

UNESCO Chairs Seminars
Towards a Pact for the Future
International Peace and Security

Date and time: Thursday 16 May 2024, 14:00 to 15:30 (Paris time)
Languages: English and French
Format: Zoom – [Please click here to register](#)

Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men and women that the defences of peace must be constructed.

Preamble, Constitution of UNESCO

UNESCO's Constitution recognizes that 'a peace based exclusively upon the political and economic arrangements of governments would not be a peace which could secure the unanimous, lasting and sincere support of the peoples of the world ... peace must, therefore, be founded, if it is not to fail, upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind'. Since 1945, UNESCO has been constructing the 'defences of peace' and building the foundations of international solidarity through international cooperation in the field of education, the sciences, culture, and the free exchange of ideas and knowledge.

Peace is viewed not only in terms of the immediate absence of conflict and large-scale violence. It is also about the enduring conditions of peace grounded in human rights and fundamental freedom, social justice, poverty alleviation, women's empowerment, and harnessing the potential of young people. Indeed, there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development¹. The depth of justice determines the quality of peace, and peace in a "positive" sense is not possible to imagine when one is dominating the other. Creating and sustaining lasting peace therefore requires building attitudes, institutions, and structures that make society less violent, less unjust and unequal. It is about establishing social justice, guaranteeing the ability of all to exercise their rights regardless of their gender, race, religion, ethnicity, or nationality². Sustainable Development Goal 16 is 'to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels'.

For this online UNESCO Chairs Seminar on 'International Peace and Security', an expert panel of UNESCO Chairs working in the fields of peace studies, intercultural dialogue, education for peace-building and human rights, freedom of expression and cultural diplomacy will be joined by members of UNESCO Chairs, UNITWIN Networks and other experts. With reference to Chapter 2 of the [Pact for the Future](#) – one of the outcome documents of the Summit of the Future – participants will share perspectives and experiences to explore the interdependent nature of peace, human rights and sustainable development and how they can contribute towards constructing 'the defences of peace'.

**** [Register here](#) ****

¹ Source: United Nations. 2015. [Transforming our World: The 2030 agenda for sustainable development](#)

² Source: UNESCO, 2022. [Current understandings of, and threats to, lasting peace: Technical note](#)

Provisional Agenda

International Peace and Security Thursday 16 May 2024, 14:00 – 15:30 (Paris time)	
14:00-14:10	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dov Lynch, Chief of Section, Division of External Relations, UNESCO
14:10-14:20	<p>Keynote</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rina Alluri, UNESCO Chair in Peace Studies, University of Innsbruck, Austria (tbc)
14:20-14:50	<p>Panel Discussion</p> <p>Moderator: Lydia Ruprecht, Programme Specialist, Section for Global Citizenship Education, Education Sector, UNESCO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kelsey Shanks, UNESCO Chair in Education for Peacebuilding and Human Rights, University of Ulster, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland • Serhan Ada, UNESCO Chair on Cultural Policy and Cultural Diplomacy, Istanbul Bilgi University, the Republic of Türkiye
14:50-15:25	<p>Open discussion</p> <p>Moderator: Lydia Ruprecht, Programme Specialist, Section for Global Citizenship Education, Education Sector, UNESCO</p>
15:25-15:30	<p>Closing remarks</p>

**** [Register here](#) ****