Unitar Online Catalogue

Women's Leadership for Peace Emerging Leaders Course Geneva 2026

Peace

Deadline: 13 Sep 2026

Type:	Course
Location:	Geneva, Switzerland
Date:	12 Oct 2026 to 16 Oct 2026
Duration:	5 Days
Thematic Area:	Peace, Security, Law and Multilateral Diplomacy, , Conflict Prevention, Mediation and Peacemaking, , Peace Operations and Peacekeeping, , Leadership, , Gender equality and social inclusion
Website:	https://unitar.org/sustainable-development-goals/peace/our-portfolio/womens-emp…
Price:	$2,550.00
Event Focal Point Email:	sheleads4peace@unitar.org

BACKGROUND

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is pleased to offer the 2026 edition of the Women’s Leadership for Peace Emerging Leaders Course, an intensive five-day programme designed for women with 7–15 years of

professional experience.

Tailored for emerging and mid-level professionals working across peace, security, climate, development, and related fields, the course is designed for women who are ready to level up their leadership in the face of increasingly complex and interconnected global challenges. Alongside space for reflection, the programme strengthens participants' ability to think systemically, anticipate future challenges, and develop new ideas and leadership approaches for navigating complexity and change.

Through experiential learning and reflective exercises, participants will explore contemporary leadership and security challenges while working toward self-identified objectives. UNITAR's evidence-based and human-centered methodologies create a supportive environment where participants can collaborate, share lessons learned, and apply practical skills to real-world contexts.

Beyond the training itself, the course fosters a sense of community and connection. Peer-to-peer learning, intergenerational dialogue, and discussions with accomplished guest speakers provide a platform for exchanging insights and sharing best practices. Participants will leave with a strengthened professional network and a renewed sense of purpose as leaders and contributors to global peace.

EVENT OBJECTIVES

Through the overall objectives of the Emerging Leaders Course, participants will be able to:

- **Strengthen their leadership capacity** to contribute to peace, security, and related fields by effectively leading in complex, uncertain, and rapidly evolving contexts.
- **Acquire the knowledge, mindset, and practical tools,** including future thinking and systems thinking, needed to lead with confidence, influence, and intention at the next stage of their careers.
- **Hone their own leadership style** by clarifying their values, strengths, and unique contribution within the broader peace and security ecosystem, and understanding how their leadership operates within interconnected systems.
- **Build the ability to navigate power dynamics, and institutional constraints**, while anticipating change, responding to emerging challenges,

and advancing values-driven leadership.
- **Develop a personal action plan** that translates insights into clear steps toward advancing individual leadership objectives.
- **Build meaningful relationships with peers and women leaders in the field**, forming a resilient network of support, learning, and collaboration that extends beyond the programme.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

Track 1: Effective Leadership for Peace

This track focuses on strengthening participants' leadership foundation in relation to today's peace and security challenges. Focused on inner development, this track will be a personal leadership journey, supporting participants in (re-) aligning their leadership style with their values and the unique contribution they would like to make in this world. Participants will also have an opportunity to revisit their strengths and areas of growth in relation to their leadership profile. As a takeaway from the course, participants will create a personal plan for achieving their leadership goals through concrete actions.

Track 2: Leading in Complexity: Systems and Future-Oriented Thinking

This track focuses on strengthening participants' ability to lead effectively in complex, interconnected, and rapidly evolving contexts. Participants will be supported to move beyond linear problem-solving and develop the capacity to make sense of complexity and identify leverage points for change. This track also creates space for participants to experiment with new ideas and leadership approaches, grounded in their own professional contexts. Participants will reflect on emerging trends, anticipate future challenges, and consider how women leaders can shape innovative responses to sustaining peace.

