



Newsletter



January 2019

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The last two months were full of events important to the work of IPB and its partner organisations. In the end of November, the board and council members of IPB met in Cyprus, hosted by one of the three recipients of the Seán MacBride Peace Prize, namely the Association for Historical Dialogue and Research & the Home for Cooperation. We were given the opportunity to learn more in depth about the rich and dynamic history of Cyprus and we saw first hand how inter- communal peace building projects are carried out and how people live by the principles of peace education.

In the beginning of December IPB was able, together with the support of its partner organisations and individuals, to publish an appeal in the Guardian that called for defence of the INF Treaty. Just a week later, Helena Maleno, the second recipient of the Seán MacBride Prize in 2018, was able to travel to Barcelona to receive her well-deserved prize that honoured her work as a human rights defender and activist for migrants' rights.

This edition of the newsletter also includes a must-read opinion piece, written by Ingeborg Breines on "Martin Luther King: It is non- violence or it is non-existence"; the new advocacy guide of one of IPB's closest partners, Pax Christi International; a summary of Campaign for Peace Disarmament and Common Security's upcoming projects and much more.

Editorial: Theresa Kresse
International Peace Bureau
Marienstraße 19-20
10117 Berlin
Germany
www.ipb.org

Moreover, we would like to invite you to also read the current newsletter of our "[Global Campaign on Military Spending](#)" (GCOMS) [here](#).

Last but not least, we would like to take this opportunity to thank every individual and organisation that contributed to IPB's projects in 2018 through sharing ideas and the workload or by sending donations. Regardless of the type or size of contribution – it was always greatly appreciated. And just as we needed your help last year, we depend on everyone's support this year, too. So please share our newsletter, the posts on our [social media platforms](#), invite friends and organisations to [become members](#) of IPB or maybe just make a small [donation](#).

We hope you enjoy reading!

With our warmest wishes,



Theresa Kresse

Coordinator at IPB



Board and Council Meeting, Nicosia, Cyprus

The board and council members of IPB met from the 23rd - 25th of November 2018 in Nicosia, Cyprus to set the course of the upcoming years.

Once a year, usually in the autumn, are the board and council members of IPB coming together to review the work of the past year, decide which organisations are accepted to become an official members, and discuss which actions and projects are to be taken on during the coming and following years. Last November, our local partners, the [Association For Historical Dialogue and Research](#) (AHDR) and the [Home for Cooperation](#) (H4C), who were also the recipients of one of the 2018 Seán MacBride Peace Prizes, hosted the meetings. ADHR's and H4C's community house, which is located in the UN buffer zone in Cyprus' capital, was a delightful place in which hands on, inter-communal peace building is practised. The schedule was filled with many important discussions, but also with very insightful walking tours through the divided city to understand the struggles and history of this island more comprehensively.

On Friday the 23rd, we hosted, in collaboration with ADHR and H4C, a panel discussion titled: *“Challenges and opportunities for the peace process in Cyprus and in the region”*. This panel discussion was divided into three parts, namely “Ideas for the future of a region of confrontation and wars”, “Regional developments on peace and war” and last but not least “Good practices in Cyprus”. All three parts were hosted and moderated by very knowledgeable practitioners and academicians.

Lisa Clark and Kyriakos Pachoulides opened the panel discussion. The *“Ideas for the Future of a*



Region of Confrontation and Wars” panel was moderated by Alev Tugberk, (AHDR) and Lisa Clark, who were accompanied by the panellists Prof. Dr. Erol Kaymak and Prof. Dr. Yiannis Papadakis.

The second part, which was titled *“Regional Developments on Peace and War”* was moderated by Arielle Denise from IPB and Maria Zeniou from AHDR. The speakers were Dave Webb (IPB), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nur Köprülü and Dr. Zenonas Tziarras.

Laura Lodenius (IPB) and Suleyman Gelener, (AHDR) moderated the third part *“Good Practices in Cyprus”*. The speakers of this panel were the Heads of Technical Committees and ETUCE Member Unions. Reiner Braun, Co-President of IPB, gave the final words.

Undoubtedly, awarding the [Seán MacBride Prize to the H4C and ADHR](#) was the highlight for everyone. The honorary speaker was [Elizabeth Spehar](#), Head of the UNFICYP mission in Cyprus. The award ceremony was accompanied by touching speeches by Lefki Lambrou, the Director of [H4C](#), Alev Tuğberk, who is AHDR Co-President, Özge Özoğul, ADHR's Operations Officer and Eskidjian Salpy.

A smaller delegation of IPB also went to Famagusta for a few days to expand our network. The delegation met with the Dean of the Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) to discuss Cyprus' recent education system developments.





During the council meeting, IPB accepted a couple of organisations, which previously applied to become members. It is imperative to IPB's work, and thus its success, to expand its network and therefore be able to pursue our goal of a "World without War".

