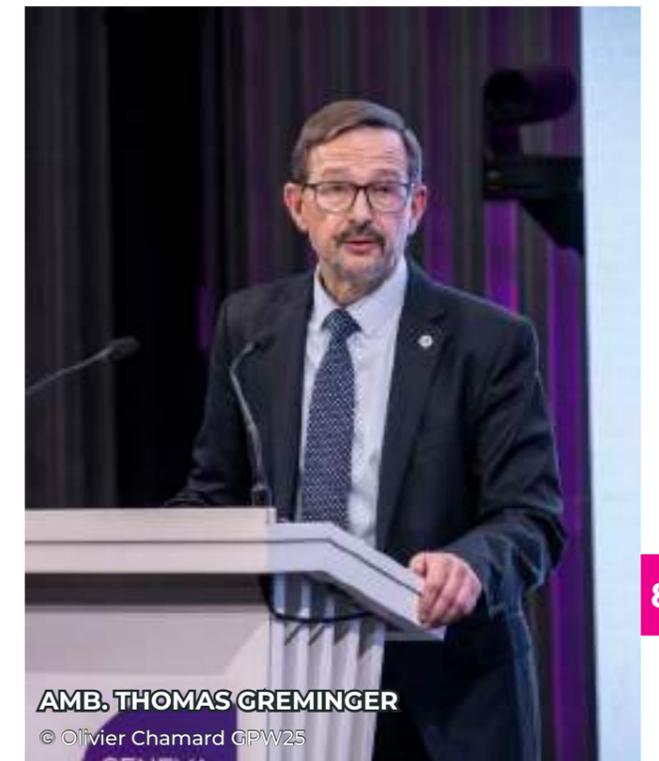
This edition of Geneva Peace Week brought together an impressive 281 speakers (147 female/ 133 male), each contributing their expertise, perspectives, and lived experiences across the programme. Their insights enriched discussions, deepened collective understanding, and helped illuminate innovative approaches to peacebuilding in diverse contexts.

1. **ABDALRAHMAN AL-MUFTAH, HEND**  
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY, PERMANENT MISSION OF THE STATE OF QATAR  
*United Nations Office at Geneva*
2. **ACHSANUL, HABIB**  
AMBASSADOR/CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES, PERMANENT MISSION OF INDONESIA  
*United Nations Office at Geneva / WTO / other IOs*
3. **ADIL SOUD, BASHEER**  
COMMUNITY PEACE TEAM (CPT)  
*Nonviolent Peaceforce*
4. **AEBISCHER, BARBARA**  
SPECIALIST, CULTURE & DEVELOPMENT, PEACE, GOVERNANCE & EQUALITY SECTION,  
*Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), FDFA*
5. **AHLAD ANDISHA, NASIR**  
STRATEGIC ADVISOR TO CDP-G BOARD, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AFGHANISTAN  
*UNOG*
6. **AHMED ABENZA, OMAR**  
DIRECTOR, GLOBAL & FIELD PROGRAMS  
*Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)*
7. **ALAMA, AMAPOLA**  
SENIOR PROJECT OFFICER  
*UNESCO IBE*
8. **ALBANI, MARTIN**  
SENIOR ADVISOR, PEACEBUILDING, MEDIATION & NEGOTIATION  
*European External Action Service*
9. **AL BULUSHI, MOHAMMED**  
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF OMAN  
*United Nations Office at Geneva*



**SARAH NOBLE**  
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10. **AL-FARRAJ, ASMAA**  
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**275. YAZGI, SIMON**  
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Independent Diplomat

**277. YOUSSEF, HESHAM**  
AMBASSADOR (RETIRED)  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt

**278. ŽBOGAR, SAMUEL**  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SLOVENIA  
TO THE UN (NEW YORK)

**279. ZHANG, XIANGCHEN**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
World Trade Organization

**280. ZIGANSHINA, DINARA**  
DIRECTOR  
SIC ICWC

**281. ZOUËV, ALEXANDRE**  
ACTING UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL  
UN Office of Counter-Terrorism



