Keeping and promoting peace in times of pandemics, wars, and climate change, requires innovative solutions and approaches. Therefore, the next Basel Peace Forum will focus on the links between peace, conflict, and two overarching themes:

— On the first day, we will discuss how cities can foster peace while dealing with issues like climate change, migration, and public health.
— The second day is dedicated to exploring the power of emotions: How to navigate between facts and fiction in a digital world? What can peacebuilders learn from chatbots used in other contexts? Could journalists play a role in preventing violent conflicts?

**PROGRAM**

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

**BASEL PEACE FORUM 2022, 20-21 JANUARY**

On-Site / Hybrid Only virtual

13:00 OPENING OF THE BASEL PEACE FORUM 2022

14:15 PANEL OF THE DAY

15:30 DUEL DEBATE: SMART CITIES: CUTTING-EDGE OR CUTTING-OUT?
- Naveen Joshi, CEO and Founder, Allerin (remote)

16:00 NETWORKING COFFEE

16:45 FOCUS ZONE: DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS FOR COVID-19’S IMPACT ON VULNERABLE GROUPS (HYBRID)
- Amrit Dhir, Director of Partnerships, Recidiviz (remote)
- Wouter Lueks, Postdoctoral Researcher, EPFL Lausanne (on-site)
- Helen Margetts, Professor, University of Oxford / Director Public Policy Programme, Alan Turing Institute for Data Science and AI (remote)

FOCUS ZONE: NEO-RURALIZATION – THE REALISTIC ALTERNATIVE TO OVERCROWDED CITIES?
- Cintia Jaime, Co-Founder ES VICIS Stiftung (on-site)
- Daniel Winzenried, Co-Founder ES VICIS Stiftung (on-site)

18:30 PANEL: CITIES: AGENTS FOR PEACE?
- Yvonne-Aki-Sawyerr, Mayor, Freetown, Sierra Leone (remote)
- Voltana Ademi, Mayor, Shkodër, Albania (on-site)
- Beat Jans, District president, canton of Basel city, Switzerland (on-site)
- Gilbert Kofé Kafana, Mayor, Yopougon, Ivory Coast (remote)
- Svante Myrick, Mayor, Ithaca, New York (on-site)

19:15 FLYING DINNER

22:00
FRIDAY, JANUARY 21
WERK 8, DORNACHERSTRASSE 192, 4053 BASEL

13:00 OPENING OF THE BASEL PEACE FORUM 2022

14:15 PANEL: NAVIGATING FACTS AND FICTION: HOW TO FIGHT FAKE NEWS
- Danielle Citron, Professor in law, University of Virginia (remote)
- Idayat Hassan, Director, Centre for Development and Democracy (on-site)
- Branka Panic, Founding Director, AI for Peace (on-site)

15:30 DUEL DEBATE: TALKING FEELINGS OR TALKING PEACE?
- Günther Baechler, Ambassador, Special Envoy for Cameroon, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (on-site)
- Antje Herrberg, Guest Professor, College of Europe (on-site)

16:00 NETWORKING COFFEE

16:45 FOCUS ZONE: EMOTIONS, ART, AND PEACE
- Omaid Sharifi, Co-founder and President, ArtLords (on-site)
- Hyung Joon Won, Violinist/Artistic Director, Lindenbaum Festival Orchestra (on-site)
- Yemsrach Yetneberk, Cartoonist/Director, Laughing Gas Design (on-site)
- Lazarus Sauti, Independent Researcher (remote)
- Victor Kunonga, Afro-Jazz singer and songwriter (remote)

FOCUS ZONE: CLICKS VS. CONSCIENCE: THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA
- Shahira Fahmy, Professor, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, American University of Cairo (on-site)
- Boaz Hameiri, Senior Lecturer, Program in Mediation and Conflict Management, Tel Aviv University (remote)
- Rebecca Littman, Assistant Professor, University of Illinois / Research Advisor, Beyond Conflict & UNU project “Managing Exits from Armed Conflict” (remote)