The organisations that were accepted are:

- [Humanity United for Universal Demilitarisation \(HUFUD\)](#), UK
- [People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy \(PSPD\)](#), South Korea
- Blue Banner, Mongolia
- [Community Agenda for Peace \(CAP\)](#), Nigeria
- [Youth Association for Development \(YAD\)](#); Pakistan
- [Kothowain](#), Bangladesh
- [Forum Démocratique Mondial \(FDM/WDF\)](#), France
- [Cypriot Turkish Teachers Union](#), Cyprus

2019 will be a very eventful year as IPB and its cooperation partners are organising and participating in a couple of events. Here are some of the confirmed events:

- [PyeongChang Global Peace Forum](#); Feb 9 - Feb 11, 2019, PyeongChang, South Korea
- [Counteractions to NATO's 70th Anniversary](#); Mar 30 - Apr 4, 2019, Washington D.C., US
- GDAMS Campaign Events, April (TBA)
- [Seán MacBride Peace Prize Ceremony for Douglas Roche](#); Apr 25, 2019, Toronto, Canada
- [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference 2019](#); Apr 29 - May 10, 2019, New York City, US
- IPB Youth Network Conference; Sep 21, 2019, Berlin, Germany
- [AEPF Workshop and Seminar](#), Sep 23 - Sep 25, 2019, Berlin, Germany
- Triennial Meeting of IPB, Oct 20, 2019, London, UK

Stay tuned with our event calendar, which can be found via our homepage. If you, or your organisation is hosting an interesting event you can send us the details about it and we can include it in the calendar. Please send a mail to info@ipb-office.berlin

Helena Maleno – Seán MacBride Prize Ceremony - Barcelona

Helena Maleno received the MacBride Prize for her work as a human rights defender during an emotional ceremony in Barcelona.

On Tuesday 18th December, the journalist and activist [Helena Maleno](#) was given the Seán MacBride prize for peace, during a public event organized by the International Peace Bureau (IPB) and Delas Centre for Peace Studies which was held on the premise of the Barcelona History Museum. The ceremony took place at the Martí l'Humà room and luckily Helena was able to attend, despite her



difficult situation due the persecution she is currently facing. Please read more about this [here](#).

Jordi Calvo, coordinator of the Delas Center and Vice-President of IPB, hosted the ceremony while Laura Pérez Castaño, the Councilor of Barcelona

city hall for international relations, Manel Vila, the General Secretary of the Catalan cooperation agency for development and the IPB Co-President, Lisa Clark gave their speeches. Vila emphasized how important it is to acknowledge and honor the people who are working for peace and human rights, as this is at least a “humble support to the people who, like Helena, work in the field”.

On the other hand, Pérez underlined how inspirational the winner’s work is: “Your situation is an example of criminalization to which human rights defenders are subjected”. The pacifist activist and journalist, David Fernández praised Maleno during his speech, too. He introduced the winner and her work: “we know Helena’s work as words made into action, and in the action a commitment is made”. His text, written as poetry, focused on the brutal migration policies: “the drowning, silenced and made invisible voices in the Strait have been swimming for 30 years without stopping. [...] The border and the wall always define those who build them, but never those who suffer because of them”.

Fernández also mentioned the role of media in this situation and how they tell the stories to citizens. “[T]here’s no story without a second point of view”; and the inconsistency of the Spanish State as it applies inhumane measures, “in this city that

wants to be a refuge, in this country that knows exile and the Republican exodus...”, forgetting its recent history.

Finally, the activist thanked Maleno for her work, “the pure hope takes roots in the capacity to name the intolerable as such: this ability comes from a long way, the past and the future. This is the reason why policy change and personal courage are both essential”. Maleno was given the prize – a medal made of bronze from destroyed nuclear weapons – by Lisa Clark, who made a quick summary of Seán MacBride’s life and work. Maleno, as moved as she was, told a few stories of her life in Morocco where she supports people who are going through the migration process. She used her time to discuss the fact that migration policies and the war industry, which collaborate with the slavery industry are “feeding off each other”: “they turned border into trenches in which victims are always on the same side, and are invisible victims”.

The activist explained how difficult it was for her to take on her role as human rights advocate as she is consistently harassed by the Moroccan State. She said that “we have the right to defend rights, but in this horrible war of borders” it is a duty.

The photos of the event can be found [here](#).



IPB's Appeal to Defend the INF Treaty

On December 8th, 2018, IPB and its partner organisations, together with more than 160 supporters published, an appeal in the Guardian newspaper calling to defence of the INF Treaty.