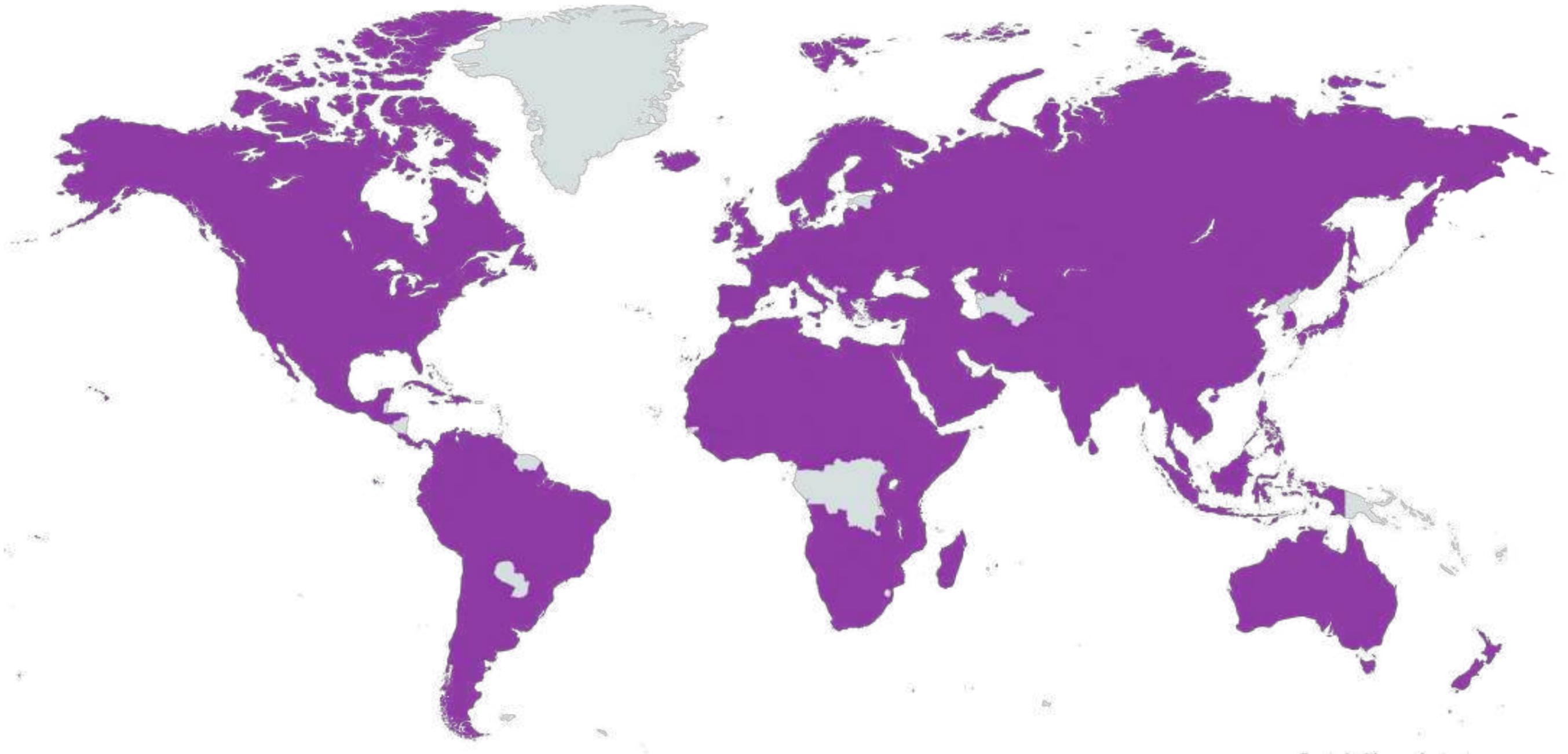
**DANY DIOGO**  
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# PARTICIPANT STATISTICS

Geneva Peace Week is designed to be accessible to everyone. This year's edition welcomed 2,963 registered participants. Of these, 1,100 indicated they would participate online, while 1,073 would attend in person, and 738 would participate in both formats. These figures are made possible by the hybrid modality, which ensures broad accessibility and enables participation from across the world.