FOCUS ZONE: AN ONLINE WAR OF NARRATIVES: THE CASE OF SYRIA
- Assaad Al Achi, Executive Director, Baytna (remote)
- Razan Brghol, Incubation Program Senior Coordinator North-East Syria, IMPACT - Civil Society Research and Development (remote)
- Belal Slyten, Journalist / Editor-in-Chief, Snacksyrian.com (remote)

FOCUS ZONE: REFLECTING ON MULTITRACK APPROACHES TO PEACE PROCESSES
- Simon Geissbühler, Diplomat / Head of the Peace and Human Rights Division, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (on-site)
- Khawla Matar, Deputy Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, United Nations (on-site)
- Esther Njomo, Executive Director, Reach Out Cameroon (remote)

18:30 PANEL OF THE DAY

19:15 FLYING DINNER

22:00
SPEAKERS OVERVIEW

SPEAKERS ON-SITE

Antje Herrberg, Guest Professor, College of Europe
Beat Jans, District president, canton of Basel city, Switzerland
Branka Panic, Founding Director, AI for Peace
Cintia Jaime, Co-Founder ES VICIS Stiftung
Daniel Winzenried, Co-Founder ES VICIS Stiftung
Günther Baechler, Ambassador, Special Envoy for Cameroon, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
Hyung Joon Won, Violinist/Artistic Director, Lindenbaum Festival Orchestra
Idayat Hassan, Director, Centre for Development and Democracy
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Simon Geissbühler, Diplomat / Head of the Peace and Human Rights Division, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
Svante Myrick, Mayor, Ithaca, New York
Voltana Ademi, Mayor, Shkodër, Albania
Wouter Lueks, Postdoctoral Researcher, EPFL Lausanne
Yemrsach Yetneberk, Cartoonist/Director, Laughing Gas Design

SPEAKERS REMOTE

Amrit Dhir, Director of Partnerships, Recidiviz
Assaad Al Achi, Executive Director, Baytna
Belal Slyten, Journalist / Editor-in-Chief, Snack Syrian.com
Boaz Hameiri, Senior Lecturer, Program in Mediation and Conflict Management, Tel Aviv University
Brigitte Hoermann, Senior Migration Specialist, Cities alliance
Céline Rozenblat, Professor, University of Lausanne / Vice-President, International Geographical Union (tbc)
Danielle Citron, Professor in law, University of Virginia
Esther Njomo, Executive Director, Reach Out Cameroon
Fatou Wurie, Mo Ibrahim Leadership Fellow, African Development Bank
Gilbert Kofé Kafana, Mayor, Yopougon, Ivory Coast
Helen Margetts, Professor, University of Oxford / Director Public Policy Programme, Alan Turing Institute for Data Science and AI
Karin Tamerius, Political Psychiatrist / Founder and Managing Director, Smart Politics
Klaus Kraemer, Managing Director, Sight and Life /Adjunct Professor John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
Lazarus Sauti, Independent Resesarcher
Naveen Joshi, CEO and Founder, Allerin
Razan Brghol, Incubation Program Senior Coordinator North-East Syria, IMPACT - Civil Society Research and Development
Rebecca Littman, Assistant Professor, University of Illinois / Research Advisor, Beyond Conflict & UNU project “Managing Exits from Armed Conflict”
Rhiana Spring, Founder and CEO, KONA connect
Roman Hoffmann, Postdoctoral Researcher, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) & Vienna Institute of Demography
Sarah Schilliger, Research Associate, Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies, University of Bern
Sara Trewhitt, Director of Operations and Regional Coordinator, North-East, Yorkshire & Humberside, City of Sanctuary, UK
Victor Kunonga, Afro-Jazz singer and songwriter
Yvonne-Aki-Sawyerr, Mayor, Freetown, Sierra Leone
DETAILED PROGRAM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20

