

Meeting a world-wide challenge, making a world-class contribution

The foundation of a Chair in Peace Studies at Oxford University



Right: Slum area of Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya, election day 2013 (© Sven Torfinn, Panos)

Front cover: Palestine refugees crowd Rama Street upon news of UNRWA humanitarian aid being delivered to besieged Yarmouk, Damascus, January 31, 2014 (© UNRWA Archives)

Patron images: Aung San Suu Kyi: Dick Makin / Oxford University Images
Jimmy Carter: Mercer University Most Revd Justin Welby: Lambeth Palace-Picture Partnership
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Peace is a universal ideal that underpins human security and human flourishing. Now as never before, our international community needs a flexible, developing portfolio of effective peacebuilding tools to nurture and sustain the foundations of that security.

Facing a growing international crisis

We urgently need more strategic peacebuilding and peacebuilders. The modern world is increasingly beset by conflicts that progress to violence, ripping people's lives apart, bringing death, physical and emotional injury, rape and abduction, and mass displacement – a poisonous cocktail that can bring decades of investment in national and international development crashing down in chaos.

Responding in a changing world

Since the Second World War the international community has employed peacemaking, peacebuilding and peacekeeping missions. Not all such initiatives succeed. Yet others, such as the peace and reconciliation processes in South Africa, and the Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland, and many much less publicized peace accords, have brought profound and positive change to highly conflicted communities.

However, the changing character and consequences of today's conflicts present new challenges. If we are to promote human security and transform conflict so that nations may flourish, we need to craft new modes of building peace: what may have worked yesterday is not necessarily effective tomorrow.

Meeting the world-wide challenge

In response to a growing demand for expertise in teaching and research, Oxford University seeks to enhance international leadership in this critical field by establishing a professorial Chair in Peace Studies.

To ensure that the post will have an inter-generational impact, we are seeking £4M in funds to endow the chair in perpetuity. This is a unique opportunity for benefactors to join in our vision of building sustainable peace.

Graduate students and diplomatic, UN and NGO staff participating in an OxPeace training programme in Oxford 2014



Oxford's international standing and global reach

Oxford is well placed to address these global issues. The University's world class reputation is built on its capacity to deliver interdisciplinary-level teaching and research, giving it a unique comparative advantage. For centuries Oxford scholars have studied and taught about the culture, history, politics and economics of nations around the world. In addition, they maintain strong ties with policy-makers and practitioners.

The University and its associated research centres host internationally recognised faculties whose staff cover an astonishing breadth of scholarship. Oxford not only attracts top level researchers and teachers, but also the highest quality of students, many of whom go on to become leaders in their chosen field of endeavour, some to lead their nations and others the organisations that support the international world.

The impact of an Oxford Chair in Peace Studies

The University provides a natural home for the development of Peace Studies at the highest intellectual level. With its networks of prestigious and high-profile faculty and alumni, and the international reputation of its intellectual leadership, Oxford has the capacity to bring people together at every level, from the grassroots to the United Nations, encouraging them to learn from one another.

The foundation of an Oxford Chair in Peace Studies is particularly timely as the political and academic worlds engage with the concept of 'peacebuilding'. Effective peacebuilding involves every level of society and aims to create human security and human flourishing, in a sustainable environment, together with the constructive management of conflict.

By critical necessity the field of Peace Studies must relate directly to that of practical peacemaking, peacebuilding and peacekeeping, teaching the next generation of

"I welcome the news that Oxford is seeking to establish a Chair in Peace Studies. Peace in Burmese tradition implies not only an end to violence but also an end to the causes of the fear that breed hatred and conflict – discrimination, inequality, poverty and lack of opportunity. Bringing the resources of Oxford University to focus on the meaning of peace will make a vital contribution to our world."

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi



peacebuilders the lessons learnt from past experience and current international research. By equipping them both practically and intellectually, they will learn inclusive perspectives that balance:

- Practical field knowledge of the transformation of conflict, the prevention of violence, and the building of positive peace
- A knowledge base of successful (and failed) peacebuilding missions and processes
- Ongoing research to analyse what worked where and why, and to provide the longer view on past conflict outcomes

By leading this intellectual field at Oxford, the Chair's postholder will have a wide impact beyond the academic sphere, helping to inform peacebuilding practices and policies throughout the world.

