

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

*You can now enhance your peace competence*

European health groups have launched seven interactive online courses in Medical Peace Work.

BY KLAUS MELF



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It is vital that medical doctors and other health professionals understand how people are affected – both physically and psychologically – by power abuse and war. Many health professionals want to do more than simply patch up the wounded. They want to get to grips with the underlying issues and do everything they can to prevent violence and achieve peace.

The seven »Medical Peace Work« courses give you the opportunity to learn more about the impact of war and other forms of violence on the health of individuals and populations, and provide new knowledge about the role and responsibility of health professionals in peace building, violence prevention and conflict transformation.

The courses are not only designed for those who wish to do humanitarian or development work or who want to work with human rights or peace organisations; these courses are valuable for all health workers, no matter where they work and live. The course issues range from suicide and interpersonal violence prevention to the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Renowned health professionals such as Bernard Lown, inventor of the defibrillator and founder of the Nobel peace prize winning International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), speak out for Medical Peace Work: »The doctor cannot ignore the issues of peace and war.

There is no greater pathogen than war. So why do you worry about tuberculosis, malaria, shistosomiasis, coronary artery disease, hypertension, diabetes, but when it comes to war you don't want to talk about it.«

## THE TOPICS OF THE MEDICAL PEACE WORK COURSES ARE:

- Health workers, conflict and peace
- Medicine, health and human rights
- War, weapons and conflict strategies
- Structural violence & root causes of violent conflict
- Peace through Health in violent conflict
- Refugee and migration challenges
- Prevention of interpersonal and self-directed violence

Each of the courses consists of textbook lessons, problem-based e-cases, a moderated discussion forum, and standardised test questions. To obtain a course certificate 75% of the test questions must be answered correctly. The courses are applied for approval as continuing education courses for doctors, nurses and psychologists in Europe.

The courses are free of charge. They were developed by the European Medical Peace Work network with support from the European Commission.

The network consists of: Croatian Medical Journal, Finnish Psychologists for Social Responsibility, Global Doctors, Human Rights Foundation of Turkey, Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia, International Federation of Health and Human Rights Organisations, IPPNW Germany, Johannes Wier Foundation, Medact, Norwegian Centre for Telemedicine, Norwegian Medical Association, Nuremberg Clinic, NVMP Gezondheidszorg en Vredesvraagstukken, University of Bergen, University of Bradford, University College London, University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, University of Tromsø, County Governor in Troms.

To access the courses, go to [www.medicalpeacework.org](http://www.medicalpeacework.org)

**MASTER OF PEACE AND SECURITY STUDIES (M.P.S.)**

Universität Hamburg / Institut für Friedensforschung und Sicherheitspolitik an der Universität Hamburg (IFSH)

🌐 Germany: Hamburg 🗣 English, German 📅 Start: October 2012  
📅 2 Semester 🔄 On request ⚡ International peace and security policy, international law in war and peacemaking, natural sciences and peace, ethics of peace, economic globalisation and conflict (selection)  
👤 Highly qualified graduates from national or foreign universities and academically trained practitioners

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**MSc GLOBAL SECURITY**

Cranfield University / Cranfield Defence and Security

🌐 United Kingdom: Cranfield 🗣 English 📅 Start: September 2012  
📅 1 year full-time 🔄 On request ⚡ Compulsory modules: research methodology, art and science of war, security, demography and the physical environment, law, strategy and military operations (selection)  
👤 Members of international organisations, including UN agencies and NGOs, diplomats, civil servants, military officers, academics, politicians and journalists 📄 1st or 2nd class honours degree or relevant degree or relevant professional equivalent, proficiency in English (IELTS) 📅 30 participants

INFO Tel.: +44/(0)1793/785 810,  
E-mail: [enquiries@cranfield.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@cranfield.ac.uk),  
[www.da.mod.uk](http://www.da.mod.uk)

**MSc IN REFUGEE AND FORCED MIGRATION STUDIES**

University of Oxford / Refugee Studies Center

🌐 United Kingdom: Oxford 🗣 English 📅 Start: October 2012  
📅 On request 🔄 On request ⚡ Required courses: introduction to forced migration, international refugee and human rights law, asylum and the modern state, research methods; optional courses: forced migration and the middle east, theory and practice of humanitarian intervention, conflict, violence and the state, refugees and international relations 📄 A minimum 2:1 degree, demonstrable interest in forced migration, strong letter of recommendation

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**PgCERT IN CONFLICT, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH**

Queen Margaret University /

Institute for International Health and Development

🌐 United Kingdom: Edinburgh 🗣 English 📅 Start: January 2012 – April 2012 📅 1 semester (full-time) 🔄 GBP 3 400 (home students), GBP 9 250 (international students) ⚡ Policy and practice in complex emergencies, psychosocial interventions with war-affected populations, displaced persons and refugees, project design and management (selection) 📄 Health advisor, programme officer, deputy country coordinator for action against hunger (selection) 📄 Relevant professional or practical experience, completion of a relevant degree

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