## TOP 5 COUNTRIES

1. **Switzerland** - 406 participants
2. **France** - 202 participants
3. **United States of America** - 406 participants
4. **Germany** - 121 participants
5. **Italy** - 120 participants



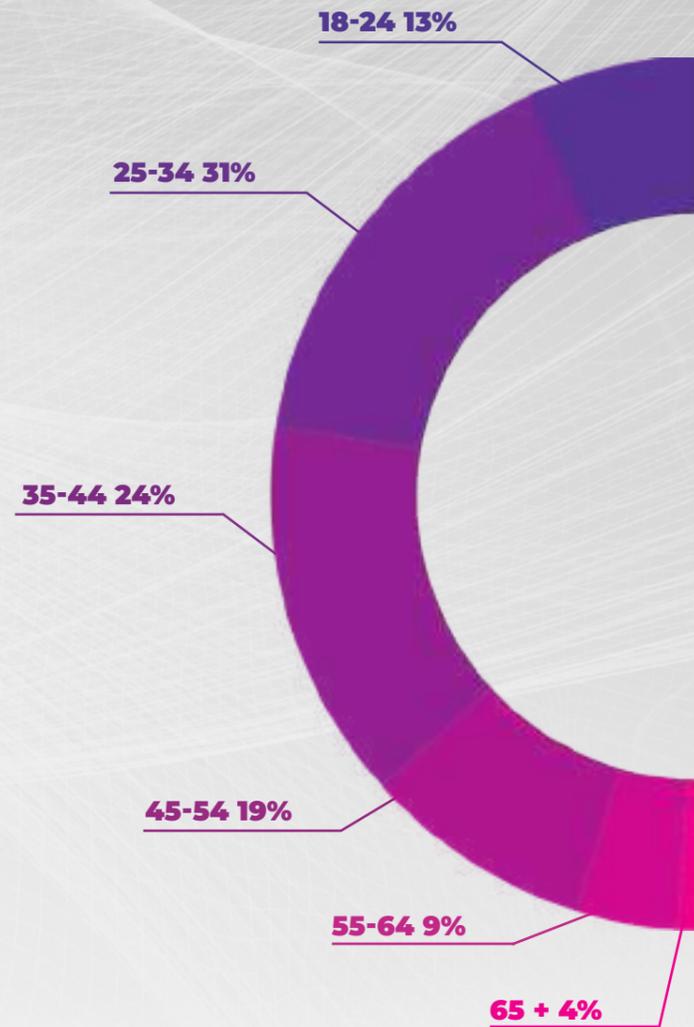
## SESSIONS ATTENDANCE

The 12th edition recorded a total session attendance of 5,700, comprising 3,300 on-site and 2,400 online participations. Session attendance reflects the cumulative number of attendees across all individual sessions.

