

From the Straits of Hormuz to AI-powered weapons

How backchannel negotiations can help resolve the wars of today and tomorrow

An intimate dinner conversation with

Romain Grandjean

Regional Director Middle East and North Africa

Adam Cooper

Director Digital Conflict

Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue

Thursday- 4 June 2026

Drinks from 18:30

Dinner at 19:00

Carousel

Carousel, 19-23 Charlotte Street, Fitzrovia, London W1T 1RL

We are pleased to invite you to a private dinner hosted by the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD) on the evolving role of private diplomacy in preventing conflict and advancing peace in an increasingly fragmented world.

About HD

Real solutions to the biggest threats to international peace and security are not often found in public. HD specialises in confidential peace negotiations. We work on most of the major armed conflicts in the world today. As the largest private diplomacy organisation of its kind, HD has facilitated over 100 agreements over the past 15 years, including ceasefires that have saved thousands of lives and restarted economies.

As the crisis in the Straits of Hormuz shows, performative public diplomacy has its limits. In the Middle East, HD has spent 15 years building deep relationships of trust with the most “hard to reach” conflict parties, whether those be armed groups or authoritarian governments. That access – paired with relationships in capitals from DC to London to Beijing – is used to develop pragmatic ideas on de-escalate wars. This work often fails. But when it succeeds, the return on investment is considerable: ceasefires are made, hostages released, and unnecessary wars avoided.

Over dinner on 4th June HD’s Middle East Director, Romain Grandjean, will pull back the curtain on his work in the region. He will share how he facilitated a ceasefire that led to a 99% decline in battlefield deaths, the pathway from jihadism to government in Syria, and what a solution to the current crisis in Iran and the wider Middle East could look like.

He will be joined by HD’s Digital Conflict Director, Adam Cooper, on how this methodology of confidential negotiations can be used in the world of tech, including the most serious international security risks posed by artificial intelligence.

RSVP: Kindly confirm your attendance by June 2, 2026 to Ayça Uzel (uzel@hdcentre.org)