DUEL DEBATE: SMART CITIES: CUTTING-EDGE OR CUTTING-OUT?
15:30 – 16:00 | PANEL WITH LIVE-STREAM

Cities are increasingly preparing for the challenges of the future. One hand, current trends and developments offer new opportunities, with citizens increasingly wanting to be involved in planning and development processes for their living space. Could smart cities even work as a tool of conflict prevention? On the other hand, relying too much on technology has also created some problems. The technology deployed in evolving cities often overlooks social needs and outpaces policy changes, creating a grey area ripe for exploitation. Further, smart cities are convenient targets for organized cybercriminal groups and can lead to massive losses of valuable information.

— Naveen Joshi, CEO and Founder, Allerin (remote)

FOCUS ZONE: MIGRATION, CITIES, AND PEACE
16:45 – 18:30 | VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

Cities are melting pots and, often, more agile than States. As such, they harbor opportunities for (re-) negotiating what it means to co-exist peacefully. Indeed, more and more cities around the world are developing strategies to become safe, inclusive, and resilient cities. In this context, we ask: What role does migration play in cities, and what role do cities play in the lives of migrants? How can cities not only address migration in a conflict-sensitive way, but also build on opportunities for peacebuilding? In this workshop, we will jointly take a tour around an imagined city and look for physical and non-physical spaces where migration and the city interact. Moving on from there, this workshop will provide a space for joint brainstorming about issues around migration, cities, and peace.

— Sarah Schilliger, Research Associate, Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies, University of Bern (remote)
— Sara Trewhitt, Director of Operations and Regional Coordinator, North-East, Yorkshire & Humberside, City of Sanctuary, UK (remote)
— Brigitte Hoermann, Senior Migration Specialist, Cities alliance (remote)

FOCUS ZONE: DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS FOR COVID-19’S IMPACT ON VULNERABLE GROUPS
16:45 – 18:30 | HYBRID WORKSHOP

Public health systems are at the centre of political and social debates since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Burdens on the workforce, inadequate public messaging, and failure to protect minority communities are just some of the gaps revealed in the public health systems, which have been inadequately prepared for infectious disease outbreaks. Minorities have borne the brunt of this disease, which shows how the barriers within the system have made the existing socioeconomic disparities even more visible. Beyond the short-term health and economic effects, uneven socioeconomic repercussions and undermined social cohesion may be long-lasting and pose the gravest threat to peace. This is especially concerning in places with deep inequalities and conflict legacies, where the health challenge could give rise to new crises or exacerbate existing ones. What should be done so that barriers within public health are not feeding into existing global trends in conflict-inducing ways? This workshop highlights the vulnerabilities of minority populations and explores the potential role of deploying technology as a means of pandemic mitigation.

— Amrit Dhir, Director of Partnerships, Recidiviz (remote)
— Wouter Lueks, Postdoctoral Researcher, EPFL Lausanne (on-site)
— Helen Margetts, Professor, University of Oxford / Director Public Policy Programme, Alan Turing Institute for Data Science and AI (remote)
FOCUS ZONE: CLIMATE CHANGE & CONFLICTS: MIGRATION, CITIES, AND PUBLIC HEALTH
16:45 – 18:30 | VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

The impacts of climate change are feared to increase conflicts. Frequent, and more extreme weather conditions and natural disasters are expected to disproportionately affect vulnerable people and communities in low-income countries, who are least prepared to mitigate and adapt to these impacts and who have least contributed to the problem. Where state capacity and socio-economic development are already low, climate change is also feared to increase the risk of organized armed conflicts. Join this Science slam to hear from researchers who have been focusing on climate change in relation to migration, cities, or public health.

