

# Religion and Mediation Course 2018

A specialized training course for mediators and peace practitioners

26 – 31 August 2018, Murten, Switzerland

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Organized by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Center for Security Studies, ETH Zurich, in collaboration with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA  
**Directorate of Political Affairs DP**  
Human Security Division:  
Peace, Human Rights, Humanitarian Policy, Migration



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

The Network for  
Religious and  
Traditional  
Peacemakers



**CSS**  
ETH Zurich

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## What

The course aims to develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes relevant for mediating in violent political conflicts where religion plays a role. It applies a broad understanding of mediation to look at how third parties can create supportive spaces for actors in these conflicts to come together to address their differences.

By the end of the course, participants will:

- Have the concepts and tools for analyzing religion's role in conflict.
- Be familiar with a variety of approaches to mediating and transforming conflicts with religious dimensions.
- Have applied their learning to case studies of current conflicts with religious dimensions.

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## Why

In a world where over 80% of the world's population identifies with a religious community, there is increasing recognition of the need to understand and address religion's role in violent conflict. From Israel-Palestine to Somalia to Sri Lanka, religious narratives, religious identities and religiously-inspired actors play an important role. This course provides the knowledge and tools for thinking about the role of religion in conflict, and for translating that thinking into action to transform violent conflict.

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## Who

The course is aimed at mediators, peace practitioners, policy makers and others working to address violent political conflicts in contexts where religion has strong relevance. Participants should have solid experience of working on conflict transformation or peace mediation. The course will be held in English. A balance of women and men will be sought. The final selection of 25 participants will be made by the CSS and the Swiss FDFA in consultation with their supporting partners.

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## How

**Experience oriented:** The course draws heavily on practical experiences of working on religion and conflict while also making reference to a number of theoretical and conceptual frameworks and tools.

**Interactive learning:** All the training sessions are highly interactive. Participants are invited to share their experiences and learn from the experiences of others.

**Expert inputs:** In addition to staff of the organizing partners, academics and experienced practitioners from around the world will lead and contribute to a number of sessions.

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The course will begin on **Sunday 26 August 2018** and end on **Friday 31 August 2018**. It will take place at **Centre Loewenberg**, in Murten, close to the capital of Switzerland (Bern).

The course is offered free of charge. However, participants are expected to cover their own transport and accommodation costs. Five nights (Sun - Fri) accommodation with full board will cost approximately CHF 950.

A number of scholarships are available to cover the travel and accommodation costs of participants from non-OECD countries who could not otherwise afford to participate. These scholarships will be awarded at the discretion of the organizers.

To find out more information and to apply, please see: [www.rmc.ethz.ch](http://www.rmc.ethz.ch)

Please note you will need a motivation letter and a CV to apply. The application deadline is **27 March 2018**.

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## When and Where