Already in October 2018, shortly after the POTUS announced his intentions to withdraw the US from the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF Treaty) IPB had published an official statement. The full statement can be read [here](#). However, understanding the far-ranging implications of the withdrawal and thus the elimination of the INF Treaty, our board members knew that "only" publishing a statement would not be enough. So they came together, wrote and edited a text until they had a version they thought would have the right kind of expressiveness and assertiveness that was needed to make an appeal and find enough

support in order to be able to publish it in a globally known newspaper.

On December, 8th 2018, IPB alongside with the [Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament \(CND\)](#), [Campaign For Peace, Disarmament & Common Security \(CPDCS\)](#), [International Trade Union Confederation \(ITUC\)](#), [Mouvement de la Paix, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation \(NAPF\)](#), [Pax Christi International, Peace & Planet, Transform! Europe, Uni Global Union \(UNI\)](#), the European Network "No to Nukes" and another 165 supporters, published the appeal.

Having had so many supporters is a great response, but we are still trying to cover the costs of publishing this appeal. Therefore, if you like to fund a **donation** please go and visit our website www.ipb.org/donation through which you can find all necessary information.



Defend the INF Treaty

President Trump's threat to withdraw the USA from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty marks a dangerous escalation on the path to a 21st century US-Russian Cold War. The INF Treaty, which millions of people around the world fought for and won, was negotiated in 1987 and marked the beginning of the end of the Cold War.

It led to the elimination and renunciation of deployments of all US and Russian nuclear and conventional ground-launched cruise and ballistic missiles with ranges of 500 to 5,000 km. This dramatically reduced the danger of Europe becoming the primary theatre for nuclear war.

Abandoning the INF Treaty, combined with the possible expiry of the New START Treaty in 2021, will end all nuclear arms agreements between the two countries that possess more than 90% of the world's nuclear weapons, opening the way for an unrestrained and dangerous nuclear arms race.

President Trump's threat to abandon this treaty builds on the recent history of military expansion, including that of NATO; on plans for "more usable" nuclear weapons; on the withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty; and on the commitment to develop and deploy a new generation of US nuclear weapons, their delivery systems and missile defences.

In cooperation with the European network "No to Nukes"

President Putin has responded by reiterating Russia's commitment to maintain the Mutually Assured Destruction "balance of forces" with the USA. Already Russian nuclear-capable missiles have been deployed to Kaliningrad, at the edge of Europe, and President Putin has threatened to match any US missile deployments in Europe.

We urgently appeal for negotiations to preserve and reinforce the INF Treaty; for the adoption of and adherence to no-first-use doctrines; for credible commitments to fulfil the nuclear powers' Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty disarmament obligations; and for nuclear arsenal reductions with savings redirected to address essential human needs. All other nuclear-armed states, including China, should be involved in future INF-related negotiations.

We call on all countries to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, adopted by the UN in 2017, which offers a solid international framework toward the elimination of nuclear weapons.

To avert a new nuclear arms race, we call on people and countries throughout the world to use all political and diplomatic means available to defend the INF Treaty and to work for a nuclear-free world.

Act now in the name of human survival!

CONTACT: International Peace Bureau (IPB) | Marienstr. 19-20, 10117 Berlin, Germany | +49 (0) 30 1208 4549 | info@ipb-office.berlin | www.ipb.org

