

# Yemen crisis: An end in sight?

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Yemen's civil war is now in its 8th year. The internal conflict and military confrontation between the Saudi Arabia-led coalition forces and the Houthi rebels has left millions of Yemenis in a dire humanitarian crisis. Yet, recent developments have prompted hope for progress in peace negotiations as a delegation from Saudi Arabia visited Yemen's capital Sana'a in April 2023 to participate in direct talks for a permanent ceasefire with the Houthis. The negotiations were followed by the largest exchange of prisoners between the warring parties since the start of the war in 2014.

This public event gathers Yemeni and international policymakers and experts to discuss the current state of affairs and evaluate the prospects of peace. Speakers at this event will aim to address the following key questions:

- What are the current dynamics on the ground?
- What is the vision of Yemen's Southern Transitional Council for future negotiations?
- Has the recent rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran impacted the conflict?
- What lessons can be learned from previous negotiations and how these can strengthen the current peace process?
- How is the international community and the United Nations supporting the peace process?

## Agenda

09.00 – 10.15 [Session 1: Latest developments in the peace process and prospects for the future](#)

### Speakers

Yasmeen al-Eryani, Co-Executive Director for Knowledge Production, Sana'a Center  
Jamila Ali Rajaa, Deputy Head, Reconciliation and Consultation Committee

**Moderator:** Dr Sanam Vakil, Director, MENA Programme, Chatham House

10.15 – 10.45 *Coffee break*

10.45 – 12.00 [Session 2: Lessons learned from past negotiations](#)

### Speakers

Rafat Al-Akhali, Former Yemeni Minister of Youth and Sports, Fellow of Practice, Strategic Projects, Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford  
Azal Al-Salafi, Advocacy and Protection Officer, Peace Track Initiative  
Helen Lackner, Author, *Yemen in Crisis: Devastating Conflict, Fragile Hope* and *Yemen: Poverty and Conflict*

**Moderator:** Nawal Al-Maghafi, Special Correspondent, BBC

12.00 – 12.10 *Break*

12.10 – 13.00 [Session 3: In conversation with HE Aidarous Qassem Al-Zubaidi](#)

**Speaker:** Major General Aidarous Qassem Al-Zubaidi, Vice President, Presidential Leadership Council (PLC) and President, Southern Transitional Council (STC)

**Moderator:** Farea Al-Muslimi, Research Fellow, MENA Programme, Chatham House

The event will be held **on the record**.