



PEACE MEDIATION SIMULATION – CASE LOOSHLAND AND TRISSLAND

CMI is an independent Finnish organization that works to prevent and resolve violent conflicts. CMI works closely with all conflicting parties in some of the world's most intractable conflicts to forge lasting peace through informal dialogue and mediation.

The situation is tense between the fictional Looshland and Trissland countries. This simulation exercise aims to provide an experiential opportunity for the students to experience first-hand a realistic situation of armed ethno-political conflict and try to move a complex situation of armed conflict towards a peaceful outcome.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

- Time on the day of the simulation: 15 minutes facilitator's introduction, 90 minutes for the roleplay plus 5 minutes to de-roling and 45 to 90 minutes for the debriefing.
- A verbal explanation of the exercise and the allocation of roles should take place on the day before the simulation. This would also be a good time to provide the written background materials on the conflict situation and the individual role instructions to participants.

PURPOSE OF THIS SIMULATION

This exercise aims to provide an experiential opportunity of learning about the basic elements of what it means to take part in a mediated negotiations process to try to move a complex situation of armed conflict towards a peaceful outcome.

Negotiations and dialogue, as an alternative to violence, offer a way to build confidence and trust between people in conflict, by bringing them together on an equal footing, in a safe space and with the help of a facilitator, or several facilitators, who the sides of the conflict feel are not so biased that they would take anyone's side. Once a sense of trust is developed between the sides of the conflict then it becomes possible for them to search together for solutions to their conflict, which help each side to properly address their needs and fears. This is also enabled by good facilitation, as misunderstandings will often occur and emotions can run high.

There is rarely a perfect solution to a conflict, but the better the quality of the process that the sides use to search for a solution together, the more chances there will be of finding a good one in the end.