Supporters: Actors for Civil Peace and Humanitarian Operations for Community Empowerment (ACPHOED) (CM) | Agir pour la Paix (BE) | AK Internationales - IGM Berlin (DE) | Andersen, Heidi (NO) | Archer, Colin (GB) | Atack, Iain (IE) | Åberg, Britta (FI) | Buddhist Tribunal on Human Rights (GB) | Boisvert, Dominique (CA) | Braun, Reiner (DE) | Breines, Ingeborg (NO) | Brüttsch, Emil (DE) | Bök, Mikael (FI) | Büchel ist überall atomwaffenfrei.jetzt (DE) | Centre Delàs d'Estudis per la Pau (ES) | Chenoy, Anuradha Mitra & Kamal Mitra (IN) | Cherrug, Stefan (SE) | Chomsky, Noam (US) | Clark, Lisa (IT) | CND Cymru (GB) | CND Leeds (GB) | CND Yorkshire (GB) | CODE PINK (US) | Comité Surveillance (CSOTAN) (BE) | Creighton, Phyllis (CA) | Cronberg, Tarja (FI) | DIE LINKE, Burbach (DE) | Doopsgezind WereldWerk (NE) | Dullinger, Angelica (DE) | Enfield Cooperative Party (GB) | Euromed Feminist Initiative (IFE-EFI) (FR) | Fellman, Gordon (US) | Fjord Forsk Sogn as (NO) | Forum InformatikerInnen für Frieden und gesellschaftliche Verantwortung (FIF) (DE) | Forum Peace Ethics in the Evangelical Church in Baden (DE) | Frei, Heinrich (CH) | Friedens- und Zukunftswerkstatt (DE) | Hedberg, Stina (FI) | Hensel, Christina (DE) | Hoffmann, Jürgen (DE) | Hudjins, Janet (CA) | Höger, Inge (DE) | Indian Institute for Peace, Disarmament & Environmental Protection (IN) | Institute for People's Engagement (US) | International Association of Lawyers against Nuclear Arms (IALANA) (DE) | International Eurasia Press Fund (IEPF) (AZ) | International Federation of the Resistance Fighters - Association of the Anti-Fascists International (FIR) (Int.) | International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility (INES) (DE) | International Network "No to War - no to Nato" (Int.) | International Philosophers for Prevention of Nuclear Omnicide (Int.) | International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War - Boston (IPPNW) | International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War - German Chamber (IPPNW) (DE) | Iskenius, Ernst-Ludwig (DE) | Karch, Kristine (DE) | Kelly, Kathryn (AU) | Khdar, Kareem (IR) | Klötzer, Natalie, Ralf and Ulla (FI) | Kresse, Theresa (DE) | Kreutz, Daniel (DE) | Krieger, David (US) | Kuznick, Peter (US) | Kükler, Marion (DE) | LaForge, John (US) | Launokari, Lea (FI) | Lentz, Ekkehard (DE) | Lightfoot, Danielle (US) | Lovrekevic, Davorka (DE) | Madassamy, Guinness (IN) | Magnusson, Tomas (SE) | Matriyana Buddhist Community (AR) | Malekzadeh Peace Museum (IR) | Harrickville Peace Group (AU) | Mason, Peggy (CA) | Massachusetts Peace Action (US) | Meihuizen, Roel (NE) | Movement for the Abolition of War (MAW) (GB) | Munich Peace Movement (DE) | Musella, Domenico (IT) | Native Organizers Alliance (US) | Naturwissenschaftler*innen - Initiative "Verantwortung für Frieden und Zukunftsfähigkeit" (NatWiss) (DE) | Naerland, Tore (NO) | Neu, Alexander (DE) | New Jersey Peace Action (US) | Niepel, Frank (DE) | Nivet, Roland (FR) | Nonviolence International (UA) | Nouakchott Solidarité Association (MR) | Nuclear Ban (US) | Nuke Watch (US) | Ollvain, Michèle (FR) | Passanti, Cecilia (GB) | Peace Action (US) | PeaceMomo (KR) | Peace Quest Cape Breton (CA) | Peace Union (FI) | Peil, Karl-Heinz (DE) | People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD) (KR) | Physicians for Social Responsibility - Kansas City (US) | Physicians for Social Responsibility - San Francisco Bay Area Chapter (SFPSR) (US) | Physicians for Social Responsibility - Wisconsin (US) | Project Group "Churches Against Nuclear Weapons" (Christians from the regional churches in Baden, Bavaria, Hesse-Nassau, Kurhessen-Waldeck, the Palatinate, the Rhineland and Württemberg, as well as from the Catholic peace movement Pax Christi) (DE) | Quistorp, Eva (DE) | Ramirez, Gloria (MX) | Reardon, Betty (US) | Reynolds, Sally and Tim (GB) | Rideau Institute (CA) | Riesinger, Bernd (DE) | Ronnenfeld, Clemens (DE) | RootsAction (US) | Rosen, Alex (DE) | Ross, Jerald (US) | Rouy, Alain (FR) | Ryan, Vanessa (US) | RüstungsInformationsBüro (RIB) (DE) | Scarry, Elaine (US) | Schmid, Volker (DE) | Schneider, Marion (DE) | Scholz, Helmut (DE) | Schöbel, Frieder (DE) | Scientists for Global Responsibility (GB) | Shannon, Paul (US) | Shephard, Katharine (DE) | Sichelshmiede (DE) | Stahl, Henry (DE) | Storaker, Aslak (NO) | Suomen Raunnonpuolustajat (FI) | Sustainable Peace and Development Organization (PK) | Society of Friends (US) | Swanson, David (US) | Swedish Peace Council (SE) | The University of Toledo (US) | Tufts University (US) | Ullah, Subhan (PK) | United for Peace and Justice (US) | Unterstützung internationaler Kommunikation kritischer Wissenschaftler*innen und Ingenieur*innen (Kriwi) (DE) | Villard, Pierre (FR) | Vine, David (US) | Vogler, Kathrin (DE) | Volkmann, Jörn-Hinrich (DE) | von Sponeck, Hans-Christof (DE) | Webb, Dave (GB) | Webber, Philip (GB) | Wechsler, Rosemarie (DE) | Weisskirchen, Gert (DE) | Wiri, Lucas (DE) | Women Against Nuclear Power Movement (FI) | Women for Peace (DE) | Women for Peace (FI) | Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) (NO) | Worcester Friends Meeting (US) | World Beyond War (US) | Wright, Ann (US) | Zieske, Lothar (DE) | Zusammenarbeitsausschuss der Friedensbewegung Schleswig-Holstein (DE) |

NO TO NATO: YES TO PEACE & DISARMAMENT COUNTER-SUMMIT

The Campaign for Peace Disarmament and Common Security (CPDCS), a U.S. based IPB member, has been collaborating deeply with our Berlin and Barcelona partners on four major initiatives.

