



Nita Yawanarajah is an international conflict resolution practitioner with more than 20 years' experience at the United Nations and as the Head of the Commonwealth Secretariat's Good Offices and Conflict Prevention Section. Her diplomatic and military experience has led her to contribute to the democratic transitions in Commonwealth countries, and to support peacemaking and peacekeeping operations in Bosnia, Kosovo, Eritrea, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, and Darfur. At the UN, she created the first UN Peacemaking database, for which she received an award from the UN Secretary-General. She has spoken internationally on mediating ceasefires, peacemaking, and the timing of peace initiatives. Her main interest is in mediating durable ceasefires and peace agreements, the subject of her recent PhD at King's College London War Studies Department. She is a certified CEDR mediator and currently Deputy Director at Oxford Process where she works on quiet diplomacy initiatives in violent conflicts.