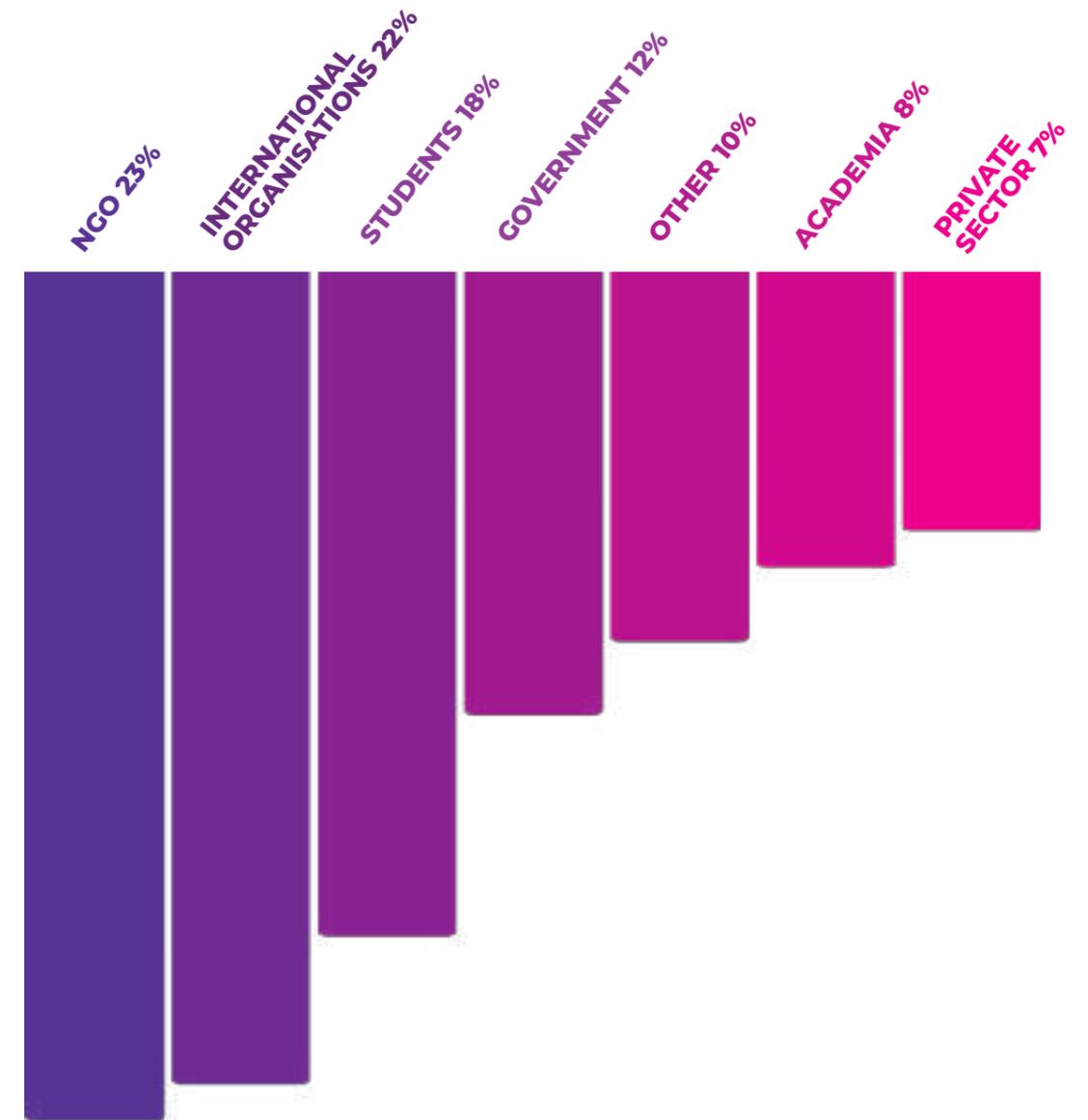
## GENDER



## AGE



## SECTOR



## TOP 5 EVENTS

1. 2025 Kofi Annan Geneva Peace Address (special event) - 694 participants
2. 2025 Opening Ceremony Peace in Action (special event) - 457 participants
3. Locally led action on climate, peace, and stability : Experiences from Latin America, the Middle East, Central and South Asia (online workshop) - 374 participants
4. 2025 Peace Talks: Geneva Peace Week Edition (special event) - 182 participants
5. 80 Years of the UN Multilateralism: Reinforcing a Timeless Framework for Global Peace (peace panel) - 176 participants

# COMMUNICATIONS

Significant efforts were made this year to strengthen communication and enhance the experience of both partners and participants at Geneva Peace Week. Information on participation conditions and available formats was published as early as March, alongside a simplified application form to ease the submission process. Once events were selected in June, organizers gained access to a dedicated platform serving as a central reference for event design, logistical guidance, and promotional materials, complemented by standardized templates to streamline the update of website content and session notes.



For the first time, recordings and transcripts of events were made available at the end of the week, allowing organizers to have records of their sessions. On-site visibility at the Maison de la Paix was boosted through improved visual support, and outreach expanded through video spots that served as a new communications campaign across Geneva's trams, post offices, the local television station Léman Bleu and displayed during major events during the week.



