

XIIIth Conference of the World Mediation Forum **XIII Conferencia del Foro Mundial de Mediación** **XIII^e Conférence du Forum Mondial de la Médiation**

16 - 19 November 2026
Donostia/ San Sebastián, Spain



Cultures of mediation and mediation as transformative culture
Culturas de la mediación y mediación como cultura transformadora
Cultures de la médiation et médiation comme culture de transformation
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XIIIth Conference of the World Mediation Forum

The **World Mediation Forum (WMF)** is an international non-profit organization serving mediators from all continents, grounded in interdisciplinarity.

The mission of the WMF is to develop and exchange knowledge, information, and skills in all areas of mediation, particularly through the international conferences it has regularly organized for more than 20 years (2003 in Argentina, 2005 in Switzerland, 2007 in Israel, 2009 in Venezuela, 2012 in Spain, 2017 in Quebec, 2019 in Luxembourg, 2022 in Portugal - virtual, and 2024 in Brazil).

The **XIII Conference of the World Mediation Forum** will focus on the theme: **“Cultures of mediation and mediation as a transformative culture.”**

Within this overarching theme, the conference will address mediation in a wide range of fields: justice, universities, schools, companies, NGOs, sports and leisure organizations, religious contexts, healthcare systems, neighborhoods, municipalities, and more. It will therefore cover more traditional topics alongside questions concerning the prohibitions and limits of mediation practice, restorative justice, therapeutic justice, transitional justice, and transformative justice. The Conference will include theoretical thematic panels and panels presenting research findings, as well as more practical workshops and specific training sessions for particular groups.

-  Donostia-San Sebastián, Spain
-  16-19 November 2026
-  Attend in person or online
-  Working languages: Spanish / French / English

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

We invite mediators, researchers, professionals, students, and anyone interested in dialogue, mediation, and conflict transformation to submit their proposals. Proposals and presentations may be submitted and delivered in Spanish, French, or English.

Proposal submission and acceptance dates:

- **Extension of abstract submission deadline: July 10**
- Notification of abstract acceptance: before August 3.

Registration, proposal submission, and further information are available through the official platform:

<https://www.uik.eus/en/activity/xiiiith-conference-world-mediation-forum>

Follow us on Instagram: [@worldmediationforumconference](https://www.instagram.com/worldmediationforumconference) and stay up to date with all conference updates and news.

SAN SEBASTIÁN DONOSTIA



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Plan your stay:

Donostia-San Sebastián is a very popular tourist destination, and demand for accommodation can be high throughout the year. If you plan to attend in person, we recommend booking your accommodation well in advance.

For more information about the city and accommodation:
<https://sansebastianturismoa.eus/en/>

Celebration at a local cider house – limited places:

In addition to the keynote presentations, workshops, and training sessions, the XIII Conference of the WMF will include a special moment of celebration and connection among speakers and participants at a local cider house, highlighting the traditional gastronomy and culture of the Basque Country.

This activity is optional, places are limited, and separate registration is required through the Register section.



Sidrería El Vaskito

PROGRAM

16

MONDAY

09:00 – 18:30

09:00	<u>Opening Session</u> Institutional welcome · Presentation of the central theme
09:30	<u>Training Session</u> Participatory training spaces focused on practical learning, the exchange of experiences, and deeper engagement with transformative mediation and restorative justice
12:30	<u>Lunch</u> Break and networking
13:30	<u>Parallel Workshops</u> Working groups with specialists by thematic area
16:30	<u>Break</u> Rest period
17:00	<u>Keynote Conference</u> Pilar Del Río <i>The Power of Literature and Intergenerational Commitment to Human Rights for Peace</i>

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TUESDAY

09:00 – 18:30

09:00	<u>Opening Session</u> Thematic Deepening
09:30	<u>Training Session</u> Participatory training spaces focused on practical learning, the exchange of experiences, and deeper engagement with transformative mediation and restorative justice.
12:30	<u>Lunch</u> Break and networking
13:30	<u>Parallel Workshops</u> Working groups with specialists by thematic area
16:30	<u>Break</u> Rest period
17:00	<u>Keynote Conference</u> Yves Cartuyvels <i>Mediation, a democratic counterculture</i>

PROGRAM

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WEDNESDAY

09:00 – 18:30

09:00	<u>Opening Session</u> Thematic Deepening
09:30	<u>Training Session</u> Participatory training spaces focused on practical learning, the exchange of experiences, and deeper engagement with transformative mediation and restorative justice.
12:30	<u>Lunch</u> Break and networking
13:30	<u>Parallel Workshops</u> Working groups with specialists by thematic area
16:30	<u>Break</u> Rest period
17:00	<u>Keynote Conference</u> David Moore <i>Integrating mediation and restorative practice</i>
20:00	<u>Celebration at a Cider House</u> Optional activity, with limited places and separate registration required. More information available in the Register section.

