



## Geneva Peace Week 2021

1-5 November 2021

# “From seeds to systems of peace: Weathering today’s challenges”

## Call for Applications

**Submission deadline: Wednesday 16 June 2021**

The eighth edition of Geneva Peace Week is proud to launch its call for applications. Geneva Peace Week (GPW) is where bridges are built and silos are busted, and where the various levels of actors working on peace from all sectors can interact. It is a space of meaningful exchange and co-created learning linking practitioners, policymakers, researchers, students, and individuals from all sectors. We seek to be as inclusive and high-quality as possible while always adapting from year to year. It is a platform built by many and it is in many ways an exercise in, and part of, the collaborative process of building peace around the world.

Every year since its inception, Geneva Peace Week has grown (and changed). After many years of exponential growth in quantity we believe that that growth must now continue in quality, innovation, learning, and interaction. Therefore, as our many reviews and participant feedback have suggested, **we will be organizing a more focused event with about half as many events as last year.**

This year it will take place **online** (with a possibility of a hybrid session for the opening and closing sessions), with several new features that have been introduced to innovate upon the attendee experience, interaction, and thematic focus of GPW21. Please read this guidance note carefully to find out and learn more about the exciting changes for this year’s version.

As an inclusive peacebuilding forum, we invite submissions for both online interactive sessions and a digital series (pre-recorded content, videos, and podcasts to be used also after GPW21) covering a spectrum of peacebuilding practice, topics, and contexts. Even if you have participated in GPW in the past, please read below for guidance on how to apply for GPW21, including information on the key thematic directions, session formats, as well as application guidelines and criteria.

Behind the scenes, a consortium team of Geneva Peacebuilding Platform partners has come together to support GPW21’s development, including: The United Nations Office at Geneva, the Quaker United Nations Office, The Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance, The Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Interpeace, the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding, the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, and the Mission of Switzerland to the UN in Geneva.

## Thematic direction

Throughout the year, the [Geneva Peacebuilding Platform](#), which organizes GPW, stays attuned to the ‘pulse of peacebuilding’ through its ongoing work in convening traditional and non-traditional peacebuilding actors, curating thematic events, and participating in a range of peace fora worldwide.

GPW21 will be held under the theme “From seeds to systems of peace: Weathering today’s challenges.” Challenges to peace today have been compounded by the COVID19 pandemic. Geneva Peace Week 2021 nurtures seeds of peace in the new approaches and tools necessary to “weather” the contemporary challenges, while seeking to engage and affect change at the systemic level.

The organizing consortium proposes the following thematic tracks to guide content and conversation at GPW21:

- 1) Creating a climate for collaboration: Ways forward for environment, climate change, and peace
- 2) Moving beyond securitization: What risks (and new horizons) for peacebuilding
- 3) Harnessing the digital sphere for peace
- 4) Confronting inequalities and advancing inclusion, peace, and SDG16

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## Submission Formats: Online Interactive Sessions & Digital Series

As every year, Geneva Peace Week 2021 will aim to enhance the quality of the programme and experience for peacebuilding practitioners, and to also maintain an inclusive space for dialogue on cross-cutting issues on peace. In order to achieve this, and in response to feedback surveys from attendees and organizers, GPW21 will include a condensed number of ‘Online Interactive Sessions, and the ‘Digital Series’ will be opened up for applications. The Selection Committee will accept the highest quality of applications for 30 online interactive sessions and 30 contributions to the Digital Series. The Thematic Tracks and overarching themes are the same for both interactive workshops and for the Digital Series.

Condensing the programme will allow for GPW21 to place a greater emphasis on interactivity and networking, and on the development of substantive syntheses and outputs coming from events. GPW21 applications will be open for Online Interactive Sessions, and the Digital Series. **Please read below for more information on these two formats.**

- **Online Interactive Sessions:** These sessions are online and are predominantly interactive workshops. They should be practitioner-led and facilitated with a high degree of interactivity, aimed at offering participants the opportunity to exchange and share knowledge, good practice, and peacebuilding skills to apply in their daily work. Information can be presented by speakers but we would encourage that input from speakers be no more than 50% of the time (and preferably less). Selections will prioritise the most innovative and interactive workshop approaches. This year, we will encourage traditional panel discussions to be applied for within the Digital Series, as pre-recorded content.

