

Advanced Training in Facilitating Problem-Solving Workshop

March 28 – 29th, 2015

The School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (George Mason University) in partnership with the International Peace and Conflict Resolution Program (American University) and the Conflict Resolution Institute, University of Denver, is pleased to offer an Advanced Skill training Weekend on the facilitative method of the problem-solving workshop (PSW), pioneered by John Burton, Herbert Kelman and other scholar-practitioners in the field of conflict resolution.

The advanced workshop will build on the knowledge and skills gained in the basic introductory workshop. However, it will not attempt to give participants an experience of the entire workshop process from start to finish. Rather, it will focus on a small number of key aspects of the overall problem solving approach for in depth examination.

Topics will include:

- Timing and Focus of Intervention
- Coping with Power Imbalances
- Cultural Factors
- Essential Process Skills
- Re-entry
- Reflective Practice for PSW Facilitators

The weekend will involve participants in exercises that will present them with a variety of practical and analytical problems to be addressed, and exercises based on vignettes drawn from real world cases of intractable and protracted conflict. Background readings will be provided on these two cases - likely to involve conflicts in Cyprus, the Middle East or Darfur/Sudan. The weekend workshop is free of charge to invited participants and will be held at The School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University, Arlington campus just outside Washington D.C.,

accessible both by car and public transportation. The workshop is non-residential and the sessions will be held from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM on Saturday, March 28th and from 10:00 AM to 5:30 PM Sunday, March 29th. Please do bring your own lunch and snacks. A pre-workshop reading packet will be provided and all other materials and supplies will be available at S-CAR.

If you are interested in taking part in this workshop, please complete the attached application form and e-mail it to - for GMU and DU students – Laura Villanueva, Executive Director for the Center for Peacemaking Practice, S-CAR lvillan2@gmu.edu or – for AU students - Nicole Smith, IPCR Program Coordinator, at peace@american.edu by Friday, March 14th. Please note that the number of participants is limited. Applications will be reviewed based on experience, including attendance at an earlier introductory PSW training, and the statement of interest. Please be sure that you will be able to attend this training once you have been approved. It is being held late in the semester and last minute withdrawals create much inconvenience for the organizers.

If you have any questions, please contact any one of the organizers of the Problem Solving Workshop training program: Chris Mitchell at S-CAR, Ron Fisher at IPCR, or Tamra Pearson d'Estreé at the University of Denver.

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