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THURSDAY

09:30 – 13:00

09:30	<u>Keynote Conference</u> José Luis de la Cuesta <i>Restorative Justice in the Basque Country. Towards Its Own Regulatory Framework within a Global Context</i>
11:00	<u>Thematic Synthesis</u> Roundtable with all speakers
12:00	<u>Conclusion and Closing Ceremony</u> Final Conference Declaration · Presentation of upcoming editions

The full programme will be available soon.



KEYNOTES

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Pilar Del Río

Opening Conference

We will celebrate the **Power of Literature and intergenerational commitment to human rights for peace.**

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Yves Cartuyvels

Mediation, a democratic counterculture

A symbol of an alternative model for discussing conflicts, mediation responds to a democratic ideal which, in autonomous societies, makes individuals the actors of their own future. In a world threatened both by autocratic excesses and the mechanistic logic of big data, its relational foundation makes it a workshop for democracy as a space for exchange and conflictual cooperation.

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David Moore

Integrating mediation and restorative practice

Mediation and restorative justice tend to be defined narrowly and broadly – both as a process and as a practical philosophy of dispute resolution &/or conflict management. When experienced practitioners integrate these approaches, they are well-placed to diagnose a case accurately, and identify the optimal process – or combination of processes – for working with people to set relations right. This session explains the evolution of this integrated approach to peacemaking.

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Jose Luis de La Cuesta

Restorative Justice in the Basque Country: Towards Its Own Regulatory Framework within a Global Context

Professor de la Cuesta will discuss this topic with Inés Soria, advisor on penitentiary matters to the Basque Government.

TRAINING SESSIONS

The sessions will have a total duration of 9 hours, distributed over three training days: November 16, 17 and 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Important: each participant must choose one training session, taking into account the language in which it will be delivered.

Restorative Justice in Institutional and Organizational Settings

Marie Keenan & Ivo Aertsen

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

Más allá de la mediación: fundamentos y aplicaciones de las prácticas restaurativas en contextos de macrovictimización, comunitarios, organizacionales e institucionales.

Alberto Olalde, Idoia Igartua, Mar Puga & Leticia Vidotto

LANGUAGE: SPANISH

Médiation Transformatrice

Jacques et Olivier & Olivier Chambert-Loir

LANGUAGE: FRENCH

The full description of each training session will be available soon.



Invited Speakers

Pilar Del Río

Journalist, writer, translator, and President of the José Saramago Foundation. She began her career as a journalist at the Seville radio station La Voz del Guadalquivir and at the magazine Triunfo, later working for Televisión Española, Canal Sur, and Cadena SER. In 1986, reading the novel Baltasar and Blimunda moved her so deeply that she felt the need to meet its author and future husband, José Saramago, whose translator she became, rendering numerous works by the Nobel Prize in Literature into Spanish. She remains firmly committed to disseminating the moral and ethical principles that the Portuguese author expressed in his work.



Yves Cartuyvels

Jurist, philosopher, and criminologist, Yves Cartuyvels conducts research at the intersection of these three disciplines, combining theoretical approaches with empirical research. Academic Director of the Certificate in Local, School, Penal, and Healthcare Mediation (MLSPSS) at UCLouvain (Belgium). Emeritus Professor at UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles.



Jose Luis de La Cuesta

Professor of Criminal Law. President of the Honorary Committee of the Basque Institute of Criminology (UPV/EHU). Honorary President of the International Association of Penal Law (AIDP-IAPL). Former President of the Basque Council for the Participation of Victims of Terrorism (2010–2026).



David Moore

President of the Australian Association for Restorative Justice. He taught politics and history at the University of Melbourne and later at Charles Sturt University, where he coordinated justice studies and launched pilot programmes using group conferencing in the justice and education systems. After working in the Queensland Department of the Premier, David co-founded Transformative Justice Australia in 1995 and taught restorative practices in Australia, North America, Norway and the United Kingdom, while also providing conflict management services to Australian organizations. Since the early 2000s, he has worked as an independent facilitator, trainer and consultant in conflict management and constructive communication.