Building from the legacy of the 1980s Palme Commission's Report on disarmament and security issues, which urged Common Security diplomacy to reverse the spiralling U.S.-Soviet arms race, with European and Russian partners, CPDCS has launched work on an international Common Security Statement for the 21st century. A second draft of statement will be completed this spring during symposia and conferences to be held over the course of the coming year.

In partnership with the No to War/No to NATO Network, IPB, and World Beyond War, CPDCS is organizing "NO TO NATO: YES TO PEACE & DISARMAMENT COUNTER-SUMMIT", an International Peace Movement Conference in Washington, D.C. on April 2. The conference will be held two days prior to NATO's 70th anniversary, which coincides with the anniversaries of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination and his seminal "Beyond Vietnam" speech in which he called for overcoming the triple evils of racism, poverty and war.

The conference will serve as a forum to share analysis and raise the U.S. peace movement's awareness of NATO's history and expansion, its development into a global military alliance, its wars and the emergence of a unified and independent European Military and their implications for our movements. We will also highlight campaigns opposing NATO; working to prevent war with Iran; and making the links between peace, justice and environmental campaigning. Speakers will include Phyllis Bennis of the Institute for Policy Studies, Medea Benjamin of Code Pink, Anna Ochkina of the Institute of Globalization and Social Movement in Moscow, Peter Kuznick of American University, Reiner Braun of IPB, Kevin Martin of Peace Action, Kristin

Karch of the No to NATO Network, and David Swanson of World Beyond War.

Stay tuned via:
<https://www.ipb.org/events/counteractions-to-natos-70th-anniversary-washington/>

For more information write:
JGerson80@gmail.com

CPDCS is also collaborating with the American Friends Service Committee in building the U.S. Global Days of Action on Military Spending events across the United States between April 13 and mid-May. A planning group has been pulled together including representatives from the National Priorities Project, World Beyond War, Peace Action affiliates, and U.S. Labour Against War. Plans are moving forward for nationwide webinars, social media outreach, vigils, demonstrations and educational events.

CPDCS' third major initiative is planning for the international conference to be held on the 4th of May during the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty PrepCom in New York. The conference, titled



NATO TURNS 70 2019

NATO turns 70 in 2019 and will celebrate its anniversary in Washington, D.C. on April 4, Martin Luther King Jr. Day and the anniversary of MLK's seminal "Beyond Vietnam" speech in which he called on us to overcome the triple evils of militarism, racism and extreme materialism.

With the end of the Cold War, NATO should have been retired, not repurposed. NATO claims to strive for collective defense and to preserve peace and security. It has never been such a system. It is the world's largest military alliance with the largest military spending and nuclear stockpiles. It is the main driver of the new arms race and the main obstacle to a nuclear weapons-free world. Having expanded across eastern Europe into former Soviet republics with military troops now at Russia's borders, its new nuclear weapons and a first-strike related "missile defense shield," NATO is the key driver of the new Cold War. It has also been transformed into a global military alliance structured to wage "out of area" wars in the Middle East, North Africa and the Middle East."

SPEAKERS INCLUDE

Reiner Braun - Co-President, International Peace Bureau (Berlin)



Anna Ochkina - Institute of Globalization and Social Movements in Moscow



Medea Benjamin - Code Pink



Peter Kuznick - Professor of History, American University



Initiated by: No to War/No to NATO Network, Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security, International Peace Bureau, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung and World Beyond War

For more information see: www.no-to-nato.org E-mail: JGerson80@gmail.com Phone: 617-661-6134



“Growing Nuclear Risks in a Changing World: New Thinking and Movement Building”, is being designed to help movements and activists to understand to the global landscape in the wake of the Post-Cold War era and to help frame movement responses including overcoming rising the worldwide nuclear and high-tech arms races, intensifying U.S.-Russian tensions, growing U.S. pressure on Iran following the Trump Administration’s violation of the Iran nuclear deal, developments in Korea and the Asia-Pacific region. Building the alternative of common security diplomacy will be among the themes of the conference.

