

International Conference Call for Papers

Title: *Creating Resilient Communities for Peace and Justice: The Roles of Business and Civil Society*

Dates: February 26 – March 1, 2026 | LCC International University, Klaipėda, Lithuania

About the Conference

In today's interconnected and conflict-prone world, business and civil society are pivotal in shaping peace and justice. In our tumultuous times, engaging the private sector in systems transformation and sustainable peace are needed. From trade and investment to development and advocacy, these sectors influence community resiliency and conflict dynamics globally. New frameworks are needed to engage the private sector and civil society in building sustainable peace.

This interdisciplinary conference explores how business, entrepreneurship, and civil society partnerships can foster peace at both local and global levels.

We invite scholars, practitioners, business leaders, civil society actors, theologians, and students to engage with this urgent conversation through papers, case studies, and collaborative panels. The focus is on innovation, justice, peacebuilding, social impact, and practical strategies for long-term systems of change.

Our goal is to share best practices and collaborative approaches that empower civil society leaders to build sustainable peace in conflict-affected communities. Recognizing that all change is inspired by values, whether that be in the profit or non-profit sectors, we seek to break down traditional divides, reimagine cross-sector social collaboration, and explore how business and civil society can de-escalate divisions, build successful pathways towards peace for conflict-affected communities and promote social well-being.

Promoting reflection and research on important public and business issues helps to make a constructive contribution. How might business or development aim at social wellbeing and de-escalate divisions and violence if our differences are not what divide us, but rather our hostility towards others does?

Through this conference, we seek to foster meaningful conversations, recognize practical steps and collaborative efforts at the intersection of business, development, peacebuilding and public theology towards comprehensive strategies for nurturing enduring peace. By reinforcing positive values, effective institutions, and supportive frameworks, we aspire to help build societies that are both resilient and inclusive across social sectors, promoting social unity and sustainable development for the long term.

Peace Vigil and Prayers for Global Solidarity

As part of our commitment to holistic peacebuilding, a peace vigil and reflective time will invite all participants to unite in solidarity and acknowledge areas of conflict and unrest around the

world. Moments of silence, shared intentions, and interfaith prayers will affirm hope for reconciliation, healing, and a more peaceful global community. All conference attendees are warmly encouraged to participate in this meaningful act of unity and support.

Conference Themes

Submissions may address, but are not limited to, the following questions and topics:

1. Business and Peacebuilding at Micro & Macro Levels

- How do business operations in conflict regions impact peace or instability?
- What responsibilities do multinational corporations have in fostering sustainable peace?
- How do supply chains and economic networks interrupt or perpetuate conflict?

2. Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Economic Development

- What defines ethical, inclusive, sustainable rebuilding in post-conflict business engagement?
- What responsibilities do business corporations, Agri-Systems or supply chains have in fostering sustainable peace and long-term resilience?
- How can businesses support economic reintegration of ex-combatants and displaced populations?

3. Civil Society, Human Rights, and Business

- How can civil society and businesses co-create solutions in conflict-sensitive environments?
- What tensions or synergies exist between economic goals and human rights responsibilities?
- How do businesses shape labor rights, gender equity, or community engagement?

4. Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation for Peace

- How can entrepreneurial ventures address systemic violence and inequality?
- What are examples of social entrepreneurship interrupting cycles of poverty or violence?
- How do we measure peace impact and effectiveness in this domain?

5. Youth Engagement, Policy, and Pedagogy

- How might organizational actors, youth or business students be peace-building entrepreneurs?
- What pedagogical tools prepare the next generation of peace-conscious leaders?
- How does youth employment prevent violence in conflict-prone regions?

6. Digital Rights and the Business of Peace

- How do digital platforms and tech companies influence peace or polarization?
- What is the role of digital activism, surveillance, and misinformation in shaping business responsibility?
- How can businesses strengthen democracy in the digital age?

7. Environmental Sustainability and Peace

- How does climate change drive conflict, and what is the role of sustainable business?
- How can natural resource management prevent conflict?
- What is the potential of green reconstruction and renewable energy in post-conflict settings?

Submission Guidelines

We welcome academic papers, practitioner reflections, panel proposals, and creative formats. Interdisciplinary and international perspectives are strongly encouraged.

Abstract Requirements: approximately 500 words, blind review.

State relevance to themes, include 3–5 keywords, and preferred format (paper, panel, case study, workshop, etc).

Submission Deadline: October 15, 2025

Acceptance Notification: November 15, 2025

Full Paper Submission (optional): February 1, 2026

For inquiries and abstract submissions: nenns@lcc.lt

Website: <https://lcc.lt/research-at-lcc/dialogue-and-conflict-transformation>