GPW CAMPAIGN IN A POST OFFICE IN GENEVA

# GPW25 STAFF

Geneva Peace Week is an annual cycle coordinated and implemented by the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform. The first semester focuses on strategic decision-making, carried out with the support of the consortium, regarding the theme, keywords, formats, application criteria and participation modalities, as well as launching the call for applications and selecting top applications. The second semester is dedicated to event design and logistical implementation leading up to the week itself. The Platform operates with a modest budget and a small team, yet successfully manages the coordination of all activities that make Geneva Peace Week possible and relevant for so many.

To support the team on the logistics, communications and administration of the forum, two assistants have been hired for three months from September to the end of November.

## GENEVA PEACEBUILDING PLATFORM

- Dr. Annyssa Bellal, Executive Director
- Dany Diogo, Geneva Peace Week Lead
- Tatiana Avanthay, Communications Coordinator
- Cyprien Fluzin, Policy and Research Fellow

## GENEVA PEACE WEEK ASSISTANTS

- Maxime Faimali
- Talisa Avanthay Garcia

## PHOTOGRAPHER

- Oliver Chamard

## EVENT ASSISTANTS

- Johanna Bösiger
- Luiza Fernandez
- Nicole Kwan Kiu Leung
- Kaya Van Der Horst
- Nuraim Zhenishbek Kyzy

In addition, the GPP team is reinforced by additional GPW staff during the week itself to ensure the smooth coordination of all events.

## GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE EVENTS TEAM

- Alexis Bijasson
- Arnaud Charles
- Sabrina Christinet-Imhof
- Audrey Freudiger
- Albertino Guedes Monteiro
- Alice Iynédjian
- Marie-Caroline Malko
- Lucie Potier
- Gérald Poussard
- Lyanna Tan
- Pascal Weltin

## GENEVA CENTRE FOR SECURITY POLICY TEAM

- Stephanie Arqueros-Sanchez
- Maéna Blois
- Antoine Delayen
- Leslie Dos Santos
- Laura Elbaz
- Yohann Gilles
- Florian Golay
- Carla Laudien
- Khaled Mekkaoui
- Marta Quadrini Moschini



CYPRIEN FLUZIN AND DR. ANNYSSA BELLAL

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## HOSPITALITY STAFF BRIGHTSIDE GROUP

- Sami Akhbouche
- Gabriela Buser
- Jorge Buser
- Wandrille Jeannot
- Marie de La Fortelle
- Sol Santos
- Ève-Marie Teixeira

## VOLUNTEERS

- Nahomy Gomes
- Daniela Musella
- Clara Ponce
- Roan Reali
- Beatrice Riva
- Ema Torcato



DR. ANNYSSA BELLAL, DANY DIOGO, TATIANA AVANTHAY, MAXIME FAIMALI, TALISA A. GARCIA AND CYPRIEN FLUZIN

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CLARA PONCE, SAMI AKHBOUCHE, DR. ANNYSSA BELLAL, JOHANNA BÖSIGER, EMA TORCATO AND LUÍZA FERNÁNDEZ

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This edition of GPW was also supported by AVC Technical Services.

# ABOUT GENEVA PEACE WEEK



LIVE INTERPRETATION



# MISSION

The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, founded in 2008, became a Foundation in July 2024. It serves as a global knowledge hub that connects a critical mass of peacebuilding actors, resources, and expertise in Geneva and around the world. Today, the Platform brings together more than 4,000 professionals engaged in advancing peace. It supports continuous information exchange through seminars, consultations, and conferences, and facilitates outcome-oriented dialogues that strengthen peacebuilding practice.

The Platform's flagship initiative is Geneva Peace Week, a leading annual forum in the international peacebuilding calendar. GPW convenes organizations from Geneva and their global partners to share knowledge and practice on a wide range of peace-related issues across contexts and disciplines.

Recognizing that peacebuilding takes place in diverse settings and cuts across sectors, GPW seeks to break down professional silos and foster creative responses to violence, exclusion, and insecurity. By synchronizing meetings and events on peace-related themes within a single week, it maximizes synergies among organizations in Geneva and their international partners, highlighting the inherently cross-cutting nature of peace.



