

# WORKSHOP SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

February 26–March 1, 2026  
Roles of Business and Civil Society

## **Cultivating Inner Capacities for Outer Change**

*Dr. Hannah Reich, Germany*

Grounded in experiential learning, this practical workshop explores how embodiment and presencing strengthen peacebuilding, resilience, and social innovation. Participants engage in somatic alignment, mindfulness practices, and reflective inquiry to examine how an awareness of the inner space from which we act shapes outer impact. Through participatory, embodied methods, the session cultivates presence, self-regulation, and authentic relationships. Aligned with the conference's focus on resilient communities, it offers actionable tools to enhance leadership capacity and foster constructive engagement across business and civil society and beyond.

## **Planting the Seeds of Peace: Youth Work as a Pathway to Peaceful Communities**

*Anna Luisa Reinhardt, Germany*

This workshop creates space for practical peer learning around the guiding question: How can youth work nurture a culture of peace? It unfolds in three stages: a case study from youth care practice at the Russian-Lithuanian border; participant exchange of personal and professional peace practices, fostering cross-community learning; group activities exploring how these practices can be integrated into youth work and everyday interactions. Drawing on participants' experience, the workshop co-develops practices for professional and academic contexts.

## **Civil Society Advocacy: Applying Strategies & Tactics from a Historical Example**

*Dr. Andrew Williams, USA/LCC*

One powerful way to inspire stronger, more effective advocacy is to learn from past pioneers and visionaries. The workshop explores a historical struggle for freedom and identifies strategies and tactics that remain valuable today, then applies them to contemporary challenges of injustice and human rights.

## **Families as Peacebuilders: Dialogue, Trust, and Belonging**

*Svitlana Zaluzhna & Iryna Pashkevych, Ukraine*

This workshop explores a family-centered peacebuilding approach using intercultural dialogue to foster resilience, belonging, and trust in war-affected contexts. Drawing on initiatives in Lithuania, Ukraine, and Norway, participants examine how dialogue and storytelling strengthen community bonds and collective healing.

## **The Workplace as a Peace Accelerator: Equipping Business Leaders as Peacebuilders**

*David Heiliger, USA*

Organizations lose time, talent, and momentum when leaders navigate cultural tension without training. This workshop equips leaders with tools from the Gracism Framework to turn cultural differences into collaboration, rebuild trust, stabilize team dynamics, and accelerate organizational effectiveness.

## **Trust Building in Civil Society**

*Ieva Rūkė, Lithuania*

In post-transition and fragile democracies, rebuilding trust between citizens and institutions is central to sustainable peace. Drawing on Lithuania's post-Soviet experience and a case study from prison and probation volunteering, this workshop explores how civil society can complement institutional efforts to restore confidence, accountability, and social cohesion.

## **Dialogue through Interactive Theatre**

*Raffi Feghali, Netherlands/Lebanon*

The most successful businesses are in constant dialogue with their communities. In order to make that happen smoothly, interactive theatre plays the role of the language unifier. In this workshop, we'll explore different formats in which theatre plays a dialogical tool and opens the space for personal and communal stories to be shared, witnessed, and processed. The participants will take part in an evening performance and dialogue session showcasing their learning. This 4-hour training workshop runs Thursday and Friday. Participation in both parts (A & B) is required.

## **Dialogue on Civil Society: Nurturing Hope, Resilience and Social Cohesion**

*Ina Merdjanova, facilitator, Ireland/Bulgaria*

Participatory dialogue opening space for conversation on themes identified by panel speakers.

## **Dialogue on Business, Social Resilience, Government and Ethical Actions**

*Sose Simavoryan, facilitator, Armenia*

Participatory dialogue opening space for conversation on themes identified by panel speakers.