— Klaus Kraemer, Managing Director, Sight and Life /Adjunct Professor John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (remote)
— Roman Hoffmann, Postdoctoral Researcher, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) & Vienna Institute of Demography (remote)
— Céline Rozenblat, Professor, University of Lausanne / Vice-President, International Geographical Union (tbc)

FOCUS ZONE: NEO-RURALIZATION – THE REALISTIC ALTERNATIVE TO OVERCROWDED CITIES?
16:45 – 18:30 | HYBRID WORKSHOP

Even though often heralded as the future of humanity, cities today struggle with high poverty concentration, consume 80% of global energy, generate 70% of all waste and emit 60% of all greenhouse gases. It is time to rethink our focus on cities and strive for a more balanced demographic population distribution. This workshop raises questions about decentralizing cities and enhancing rural areas to achieve a peaceful and sustainable society. How to harness the potential of technology to decentralize cities? And how to fuel a socioeconomic revitalization of rural villages that goes beyond agriculture? In this workshop, we invite you to co-create a vision for our world that goes beyond the city limits and solves the problem of urban overpopulation.

— Cintia Jaime, Co-Founder ES VICIS Stiftung (on-site)
— Daniel Winzenried, Co-Founder ES VICIS Stiftung (on-site)

PANEL: CITIES: AGENTS FOR PEACE?
18:30 – 19:15 | PANEL WITH LIVE-STREAM

Cities are already home to half of the world’s population and are expected to absorb almost the entire new population growth of the next years. Further, they provide opportunities such as access to a developed infrastructure, employment opportunities, and inhibit a higher degree of social mobility compared to rural areas. However, cities are also becoming an increasingly risky place to live in. In this panel, mayors from different cities join us on stage to discuss how we can use our cities’ potential for peace.

— Yvonne-Aki-Sawyerr, Mayor, Freetown, Sierra Leone (remote)
— Voltana Ademi, Mayor, Shkodër, Albania (on-site)
— Beat Jans, District president, canton of Basel city, Switzerland (on-site)
— Gilbert Kofé Kafana, Mayor, Yopougon, Ivory Coast (remote)
— Svante Myrick, Mayor, Ithaca, New York (on-site)
FRIDAY, JANUARY 21

PANEL: NAVIGATING FACTS AND FICTION: HOW TO FIGHT FAKE NEWS
14:15 – 15:30 | PANEL WITH LIVE-STREAM

Fake news can easily proliferate, particularly in times of political turbulence and instability. Recent examples in times of COVID, but also in specific contexts such as Myanmar or India, show that even though these phenomena are not new, the use of modern technologies has a considerable impact on the scale and speed at which dangerous information reaches audiences. Therefore, digital technologies that amplify the spread of harmful information are seen as a growing risk and challenge in places affected by conflict. How can peacebuilders fight misinformation, disinformation, and hate speech in a digitalized world?

— Danielle Citron, Professor in law, University of Virginia (remote)
— Idayat Hassan, Director, Centre for Development and Democracy (on-site)
— Branka Panic, Founding Director, AI for Peace (on-site)

DUEL DEBATE: TALKING FEELINGS OR TALKING PEACE?
15:30 – 16:00 | PANEL WITH LIVE-STREAM

When bringing conflict parties to a table, some mediators place emotions at the center of their work. They analyze the emotional dimension of the conflict, paying close attention to challenges such as cultural differences in emotion expression and a high requirement for face-saving. Other mediators see emotions merely as a stumbling block to reaching agreements. Addressing emotions openly and directly bears the possibility of overloading a process, exposing the conflict parties, misinterpreting cultural differences, or re-inflicting trauma. Join this duel debate, interact with the speakers, and get ready to change your mind.

— Günther Baechler, Ambassador, Special Envoy for Cameroon, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (on-site)
— Antje Herrberg, Guest Professor, College of Europe (on-site)

FOCUS ZONE: EMOTIONS, ART, AND PEACE
16:45 – 18:30 | HYBRID WORKSHOP

How to address corruption with creativity? Artists, activists, and political scientists invite you to reflect on the persuasive power of art in contexts affected by conflicts and violence.