- **Digital Series:** This will feature contributions in which organizers develop their peacebuilding expertise, research, stories, and panel discussions into digital formats (videos, podcasts, and other media) that can be continuously re-viewed and engaged with beyond GPW21. The Digital Series will be broadcasted on the GPW website and major streaming platforms (including YouTube and Spotify etc.) This format should be predominantly for information-sharing, and therefore why panel discussions would fit best here. The Digital Series offers an opportunity for contributions to the frontline work of peace to continue beyond Geneva Peace Week, across geographical, cultural and temporal borders. To view the guidance document for the Digital Series, please visit the GPW website.

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## Application Criteria

### Substantive Criteria

For both types of formats the following criteria apply (all of these criteria are mandatory):

- Peacebuilding aims and objectives are clear.
- The contribution clearly builds on the GPW21 theme and a specific thematic track.
- There is a Geneva-connection: Geneva Peace Week is grounded in Geneva itself. Organisers must articulate “why the event is connected to Geneva.” (such as: Speak to a Geneva-based process; include speaker/actor from Geneva; be a Geneva-based actor; be about the Geneva ‘ecosystem’).
- The event is Non-Promotional: Applicants are reminded that Geneva Peace Week is not a political platform, and sessions/digital series content are not allowed to serve the exclusive promotion of a specific organization. UNOG, the Graduate Institute, and the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, as well as its five partner organizations, do not endorse any particular session or speaker during Geneva Peace Week.

### Organizational Criteria

For both formats the following criteria apply (all of these criteria are mandatory):

- Collaboration: In the GPW spirit of collaboration and participation, each session/digital series contribution must be organized by at least two different institutional actors. Applicants are reminded that Geneva Peace Week is an inclusive initiative that welcomes a full spectrum of views and experiences on preventing and resolving violent conflict and building peace. Particularly given the reduced number of sessions for GPW21, we encourage institutions to partner with more than one additional organisation.
- Focus: Events will have **one main organizer** and **one or more co-organizers**. Institutions are allowed to make one application as a main organizer to a live interactive workshop or the Digital Series. We encourage institutions to invest strongly in the quality of their chosen session/digital series contribution; we will not accept multiple sessions with the same institution as main organizer.
- Responsibility: Organizers accept responsibility for all aspects of their session or digital series submission, including travel or visa support for speakers or facilitators in case sessions take place in person, and any interpretation costs. Communication and promotion of live sessions and the digital series is the responsibility of organizers, in accordance with the Geneva Peace Week communications guidelines.

## Design and Format Criteria

For both types of formats, the following criteria will be considered. This is not to say that every event must have all of these criteria, but these are criteria that GPW values and wishes to promote:

- Knowledge, experiences and evidence will be shared in a manner open to a range of audiences (not only experts)
- The event helps to amplify voices of local level actors, women and youth are included as speakers or facilitators
- The event contributes to the breaking of silos and bringing together of various sectors
- The event showcases and promotes the forging new partnerships and collaborative efforts
- The event offers personal tools for peacebuilders on an individual level

Furthermore, for the Online Interactive Sessions the criteria will be:

- The level of meaningful and effective interaction
- The innovative design of the event

For the Digital Series the criteria will be:

- The relevance and novelty of the content
- The innovative format of presentation

A further option (not at all mandatory) is:

- Linguistic Diversity: We encourage events in languages other than English, noting that interpretation costs must be covered by the organising institution. GPW will provide space for interpretation via the online platform.

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## Preparational and Reporting Requirements

All successful applicants commit to:

- Attending all GPW21 Organizer Meetings (dates TBC).
- Submitting a final substantive report of their session/digital series learnings and recommendations, by 26 November 2021.
- Adhere to all GPW21 guidance material.

**Applications are due by 16 June 17:00 (Central European Standard Time)** via the Call for Applications Webpage on the Geneva Peace Week website. Notification will be sent to successful applicants by late July 2021. For more information, please contact the GPW21 Organizing Team: [gpw@gpplatform.ch](mailto:gpw@gpplatform.ch)

## About Geneva Peace Week

Geneva Peace Week (GPW) is a leading annual forum in the international peacebuilding calendar in which organizations in Geneva and their international partners come together to share knowledge and practice on a diverse range of topics relating to the promotion of peace across contexts and disciplines. The interactive and collaborative format of GPW breaks down professional silos in order to enable creative exchange, and to facilitate the sharing of concrete

solutions to pressing global challenges. GPW is driven by the belief that each person, actor and institution has a role to play in building peace and resolving conflict.

Geneva Peace Week is a flagship initiative of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform in collaboration with the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), and the Platform's five partners – the Graduate Institute's Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP); the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF); the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP); Interpeace; and the Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva (QUNO). Geneva Peace Week is also supported by Switzerland.



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