

## **IRE223: NATIONS IN CONFLICT**

### **Session 6: Conflict Resolution & Peacebuilding**

This session will introduce students to the topics of conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Our starting point is in trying to define 'peace'. What follows is a discussion of the term in the context of IR, alongside relating concepts. The presentation addresses the following issues: The Peace Spectrum, Peace Processes (why do they fail? When do they succeed? the Efficiency/Sustainability Trade-off), Third-party/external interventions (why should external actors intervene? What can they do to help end the conflict? What is the 'downside' of such intervention?), The Just Peace (*jus post bellum*), Peace-making, Peacebuilding, Peacekeeping, UN Peacekeeping Operations (specifically Disarmament, Demobilisation, Reintegration and Community Violence Reduction), and Post-conflict Reconstruction.

After reading the assigned literature and going over the presentation, students are asked to assess their newly acquired knowledge by answering the following questions:

1. Does 'Peace' only mean the absence of war? Explain and discuss.
2. Why are peace processes/negotiation extremely difficult to conduct successfully?
3. Do external interventions in a conflict have a positive or a negative effect on conflict resolution? Argue both ways.
4. What are the potential motives of third parties that induces intervention in an external conflict for the sake of its peaceful termination?
5. What are the differences between peace-making, peacebuilding and peacekeeping?
6. What is the Efficiency/Sustainability Trade-off in peace-making?
7. Discuss UN peacekeeping missions- What do they include? What is their legal basis? What are their main principles? Name at least two such operations.
8. How do contemporary UN peacekeeping missions differ from those deployed during the cold war?
9. Discuss the UN's Disarmament, Demobilisation, Reintegration peacekeeping mission (goals, means, importance, etc.)
10. What is 'Post-conflict reconstruction'? Why is it necessary/important?