

Kent Global Leadership Program on Conflict Resolution



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# ANNOUNCING: KENT SUMMER TRAINING JUNE 2-6, 2025

Early Warning: The Race to Forecast Conflict in an Era of Rapid Change

The five-day tuition-free Kent Conflict Resolution Summer Training will take place in-person in New York between June 2nd-June 6th, 2025 and combines experiential skills building and expert panel discussions. This intensive course will familiarize a select group of mid-career diplomats with the emerging dynamics of 21st century conflict and the tools, knowledge, and negotiating techniques that are necessary to address these dynamics. Specifically, participants will engage with the opportunities provided by "The Golden Triangle," a reference to the synergistic potential for cooperation between stakeholders in government, civil society, and the private sector. Participants will receive a packet of training materials before arriving in New York. Those who successfully complete the training will receive a Certificate of Participation from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.

The 2025 Summer Training will focus on a new theme entitled **Early Warning: The Race to Forecast Conflict in an Era of Rapid Change.** What sense can we make of a world in which the pace of change keeps accelerating? As the effects of climate change threaten to provoke cascading crises in international relations, can the concurrent breathtaking leaps in technological capacity keep pace? How deeply should governments, civil society and business invest in trying to anticipate the conflicts of the future before they occur, and what systems can be put in place to absorb less predictable shocks?

# APPLY NOW! >>>>>>>>

Applications for the Summer 2025 cohort are now open!

To apply, please submit a CV, cover letter, and TWO letters of recommendation (one from a direct supervisor) to guehennokentdirector@columbia.edu by **December 2, 2024.** Questions regarding the program or the application process should be directed to the email above.

# ABOUT THE TRAINING:

The training centers around an **in-depth simulation and a case study**, which are augmented by **high-level panels** featuring senior officials from governments and international organizations, CEOs of major corporations, and leaders of prominent NGOs. As a distinctive feature of the training, the simulation will bring to the world of diplomacy some of the methods used in business schools. Last year's simulation and case study centered around the training's overarching theme of **Technology and Conflict: Anticipating Change for Better and for Worse.** The simulation took the form of a Peace Summit in Geneva, asking participants to come together as political, military, business, and civil society stakeholders to address a persistent conflict between two countries at differing levels of technological sophistication. The crisis was triggered by disinformation and cyber-attacks related to a migration pattern which threatens to upend the ethnic balance in both countries.

Recordings of sessions from last year's summer training are available here

## ABOUT THE KENT PROGRAM:

The Kent Global Leadership Program on Conflict Resolution is the product of a fortunate encounter:

- The School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), whose approach to education is to combine the academic rigor and innovative spirit of Columbia University with the policy focus of practitioners who bring to the classroom the experience and challenges of a changing world. The history of the school is intimately linked to the United Nations – its founding dean, Andrew Cordier, had been a close adviser of Dag Hammarskjöld – and whose student body, coming from more than 70 countries, reflects that international outlook; and
- A generous donor, Muhtar Kent, retired Chairman and CEO of The Coca-Cola Company, who
  throughout his career has demonstrated a deep commitment to international cooperation and a
  conviction that business has a particular responsibility in helping build peaceful societies.

The Kent Program has the ambition to help prepare the next generation of global practitioners for the increasingly complex challenges posed by contemporary conflict. In addition to an annual summer training for promising young diplomats, the Kent Program sponsors on-campus events and workshops during the academic year, a visiting professorship, fellowships for outstanding SIPA graduate students, and original research in conflict and peacebuilding.





# COLUMBIA | SIPA

For more than 70 years, SIPA has been educating professionals who work in public, private, and nonprofit organizations to make a difference in the world. Through rigorous social science research and hands-on practice, SIPA's graduates and faculty strive to improve social services, advocate for human rights, strengthen markets, protect the environment, and secure peace, in their home communities and around the world.



### KEREN YARHI-MILO

Dean, School of International and Public Affairs, and Adlai E. Stevenson Professor of International Relations, Columbia University

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## Who can apply?

This program is designed for promising young diplomats serving in overseas missions or in the foreign ministries of their home countries. Candidates are expected to have some years of professional experience and a demonstrated commitment to international conflict resolution and peacebuilding, as well as be strongly recommended by their respective missions/ministries.

## What are the program costs?

Thanks to the generosity of the donor, this training is offered by Columbia University to participating diplomats free of charge. Attendees are, however, expected to cover their travel and lodging costs in New York. In exceptional cases, financial aid may be granted; upon acceptance into the training, attendees may inquire for more information.

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