The conference is being organized by the Peace & Planet Network with CPDCS, Peace Action and the Western States Legal Foundation in the lead for U.S. organizations, plus IPB and the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung. CPDCS have pulled together a remarkable array of speaker including Daniel Ellsberg, Jackie Cabasso and Andrew Lichterman

of the Western States Legal Foundation, Boris Kargarlitsky of the Institute of Globalization and Social Movement in Moscow, Oleg Bodrov of the Public Council of the South Coast of the Gulf of Finland in St. Petersburg, Taeho Lee of People’s Solidarity for Participatory Democracy in Seoul, Arielle Denis and Reiner Braun of IPB, and with invitations to others pending.

Other CPDCS initiatives have included collaboration with the Overseas Bases Realignment and Reduction Coalition, which issued its open letter urging the closing of foreign military bases at a press conference in Washington, D.C.; speeches and shared analysis about the post Post-Cold War era, diplomacy with Korea, growing tensions with Iran and alternatives to Trump’s interventions in Venezuela’s political crisis. We are looking forward to participating in Gensuikyo’s Bikini Day commemorations and to the March IPB board meeting.

French Organizations Commemorate the Rejection of Nuclear Weapons by the UN in 1946

“On 24 January 1946, the very first resolution of the United Nations General Assembly called for the elimination of atomic weapons. Despite this historic decision, the nuclear-armed States still continue to ignore this call and, on the contrary, are embarking on a new nuclear arms race.

Since the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in 1970, the United Nations initiatives for nuclear disarmament have multiplied, until the adoption by 122 countries on 7 July 2017 of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. In spite of these numerous resolutions and the commitment to nuclear disarmament by the NPT Nuclear-Weapon States (1) enshrined in Article VI of the NPT, those states still reject the goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

While the world stockpiles of nuclear weapons remain staggering, nuclear-armed states are developing new, more sophisticated and usable

nuclear weapons that increase the risk of destruction of humanity caused intentionally (by nuclear war) or unintentionally (by human or technological error).

The threat of such destruction is now ranked among the highest for our planet.

In France, the absence of any objective debate on nuclear weapons suggests to public opinion that they would be an absolute guarantee of security. On the occasion of this anniversary of the first United Nations resolution, our leaders must become aware of the urgency of this situation and put an end to this absurd and suicidal nuclear arms race by finally committing to the path of general, progressive and controlled nuclear disarmament.

Let us remember the statement by Theodore Monod, French scientist and humanist in 1999:

“Nuclear weapon is the accepted end of humanity”.

This statement was signed by (1) AFCDP – French Association of Local Governments for Peace, (2) AMFPGN – French Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, (3) GRIP – Research

and Information Group on Peace and Security, (4) IDN - Initiatives for Nuclear Disarmament, (5) Mouvement de la Paix (6) Pax Christi France and (7) Pugwash France.

You can find the press release in English [here](#) and the original version in French [here](#).

Pax Christi’s New Advocacy Guide

Globally, the Pax Christi network is striving for peace, justice and human rights through advocacy activities from the local level to national and international levels. It has an important added value, as it brings grassroots voices to the public debate and policy levels, uses nonviolent approaches and gives Catholic-inspired views.

The International Secretariat of Pax Christi International has made a new advocacy guide aimed at strengthening the advocacy work of our peace network through explaining what advocacy

is, sharing examples of effective advocacy work by our representatives, members and partners, as well as tips for strategizing. In the annexes, information can be found on how to make a statement, build a social media campaign and prepare a lobby meeting with decision-makers.



This advocacy guide is intended for all—whether you are new to this work or deeply experienced in advocacy and are looking for some good examples. We highlight that the best and most effective way to carry out advocacy work will depend on specific contexts.

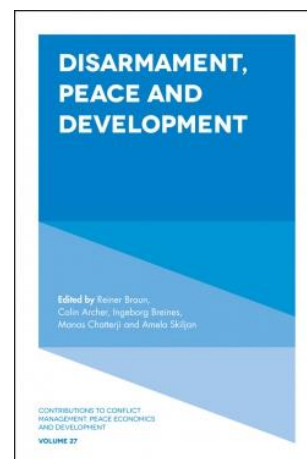
[Click here](#) to see the new Pax Christi International advocacy guide.



Disarmament, Peace and Development Vol: 27

In December the book “[Disarmament, Peace and Development](#)” was published by “Emerald Publishing Limited” and which was edited by Reiner Braun (IPB, Germany), Colin Archer (IPB, UK), Ingeborg Breines (IPB, Norway), Manas Chatterji (Binghamton University – State University of New York, USA), Amela Skiljan (IPB, Germany). It was published in the book series “Contributions to Conflict Management, Peace Economics and Development”. “Excessive military spending reduces the available financial reserves for health, education, and other human needs. For poor countries, it increases poverty, unemployment, and destitution. It also

strengthens dictatorial tendencies in politics and acts against democratic values. If we want to achieve peace, eliminate poverty, decrease inequality, and achieve social justice, we should devote all our energies to reducing military spending and using the released resources for economic development. For that, we need a concerted effort to encourage disarmament.