Invited Speakers Hands On



Marie Keenan

Professor Emerita (RTA) at the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, University College Dublin. She is a criminologist, restorative justice practitioner, forensic psychotherapist, and registered social worker. She served as clinical and restorative justice consultant on *The Meeting*, an award-winning feature film on sexual violence and restorative justice, based on a true story.



Ivo Aertsen

Professor Emeritus of Criminology at the University of Leuven, Belgium, and actively involved in education and training in mediation and restorative justice. He has coordinated a number of European research projects in the field of restorative justice and has served as an expert for various international institutions. His research focuses on restorative justice in relation to institutional violence and environmental crime, as well as on restorative cities.



Alberto Olalde

Professor of Social Work at the UPV/EHU and member of the Laboratory of Theory and Practice of Restorative Justice. He has professional experience as a social worker from 1998 to 2011 in residential care for incarcerated people and young people in conflict with the law, as well as a mediator and facilitator in public family mediation and restorative justice services of the Basque Government. He has experience facilitating restorative processes in cases involving terrorism and sexual abuse in religious institutions.



Idoia Igartua Iaraudogoitia

Professor in the Department of Criminal Law at the UPV/EHU and member of the Laboratory of Theory and Practice of Restorative Justice. She has extensive professional experience in supporting victims of crime and facilitating restorative processes, having worked as a lawyer in the Basque Government's Justice Cooperation Services for more than two decades.



María del Mar Puga

Graduate in Law. Master's Degree in Conflict Management and Resolution: Mediation from the University of Barcelona. She has worked for ten years as a mediator in the public family mediation and restorative justice services of the Basque and Catalan Governments. She is a member of the Laboratory of Theory and Practice of Restorative Justice at the Basque Institute of Criminology.



Leticia Trombini Vidotto

PhD in Psychology from the University of São Paulo (USP). Member of the Research Laboratory in Dialogical and Collaborative Practices (DIALOG) and of the Laboratory of Theory and Practice of Restorative Justice at the Basque Institute of Criminology. She has practical and research experience in conflict transformation, social constructionism, Single-Session Narrative Therapy, and restorative justice.



Olivier Chambert-Loir

Mediator and certified trainer in transformative mediation. Fellow and Board Member of the ISCT – Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation, United States. President of the AATC – Association for a Transformative Approach to Conflict, France and the French-speaking world.



Jacques Faget

Emeritus Research Director at the CNRS – Centre Émile Durkheim, Sciences Po Bordeaux; mediation trainer; practice group analyst; and member of the National Mediation Council.

Invited Speakers Hands On



Joseph Eduardo Iacona

Artist in residence, consultant, and restorative practitioner.

Rooted in a 15-year community arts practice and a deep foundation in restorative pedagogy, Joseph partners with organizations and artists to move beyond transactional engagement toward genuine, collaborative inquiry.



Clair Aldington

Artist in residence. Over twenty years' experience working in participatory art, design and restorative justice, her design + restorative justice brand stems from this experience. She is also an islander and passionate about the contribution of the islander to practice and research conversation. Her over-arching approach is collaborative. Within this she utilises practice and research tools from the fields of design + restorative justice.



Riccardo Cappi

PhD in Criminology from the Université Catholique de Louvain (2011), Master's degree in Economic Sciences from the Université Catholique de Louvain (1988), teaching qualification degree from the Catholic University of Louvain (1992), and Bachelor's degree in Criminology from the Université Catholique de Louvain (1992). He is currently a Full Professor at the University of the State of Bahia, a collaborating professor at the Federal University of Bahia, a collaborating professor at the Federal University of the Recôncavo of Bahia, and a Full Professor at the State University of Feira de Santana.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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Prof. Yves Cartuyvels (Bélgica)

Ana Míria dos Santos Carvalho Carinhanha (Brasil)

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PhD researcher Luis Conde

Prof. Isabel Germán

Prof. Idoia Igartua

PhD researcher María Ochandorena

Prof. Alberto Olalde

Prof. Ignacio Subijana

Prof. Isabel Trespaderne

Dr. Leticia T. Vidotto

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Lode Walgrave (Bélgica)

Registration, proposal submission, and further information available through the link:

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