

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PEACE AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY

Istanbul – Cem Karaca Conference Hall / 6–7 December 2025

## Day 1 – Saturday, 6 December 2025

**09:30 – 10:00:** Registration

**10:00 – 10:30:** Opening Speeches

- **Tülay HATİMOĞULLARI ORUÇ**, Co-Chair of the DEM Party
- **Veysi AKTAŞ** - Former political prisoner in Imrali Island Prison

### Session I: Perspectives for Social Peace - 10:30 – 13:00

Moderator: **Cengiz ÇANDAR** – DEM Party MP for Diyarbakır

- “The Role of Abdullah Öcalan and the Right to Hope in the Resolution of the Kurdish Question and Building Social Peace” – **Özgür EROL** (Lawyer and Member of the Imrali Delegation)
- “On Embedding Peace within Society” – **Emeritus Prof. Louis LEMKOW** (The Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- “Living Together but How?” – **Prof. Cihangir ISLAM** (Politician)
- “Regional and Global Implications of a Social Peace and Durable Solution in Türkiye” – **Assoc. Prof. Arzu YILMAZ** (University of Kurdistan Hewler)
- Women ‘s Full Participation in peace-building work - **Tawakkol KARMAN** - (Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Yemeni Journalist) – video message
  - **Q&A at the end of the session**

**Break – 13:00 – 14:00**

### Session II: Experiences in Conflict Resolution - 14:00 – 17:00

Moderator: **Gültan KIŞANAK** – (Politician)

- “The Role of Leadership in Building the Law of Peace” – **Mohamed BHABHA** (Lawyer, Former Senator, and Chair of the Constitutional Committee of the Parliament, South Africa)
- The Experience of the Irish Peace Process – **Declan KEARNEY** (MLA and Sinn Féin National Chairperson - Ireland)
- The Catalonia–Spain Negotiations: Lessons from Asymmetric Conflicts – **Pere Aragonès i GARCIA** – (Former Catalonia Prime Minister)
- Basque Experience – **Igor ZULAIKA** – (Member of the Basque Parliament and International Relations Coordinator of EH Bildu - Basque)
- Bringing Social Peace into Prisons: A Roadmap for Transforming the Prison Regime – **Azime IŞIK** (Politician)
- “De-militarization and Erasing the Affects of the Conflicts” - **Jody WILLIAMS** – (Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, U.S. Activist) – by Zoom connection
  - **Q&A at the end of the session**

## Day 2 – Sunday, 7 December 2025

### Session III: From Nation-State to Democratic Nation - 10:00 – 12:45

Moderator: **Ebru GÜNAY** – (Deputy Co-chair of the DEM Party)

Keynote speaker: **Dilshad SHAHAB** (Spokesperson of the Kurdistan Region Presidency)

- A New Social Contract in Light of Constitutional Citizenship and Identity Definitions – **Dr. Orhan Gazi ERTEKIN** – (Lawyer and writer)
- The Importance of Historical Experiences in Building a Democratic Nation – **Prof. Mohamed REFAAT** – (Professor of Modern and Contemporary History, Former Dean, Faculty of Arts, Damanshour University, Egypt)
- Strengthening Local Democracy Against Centralization and Resisting Hegemonic Relations – **Prof. Norman PAECH** – (Scholar, Lawyer, and politician, Germany)
- International Contributions to Sustaining Non-Conflict and Building Peace – **Georges DALLEMAGNE** – (Member of Parliament, Belgium)
- Freedom of the Press for Truth, the Language of Peace and Discourse – **Nadire MATER** – (Journalist and writer)

- **Q&A at the end of the session**

**Break – 12:45 – 14:00**

### Session IV: Freedom, Peace, and Future Perspectives - 14:00 – 16:30

Moderator: **Eren KESKİN** – (Human Rights Activist and former president of the Human Rights Association)

- Turning Transnational Labor Struggles into a Dynamic of Regional and Global Peace – **Arnljot ASK** – (International Committee Member of the Red Party of Norway)
- A Light Shining in the Dark – **John HOLLOWAY** – (Irish Marxist lawyer, Sociologist, and Philosopher, Mexico)
- Transforming Europe’s Perception of the Kurdish Question: From Individual Rights to Collective Rights as a Ground for Freedom and Peace – **Laura BOLDRINI** – (Chair of the Human Rights Committee, Italian Parliament)
- Öcalan’s Manifesto: The Perspective of Peace and Democratic Society – **Haydar ERGUL** – (Editor, Democratic Modernity Journal)
- Video message by **Shirin EBADI** - (Iranian Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Lawyer)

- **Q&A at the end of the session**

### Closing Forum: Joint Declaration for Peace - 16:30 – 17:30

- Presentation of the Joint Declaration

**Note:** Messages from international figures will be screened at the end of each session.