



On the occasion of the 2017 Geneva Peace Week, the Quaker United Nations Office and the Geneva Office of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung cordially invite you to a panel discussion on

**Forging Social Contracts to Prevent Violent Conflict, to protect Human Rights and to Sustain Peace:
Bringing our strategic approaches and resources to bear
9 November 2017, 9:00 – 10:15, Palais des Nations, Room IX**

There is little doubt that in many countries, the social contract is in deep crisis, and, that we need to better understand what this means for states and societies in different settings. While citizens and leaders within and across countries, globally continue to face such extreme challenges and profound complexities, the international community has also faced challenges in finding winning collective formulas to support the prevention of violent conflict, and achieving and sustaining of peace. Simply put, across settings: we need basic agreements about how we can peaceably live together – at the national and global levels.

The United Nations suggests that sustaining peace is both a goal and a process to build a common vision of society, ensuring that all needs and segments of the population are taken into account. It encompasses a range of activities to prevent outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict flowing across the three, interlinked and mutually reinforcing pillars of ‘development, peace and security, and human rights’ – with a focus on tackling root causes, strengthening the rule of law, poverty eradication, social and sustainable development, transitional justice, accountability, good governance, gender equality and respect for and protection of human rights.

This session reflects on how the United Nations’ new sustaining peace approach can contribute to this goal, towards forging social contracts that prevent violent conflict and that sustain peace, drawing in and upon the resources of our varied, system-wide strategic lenses and approaches to maximize coherence and impact in this collective endeavor. The event brings together researchers and practitioners from Guatemala, Bosnia Herzegovina, Zimbabwe and Ireland to discuss these issues, reflecting challenges alongside innovative policy and practice and emerging research at international, national and local levels to overcome them.

Leading the discussion:

- ❖ Erin McCandless, The New School

Discussants:

- ❖ Showers Mawowa, Southern African Liaison Office
- ❖ Jasmin Ramovic, University of Manchester
- ❖ Bernardo Arevalo de Leon, Interpeace Guatemala

☞ Light refreshments will be provided from 8:30am ☞

NB: Valid UN conference badge is needed to attend the event. If you do not have a valid UN badge, you will need to register for a Geneva Peace Week pass: <https://req.unog.ch/event/21607/> (Registration closes 1 November 2017)