# CONSORTIUM

Driven by suggestions from the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform team, the Consortium governs the strategic decision-making process regarding Geneva Peace Week that includes, among others, the thematic direction of each edition, criteria for applications, event formats,

participation modalities and selection of events. Members of the Consortium work collaboratively to bring diverse perspectives, innovative ideas and different skills to the table to achieve a common goal: making each edition of Geneva Peace Week a success and a unique experience.



## GENEVA PEACEBUILDING PLATFORM

- Annyssa Bellal, Executive Director
- Dany Diogo, Geneva Peace Week Lead
- Tatiana Avanthay, Communications Coordinator
- Cyprien Fluzin, Policy and Research Fellow



## GENEVA CENTRE FOR SECURITY POLICY

- Annika Hilding Norberg, Head of Peace Operations and Peacebuilding
- Carla Laudien, Junior Professional Officer Global Support Group



## DCAF- GENEVA CENTRE FOR SECURITY SECTOR GOVERNANCE

- Dawn Lui, Project Officer, Policy & Research Division
- William McDermott, Principal Programme Manager



## GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING

- Beatrice Presutti, Programme Officer, Policy Research Programme



## INTERPEACE

- Luvini Ranasinghe, Head of Communications



## GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE'S CENTRE ON CONFLICT, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACEBUILDING

- Eliza Urwin, Head of Research





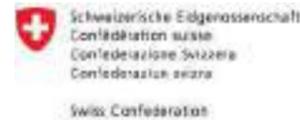
### PRINCIPLES FOR PEACE FOUNDATION

- Roberto Paganini, Director of Programs



### THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

- Erik Marzolf, Chief of the Political Affairs and Partnerships Section in the Office of the Director-General
- Elena Zhelokhovtseva, Associate Expert - Office of the Director-General



### PERMANENT MISSION OF SWITZERLAND TO THE UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN GENEVA

- Andrea Aeby, Counselor, Peace & Security



### INITIATIVES OF CHANGE CAUX FOUNDATION

- Sarah Noble, Head of Global Engagement in International Geneva



### THE KOFI ANNAN FOUNDATION

- Maud Roure, Deputy Director for Programmes



### QUAKER UNITED NATIONS OFFICE, GENEVA

- Lindsey Fielder Cook, Interim Deputy Director and Representative for the Human Impacts of Climate Change

## THANK YOU

Geneva Peace Week 2025 marked another successful edition, bringing together over 100 activities and generating 5,700 session attendances throughout the week. This achievement would not have been possible without the collective dedication, vision, and generosity of our partners, contributors, and community of peacebuilders.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our sponsors, the Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, the Republic and State of Geneva, and a private Swiss foundation, whose continued support enables GPW to remain a free, inclusive, and globally accessible platform.

Our thanks go to the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform Board:

- Geneva Centre for Security Policy
- Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance
- Geneva Graduate Institute
- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
- Interpeace
- Principles for Peace

We also warmly thank the Geneva Peace Week Consortium members, that include organizations of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform's board but also the United Nations Office in Geneva, the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, the Initiatives of Change Caux Foundation, the Kofi Annan Foundation, and the Quaker United Nations Office, whose collaboration

strengthens the breadth and depth of the GPW programme.

To all the organizations who curated sessions, contributed insights, and brought global perspectives to the Week: thank you for your trust and partnership.

To the speakers and moderators, thank you for generously sharing your expertise, experience, and reflections.

To the artists, who enriched GPW25 with creativity, emotion, and new ways of seeing, we are deeply grateful.

We extend heartfelt appreciation to the GPW staff, technical teams, event assistants, volunteers, and hospitality staff, whose professionalism and dedication ensured a seamless and welcoming experience for thousands of participants.

And to all our attendees, whether joining in person or from around the world: thank you for your continuous engagement, curiosity, and commitment to advancing peace.

Together, we continue to build a global community committed to dialogue, collaboration, and the pursuit of sustainable peace.

See you next year.

The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform



CONSORTIUM MEETING IN EARLY 2024

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**building**  
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