This new volume provides reflections and insights from leading public figures and activists who oppose military expenditure in any form. Many of the contributions to this volume were presented as speeches at the 'Disarm! For a Climate of Peace' meeting held in Berlin in 2016,

organized by the International Peace Bureau. The volume also includes additional research-oriented chapters to complement the transcripts from the International Peace Bureau meeting."

The book can be found [here](#).

"An Open Letter to the United States: Stop Interfering in Venezuela's Internal Politics"

[Noam Chomsky](#), recipient of the Seán MacBride Peace Prize in 2017 and world famous linguist and foreign policy analyst, alongside with Laura Carlsen, Miguel Tinker Salas and Greg Grandin published an open letter to the US that called to "[Stop Interfering in Venezuela's Internal Politics](#)". This letter is "signed by 70 scholars on Latin America, political science, and history as well as filmmakers, civil society leaders, and other experts". The essence of this letter is that "if the Trump administration and its allies continue to pursue their reckless course in Venezuela, the most likely result will be bloodshed,

chaos, and instability." This open letter takes a strong stance against the imperialist ambitions of the White House and demands that the state integrity of Venezuela should not be violated for economic interests of any country.



Abolition 2000 Webinar on "Preserve the INF Treaty"

On the 17th of January, 2019, the Coordination Committee of [Abolition 2000](#) hosted a webinar on the subject of the imminent unilateral withdrawal from the INF Treaty by the United States of America. The video of this webinar can be found [here](#) and each individual presentation can be found under the names of the guest speakers.

The expert speakers of this webinar were Andrew Lichterman (USA) from the Western States Legal Foundation, Regina Hagen (Germany), from the Abolition 2000 Germany Section, Dave Webb (UK) from the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and Pavel Podvig (Russia) from the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, hosted and introduced by Jackie Cabasso.

Nearly 150 people, from Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Czech Republic, Germany, Finland, France, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, Scotland, Sweden, U.S., UK, and Russia registered for the webinar. (The largest number was from the US.) About 50 participants heard presenters from the U.S., Russia, Germany and the UK discuss the history and significance of the INF Treaty and the importance of working to preserve it.



Ingeborg Breines, an opinion piece on “Martin Luther King: It is non-violence or it is non-existence”.

“Some of us would remember exactly where we were on the day 50 years back when Martin Luther King Jr. was murdered so hideously. Very few “survive” being killed in the way that Martin Luther King has done. The civil rights movement and the struggle against racism are forever linked to his name, his words and his deeds. As we mark the 50th anniversary of his death it is of high value to have this collective reflection in order to look more deeply into what his legacy means, and may mean, in the 21 Century.

Even though his name may be most strongly linked to the fight against racial segregation, his opposition to war and encouragement of non-violence remain of great inspiration. His criticism of the Vietnam War, of the drafting of young, colored men from disadvantaged families and the role of the military industrial complex, made him a very central person for “the 68-generation”. Those in this generation with links to the Hippie movement were particularly receptive to dreams about a new and more just society, less hierarchical and less authoritarian, without war and based on love and equal possibilities

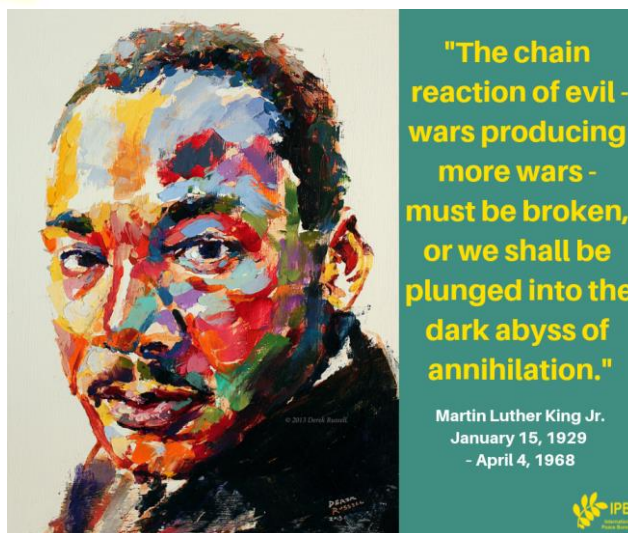
In his memorable speech in Memphis on the eve of his death, Martin Luther King expressed in clear terms the urgency and necessity of non-violence: ‘Men for years now have been talking about war and peace. Now no longer can they just talk about it. It is no longer a choice between violence and non-violence in this world, it is non-violence or non-existence”.