Peace Studies at Oxford University

In 2008 a group of like-minded scholars at Oxford launched a network known as OxPeace, a multi-disciplinary initiative to promote the academic study of peace, peacemaking, peacebuilding and peacekeeping. Since 2009 their annual conferences have attracted world-class speakers who, along with delegates, explore emerging themes: The Serious Study of Peace (2009), Building Peace (2010), Media, Conflict and Peacebuilding (2011), Disciplines of Peace (2012), The Future of Peacebuilding (2013), and New Wars? No Wars? Peacemaking in New Contexts (2014).

By promoting links between grassroots practitioners, NGOs, policy makers and academic researchers, OxPeace seeks to develop dialogue between these communities. By drawing on the insights of practitioners, Oxford's research scholarship can be brought to bear on policy analysis and practice. Many staff and students already work in these areas. In March 2014, OxPeace organised the first practical training in Oxford for graduate students and practitioners in peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

OxPeace is fortunate to have the support of international figures who are hugely influential in this field. We are proud to have as our patrons three Nobel Peace Laureates: Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and President Jimmy Carter, and the Most Revd Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Rt Hon Lord Patten of Barnes, Chancellor of Oxford University.

View of the Oxford spires, including the Radcliffe Camera, Sheldonian Theatre and the University Church of St Mary the Virgin (© Rob Judges / Oxford University Images)





Peace Studies as a discipline

The broad field of peace studies comprises many themes: the conceptual development of the idea of peace; the history of peace movements and peace processes; domestic, transnational and international activities to promote and build peace; non governmental, governmental, or intergovernmental efforts to prevent, manage and resolve conflict; the quantitative study of peace and conflict; and the fostering of cultures and practices of peace.

The study of peace demands a multi-disciplinary approach both to analysis and action, an intellectual endeavour that the new Professor of Peace Studies will lead.

Based in the Department of Politics and International Relations, the post-holder will actively engage with academics from other subject areas. Disciplines as diverse as anthropology, economics, environmental studies, ethics, geography, history, human sciences, languages, law, media studies, sociology, and theology and religion, have insights and contributions to offer for understanding the nature of peace and how, in widely different contexts, peace may be made and built.



"I am very honoured to be your Patron and pleased that Oxford University is endorsing Peace Studies as a vital and desperately needed discipline."

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu



Costs

Professorship in Peace Studies	Annual Costs
Salary including employer on-costs	£110,000
Indirect costs (IT support, libraries, admin costs)	£44,000
Direct costs (building related)	£6,000
Total annual Professorship costs	£160,000

Professorship in Peace Studies	Costs
Five-year costs	£800,000
Ten-year costs	£1,600,000
Endowment required	£4,000,000

The University's endowment policy

The funds will be invested by the Oxford Endowment Trust. Their role is to manage a portfolio of investments specifically designed to perform across the very long term, weathering any major fluctuations in world markets across a century and more.



“The global community will benefit from creating an Endowed Chair in Peace Studies at Oxford University. And Oxford will gain by seeking learning and offering leadership in this transcendent field, which touches all of humanity.”

President Jimmy Carter

The Chancellor
processing through the
Bodleian (© Whitaker
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The role of benefactors: Investing in a vision for new futures

The foundation of a Chair in Peace Studies at Oxford will create international leadership in this critical and rapidly expanding area by contributing directly to the long-term development of this new discipline worldwide. This will be achieved through a combination of rigorous research, purposeful policy dialogue, teaching of students and practitioners, and global collaboration – all areas in which the University excels.

This Chair will provide a focal point for Peace Studies within Oxford, and thus the Chair's foundation is also expected to attract funding for related research and teaching posts, and for the inauguration of an innovative post-graduate degree programme.

By this means you will help us as we develop more effective and flexible peacebuilding, bringing conflicted communities together to build new futures.

Recognition

The University would not exist without the generosity of its benefactors, and so we are delighted to recognise them in a variety of ways, both formal and informal. A significant gift as outlined in the previous pages would involve naming opportunities which we would be pleased to discuss with potential donors.

“The proposal for an endowed Chair at Oxford is both imaginative and hopeful: developing the subject will make a valuable contribution to intellectual life in Oxford and, beyond that, to the paths to peace. I am grateful for the efforts of all those who are working to this end.”

The Most Revd Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury





“Just at the moment we may have lost sight of the successes in the years after the end of the Cold War in international crisis management and conflict prevention; but we do need to build on those recent successes by studying what works best in securing peace and stability around the world.

This is an incredibly important area for everyone involved in the study of international politics and I trust that Oxford will provide a cutting edge for research and teaching in this field.”

Chris Patten, The Rt Hon Lord Patten of Barnes, CH
Chancellor, University of Oxford

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