Track 3: Experience Sharing: Learning from Trailblazers

A central component of the programme is engagement with women who have built impactful careers across peace, security, and humanitarian action. This intergenerational exchange provides participants with the opportunity to engage in candid, experience-based conversations about leadership journeys, critical decision points, challenges, and lessons learned. Through dialogue with these trailblazers, participants gain insight into diverse leadership pathways, as well as a clearer understanding of the opportunities and constraints they may encounter as they advance in their own careers.

METHODOLOGY

UNITAR employs a diverse range of pedagogical approaches to enhance learning and foster meaningful behavioral change. The Emerging Leaders Course is rooted in experiential learning, self-reflection, experience sharing, and peer-to-peer exchange, creating a dynamic and interactive learning environment. Participants are encouraged to critically engage with course material, share their lived experiences, and apply lessons learned to real-world challenges. The programme fosters a safe and inclusive space where emerging women leaders can challenge assumptions, develop new perspectives, and build a strong network of women leaders. Through facilitated discussions, case studies, reflection exercises and collaborative activities, participants strengthen their leadership skills while deepening their understanding of themselves and their role within the peace and security field.

TARGETED AUDIENCE

The target audience for this course is (self-identifying) women, who are established in a career linked to peace and security or are interested in transitioning into this field. It is suggested that participants should be emerging leaders or mid-level managers with 7-15 years of experience.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

UNITAR will be responsible for the overall design, coordination and implementation of the Women's Leadership for Peace Emerging Leaders Programme. It will liaise with participants on a regular basis prior to the activity's implementation in order to ensure a smooth and flawless organisation for everyone involved..

The participants are responsible for purchasing their own travel tickets to and from Geneva, booking accommodation, as well as applying for a visa to Switzerland (if required).

Women's Leadership for Peace Emerging Leaders Programme FAQs

1. What is included in the cost of the programme?

- A world-class training programme led by experts from the world of peace and multilateralism, tailored to the specific needs and interests of the target audience
- Presentations from practitioners and thought leaders in the field of peace and security;
- Visit to selected international organizations in the wider field of peace and security in international Geneva;
- A personal leadership journal and tailored learning resources;
- Opportunities for intergenerational exchange with women trailblazers;
- Access to an international professional network of strong women working towards the common goal of greater women's leadership;
- Guidance and advice from professionals on how to navigate taking the next steps in a career in the wider peace and security field;
- Lunch and coffee breaks on course days;
- A UNITAR certification

2. How much time will be spent on each track of the Women's Leadership for Peace Emerging Leaders Programme?

While the tracks of the Women's Leadership for Peace Emerging Leaders Programme will overlap and build on one another, the approximate breakdown is as follows:

Track one: Effective Leadership for Peace – 50%

Track two: Experience Sharing: Learning from Trailblazers – 30%

Track Three: Refining Career Objectives and Pathways – 20%

3. How much professional experience should I have to apply to the programme?

The Women's Leadership for Peace Emerging Leaders Programm is designed for (self-identifying) women, who are established in a career linked to peace and security or are interested in working more in this field. It is suggested that participants should be emerging leaders or mid-level managers with 7-15 years of experience. If you are unsure about whether you fit the profile, do not hesitate to reach out before applying.

4. Where will I be staying during the programme?

Accommodations are not included in the cost of the course. Participants will be responsible for booking their own accommodation. Upon request, UNITAR will provide a list of suggested hotels and hostels for participants to reference.

5. Are there any scholarships available?

Unfortunately, at this moment UNITAR is unable to offer any scholarships for the programme. We hope to be able to provide them in the future. Should they become available, scholarship opportunities will be published on the event page.

6. If accepted, I will need a letter to support my visa application for Switzerland, will UNITAR provide one?

Yes, UNITAR will provide a visa support letter. Applicants are responsible for the visa application process. In exceptional cases UNITAR can support with the visa application process. This needs to be discussed on a case-by-case basis.

7. Will I get a certificate at the end of the course?

Yes, all participants who attend at least 80% of the course will receive a United Nations certification.

8. What is the cancellation and refund policy?
The policy can he found here.