

What happens when you mix health, peace and development?

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Medical peace work

- Role of health workers in promoting peace
- Peace in its broadest sense – not simply about absence of armed conflict
- Part of a new focus on the role of health workers in tackling violent conflict
- Part of an older tradition of health professionals concerned with war

Medical peace work

- Unites new approaches to health and medicine coming from several sources
 - human rights
 - global health
- Also unites traditional forms of education – textbook and interactive web-based

The course

- **82 lessons, 24 web-based case studies**
- **7 modules**
- Funded by Leonardo da Vinci framework of European Commission
- Partner organizations from across Europe – mix of academic and civil society groups
- Target groups – health professionals in Europe and worldwide
- Relevant for European and international practice.

The course: contents

- 1 Introduction to peace and conflict**
 - Definitions and framework for the course
- 2 Medicine, health and human rights**
 - What is the legal and international humanitarian framework within which medical peace workers operate?
- 3 Prevention of war, weapons and militarization**
 - Health effects of war, specific weapons (landmines, small arms, non-lethal weapons, sexual violence); health professionals role in prevention of war and tackling the effects of weapons

The course: contents

- 4 Causes of direct and structural violence**
 - the role of poverty, inequality and other deep roots of social harm and direct violence
- 5 Peace-health intervention in armed conflict**
 - history of peace-health work and military medicine, health diplomacy, dealing with trauma
- 6 Refugee and migration challenges**
 - the migrants journey, developing and developed world contexts
- 7 Prevention of inter-personal and self-directed violence**
 - Suicide, domestic and other forms of inter-personal violence

The course: cases

- Darfur
- Refugees in Europe
- Sexual violence
- Rwanda
- Understanding development
- + many more
- Aim: to give students an understanding of the experiences and dilemmas involved in medical peace work

The challenges

- Different intellectual traditions of health/medicine, peace and development
- Different strengths and weaknesses
- Debates
 - Is war always bad?
 - Is poverty a form of violence?
 - Are health workers always peaceful?
 - What is the role of outside intervention?