

CALL FOR POLICY PAPERS

**PROMOTING DIALOGUE, RECONCILIATION
AND PEACE CULTURES AMONG SOMALIS**

Conference dates: 28-30 October 2022
Location: Somalia (City - To be Determined)
Contact: callforpapers@heritageinstitute.org

Somali society has experienced decades of violent political, social and economic conflicts at the national, local and inter-personal levels. The collapse of the state, a major purveyor of violence, led to internecine fighting between communities causing dispossession and displacement. The conflict took clan, gender, social, religious and class forms. Communities that were unarmed suffered extensively. Women, children and those with special needs were exposed to direct and indirect violence, despite playing no part in the conflicts. The rise of extremist groups has added a new type of violence, one that is committed in the name of the religion. The result is comprehensive violence that touches every aspect of Somali life. Older mechanisms of healing and reconciliation are no longer adequate. This means that a new culture of peace, dialogue and reconciliation that considers the modern nature of violence is needed. This requires input from all Somalis (men, women, elders, youth, children, those with special needs, professionals, students and civil society). It must also draw lessons from other societies that have experienced comprehensive violence and study different approaches to reconciliation such as Iraq, Afghanistan, South Africa, Rwanda and Liberia.

The Heritage Institute for Policy Studies' Forum for Ideas invites policy paper proposals for a panel, poster or paper that advance dialogue, reconciliation and peace cultures within Somali people and beyond. These will be presented at a conference that brings together scholars, researchers, government leaders and practitioners to explore ways to end violence and societal polarization, and promote dialogue, reconciliation and peace-culture among Somalis at the national, regional and community levels. Through panels, posters, paper presentation sessions and keynote speeches, participants will share ideas and network with like-minded professionals from academia, government and the private sector to promote peace research and policy.

Possible topics can include but are not limited to:

Political (obstacles to dialogue, reconciliation and peace cultures)

- Somalia-Somaliland talks
- Government versus al-Shabaab and other militant groups
- Institutional conflicts between the federal government and the federal member states
- Conflicts between the presidential and prime minister and the upper and lower houses. Conflicts between the federal member states
- Fostering a culture of peace through education
- Ensuring equity for women
- Advancing a culture of tolerance
- Any other relevant topic

Social (obstacles to dialogue, reconciliation and peace cultures)

- Addressing resource-related rural conflicts
- Ending clan and communal wars
- Domestic violence
- Any other relevant topic

Economic (obstacles to dialogue, reconciliation and peace cultures)

- Promoting sustainable economic and social development
- Youth integration and participation in political and economic life
- Supporting participatory communication and the free flow of information and knowledge
- Any other relevant topic

Potential contributors are invited to submit a 200–250-word abstract proposal for a poster, panel or individual paper on the topic “Promoting Dialogue, Conciliation and Peace Cultures Among Somalis.” The final papers should be from 4,000-5,000 words including references. The Institute will publish the conference papers. We especially encourage graduate students to submit full papers. High-quality poster submissions should be 500-1,000 words and provide an exceptional opportunity to stimulate policy discussions and exchange novel ideas. Papers and presentations can be written in English or Somali.

Important Dates

Abstract submission: 31 May 2022

Notification of accepted abstracts: 15 June 2022

Full paper submission: 30 August 2022

Notification of accepted full papers: 15 September 2022

Conference dates: 28-30 October 2022

All submissions must be sent electronically. For further information, please send an e-mail to callforpapers@heritageinstitute.org