— Omaid Sharifi, Co-founder and President, ArtLords (on-site)
— Hyung Joon Won, Violinist/Artistic Director, Lindenbaum Festival Orchestra (on-site)
— Yemsrach Yetneberk, Cartoonist/Director, Laughing Gas Design (on-site)
— Lazarus Sauti, Independent Researcher (remote)
— Victor Kunonga, Afro-Jazz singer and songwriter (remote)

FOCUS ZONE: CLICKS VS. CONSCIENCE: THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA
16:45 – 18:30 | HYBRID WORKSHOP

This Science Slam will explore a thought-provoking area of tension: How to balance between media’s possibilities to draw attention, provoke emotions, and generate click rates on the one hand, and the necessity for communicating in a conflict and context-sensitive manner as well as not exploiting the people whose stories we tell on the other hand? How can a TV soap opera function as a tool for reconciliation? What role for journalists in conflict prevention?

— Shahira Fahmy, Professor, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, American University of Cairo (on-site)
— Boaz Hameiri, Senior Lecturer, Program in Mediation and Conflict Management, Tel Aviv University (remote)
— Rebecca Littman, Assistant Professor, University of Illinois / Research Advisor, Beyond Conflict & UNU project “Managing Exits from Armed Conflict” (remote)
**FOCUS ZONE: CONVERSATIONS WITH BOTS**  
**16:45 – 18:30 | VIRTUAL WORKSHOP**

Chatbots are increasingly used by peacebuilders in innovative ways, including for mediation training, combating misinformation, and connecting individuals with vital information. Affordability, accessibility, and scalability are clear advantages, but they also raise challenges, for example, with data collection and privacy. What can peacebuilders learn from chatbots used in other contexts? We will discuss innovation in chatbot technology, the efficacy of chatbots, and if/how peacebuilders can thoughtfully incorporate them into their work.

— *Rhiana Spring*, Founder and CEO, KONA connect (remote)  
— *Karin Tamerius*, Political Psychiatrist / Founder and Managing Director, Smart Politics (remote)  
— *Fatou Wurie*, Mo Ibrahim Leadership Fellow, African Development Bank (remote)

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**FOCUS ZONE: AN ONLINE WAR OF NARRATIVES: THE CASE OF SYRIA**  
**16:45 – 18:30 | VIRTUAL WORKSHOP**

In 2020, the World Press Freedom Index ranked Syria as the most dangerous place in the Middle East for journalists. For a whole decade, armed conflict in Syria went hand in hand with a raging battle for narratives and memory, primarily taking place on social media. In this battle for hearts and minds, social media became the tool to influence, promote, and even create information that impacts the conflict.

In the face of old-fashioned paradigms that believe in centralizing information supply and controlling the narratives, civil society – especially the peacebuilding community – can use the same tools to liberate narratives from the grip of unilateral worldviews. Will this battle for narratives be won? This panel discussion aims to address this question.

— *Assaad Al Achi*, Executive Director, Baytna (remote)  
— *Razan Brghol*, Incubation Program Senior Coordinator North-East Syria, IMPACT - Civil Society Research and Development (remote)  
— *Belal Slyten*, Journalist / Editor-in-Chief, Snacksyrian.com (remote)

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**FOCUS ZONE: REFLECTING ON MULTITRACK APPROACHES TO PEACE PROCESSES**  
**16:45 – 18:30 | HYBRID WORKSHOP**

Working towards peace involves multiple actors and initiatives at different levels of society. Beyond high-level political negotiations, peace processes need to tackle the complexity of today’s armed conflicts with a diversity of issues, a fragmentation of conflict parties and multifaceted dynamics of violence. This panel will reflect on experiences from the perspective of different actors working on different “tracks” and how – or how not – to link various initiatives through a multitrack approach to peace processes.

— *Simon Geissbühler*, Diplomat / Head of the Peace and Human Rights Division, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (on-site)  
— *Khawla Matar*, Deputy Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, United Nations (on-site)  
— *Esther Njomo*, Executive Director, Reach Out Cameroon (remote)