



## Diasporas in Action

Working together for peace, development  
and humanitarian response

# Call for Expressions of Interest for presentations

**The Diaspora Learning Network invites you to submit expressions of interest to present your work at a two-day international conference on the role of diaspora communities in peace-building, development and humanitarian relief.**

### **Key Dates:**

12 June 2018	Expression of Interest (EOI) Submission Open
13 July 2018	EOI Submissions Close
3 August 2018	Notification to Authors of Acceptance
17 August 2018	Papers Submitted by Authors (further details to be provided)

### **Key Conference Information:**

Date: 26-27 September 2018  
Location: University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia  
Contact: [conference@diasporaaction.org.au](mailto:conference@diasporaaction.org.au)  
[www.diasporasinaction.org.au](http://www.diasporasinaction.org.au)

### **To submit:**

Please send your Expression of interest to [conference@diasporaaction.org.au](mailto:conference@diasporaaction.org.au) by 13 July 2018

## **Background and Call for Expressions of Interest**

The second *Diasporas in Action* conference will be held in Melbourne, Australia, on 26-27 September 2018 and will bring innovative ideas and fresh perspectives from Australia and internationally about the ways in which diasporas contribute to peace-building, development and humanitarian responses.

The first ever diaspora conference in Australia – “*Diasporas in Action: Working together for peace, development and humanitarian response*” -- was convened in 2016 by the Diaspora Learning Network and raised awareness about why diasporas are engaged in peace-building, humanitarian and development work, and the distinct role they can play. A [conference report](#) was published following this event, and the outcomes of the conference have also informed a series of seminars that have been held throughout the first half of 2018.

This second diaspora conference will focus on the ways in which diasporas support peace, reconciliation, humanitarian action and development goals. Bringing together diaspora representatives, NGOs, academics, government, donors and others, the conference will explore how diasporas contribute to peace, reconciliation, development and humanitarian efforts in multiple contexts such as their countries of origin, sites of displacement and third countries. Exploring mechanisms and strategies for action, the ultimate aim of the conference is to enhance understandings of diaspora engagement and improve partnerships between diasporas and donors, international organisations and affected communities, with the overall goal of improved responses.

Diasporas are significant players in peacebuilding, reconciliation, development and humanitarian crisis responses, contributing through transferring skills, knowledge and resources. However, these actions have both intended and unintended impacts. Strategies used by diaspora to influence outcomes in their country of origin or host countries reflect complex intersections of nationality, ethnicity, religious/political affiliations, gender, professional networks, and trajectories of displacement. As a result, research suggests that strategies used by diaspora groups to influence peace, development and humanitarian outcomes are dynamic and contextual. These issues will be discussed over the 2-day conference through:

1. Presentations by diasporas on their engagement in countries of origin, transit and Australia;
2. Academic and policymaker perspectives on opportunities and challenges of working with diasporas;
3. Discussion on how to enhance diaspora contributions to peace, development and humanitarian responses, including in collaboration with cross-sector actors; and
4. Perspectives of international organisations on working with diasporas.
5. Presentations of Diaspora Learning Network seminar findings and recommendations on:
  - a. Peacebuilding and reconciliation;
  - b. Diaspora response in time of disaster and other crises;
  - c. Diaspora role as market shapers and business builders furthering the SDGs.

## Conference themes and guiding questions

Conference themes and guiding questions include:

- **Methods and modalities:** What are the means by which diasporas create change in their countries of origin or elsewhere in the world (e.g. remittances, political influence, operating through personal contacts and family structures, etc.)? What is distinct about diaspora ways of working?
- **Linkages:** How do diasporas link with existing peacebuilding, development and humanitarian actors and mechanisms?
- **Diaspora mobilisation:** What are the factors that enable or constrain diaspora mobilisation (e.g. collective identity, origin country context, national and transnational structures for engagement, enabling/inhibiting factors in the places where diasporas reside and maintain connections)?
- **Future thinking:** What are future opportunities for constructive/proactive engagement and cooperation (including risks and pitfalls) between diasporas and other actors?

## Invitation for expressions of interest

The Conference will highlight emerging research and practice, critically examine new and innovative ideas, and create spaces for cross-sectoral engagement and partnership, through:

- **Panel presentations** (15 mins). We are looking for contributions to panels that present and discuss policy and research that align with one or more of the conference themes.
- **Workshops** (1.5 hours). We are looking for proposals to develop and run two facilitated workshops that explore, in a participatory manner:
  - Workshop 1: How NGOs, government and other organisations and institutions can engage and work with diasporas organisations.
  - Workshop 2: How diasporas can engage with INGO, government, multilateral and bi-lateral agencies.
- **Diaspora Showcase** (10 mins). We are looking for short, targeted presentations showcasing the work of diaspora organisations, or experiences of multi-sector programs engaging diaspora communities.

The conference organisers invite interested parties to submit expressions of interest to participate in the conference, with particular consideration given to the four key themes and guiding questions of the conference.

### Guidance for each expression of interest:

1. **Panel Presentation (15 mins).** Please ensure your EOI:
  - a. Is no longer than 250 words.
  - b. Focuses on policy and research that aligns with at least *one* of the conference themes or guiding questions.
  - c. Includes clear statement on how your proposed presentation will contribute to strengthening the voices and activities of diaspora communities and their contribution to development, peace, human rights; and/or the policy and practice of

multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental development actors seeking to engage with diaspora communities.

- d. Beyond the 250 words, also include two sentences about the presenter(s)/author(s), and links to any online bio or profiles.

**2. Workshop (1.5 hours):** please ensure your EOI:

- a. Is no longer than 250 words.
- b. Focuses on one of the two workshop topics indicated above.
- c. Includes a clear statement on how your proposed workshop will contribute to strengthening the voices and activities of diaspora communities and their contribution to development, peace, human rights; and/or the policy and practice of multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental development actors seeking to engage with diaspora communities.
- d. Includes proposed methodology and maximum number of participants.
- e. Beyond the 250 words, two sentences describing who will be involved in leading and facilitating the workshop

**3. Diaspora Showcase (10 minutes):** please ensure your EOI:

- a. Is no longer than 250 words
- b. Focuses on at least *one* of the four conference themes or guiding questions.
- c. Outlines the content of your presentation and how it relates to the conference theme.
- d. Beyond the 250 words, brief description of who will be involved in the showcase.