This urgency is felt very strongly today by all who are angry and frustrated when decision- makers, again and again, fail to acknowledge that we human beings share one beautiful, but fragile, planet and that we need to find common answers to the various challenges facing us. Instead, we see confrontation, injustice, competition and rapid militarization. War has not yet been made illegal and more people than ever have to migrate away from war zones, barren land and lack of

opportunities. Naïvely, mainstream politicians continue to give priority to military “solutions” that in fact only aggravate the situation. And the peace movement has not yet any real success in the struggle to reduce excessive military expenditure, devastating military pollution and misuse of natural resources. We are all pondering as to how to get our priorities right – how to become a sufficiently strong force for peace, sustainable development and non-violence.

The world is misusing its resources, financial and intellectual, for military purposes. We need to move the money and instead tackle the real security issues such as the threat to the very survival of the planet and humanity, be it by climate change, environmental degradation, nuclear weapons or quickly widening inequality gap. Former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon stated the obvious that “the world is over-armed, and peace is underfunded.

There is a clear line from Martin Luther King’s Ghandi- inspired non-violence and the hippie generation’s anti-war position to the culture of peace initiative launched by UNESCO in the 1990ies. The hope behind the culture of peace initiative was, with the end of the cold war, to finally be able to build trust, bridges and cooperation instead of pointing at others as being



different and potentially dangerous enemies. The year 2000 was symbolically made the International Year for a Culture of Peace. The vision was to enter the new Millennium with a major peace dividend to build lasting peace, to be consolidated by the *Decade for a culture of peace and non-violence for the children of the world* (2001 – 2010). Youth organizations, women's organizations, peace organizations, teachers, artists and others joined in. More than 70 million people signed the UNESCO Manifesto on a culture of peace promising to: respect all life, reject violence, share with others, listen to understand, preserve the planet and rediscover solidarity, thereby giving evidence to people's longing for peace.

The 11. September 2001 attacks changed the scenario. Since then the world's attention and resources have been geared towards a misguided war on terror, giving an excuse for strong military build-ups. For our security, as they say. What a dangerous illusion! As the youngest ever Nobel peace laureate Malala says: You may kill a terrorist with weapons, but you can kill terrorism with education. It should be obvious by now that nobody can win a war on terror or solve any deep disagreement by military means. Daring to start a conflict that could end with a new world war risks ruining the only habitable planet we know about. It would be the breakdown of humanism – the potential end of humanity. The military is inadequate in guaranteeing our safety and the cleanness of the air, the water and the land. The main challenges today are linked to human security.

The International Peace Bureau, the oldest, functioning international peace organisation, has for several years struggled to influence political and economic decision-makers through the program Disarmament for Development (DforD). IPB presented an Action Agenda at the disarmament congress in Berlin in 2015: *Disarm! For a Climate of Peace* in order to help build a broader movement for a major transformative shift away from the present priority on the military sector in favour of the social and human

sector. IPB suggested that all countries reduce their military spending by 10% per year over the 15 years of the UN Development Agenda (2016-2030) and use the resources to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals that all world leaders have agreed to. Although that would not change any power imbalance, which also should be done, it would go a very long way in meeting people's needs and aspirations. But we are not there. On the contrary, as NATO member states we are supposed to spend two percent of our GDP for military purposes.

Excessive military expenditures not only represent a theft from those who are hungry and suffer, but are also an ineffective means of obtaining human security and a culture of peace. Substantial reductions in military costs could eliminate the crushing poverty whereby nearly one-third of humanity lives in insufferable conditions, a majority being women, children and young people. Since one year of military spending equals about 615 years of the UN annual budget, such a reduction in military costs would also strengthen the United Nations' efforts and possibilities to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war".

Rich and poor states alike seem to be pressured into arms races, spending more on armament than they need and can afford. To continue a process of militarization, often outside democratic control, that mainly serves the arms



"The supreme task is to organize and unite people so that their anger becomes a transforming force."

Ingeborg Breines
former IPB Co-President & former director of UNESCO



producers and dealers and even brings corruption, is a dangerous path that will not bring hope to young people in desperation. In order to move towards just and peaceful societies, we need to address the root causes of conflicts, not only the symptoms. Globalization, with supranational entities and multi-national corporations, has brought new challenges also to the UN that may necessitate a broadening of both international laws and regulations and the relevant institutions.

The fact that the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has made prevention and disarmament his top priorities is encouraging. It should bring new possibilities for the peace movement to join forces with the UN in an effective way. It is insane when the world, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, SIPRI, spends more than 1.7 trillion dollars a year on military expenditure leaving insufficient resources to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.

More than 100 billion dollars of these resources are devoured by nuclear weapons, whose production, modernization and use should be ruled out on military, political, legal, ecological and moral grounds. Member States of the UN are called upon to sign and ratify the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. With a normative instrument against nuclear weapons in place, as we have for other weapons of mass destruction, we would be able to start a real security process of destruction of the most dangerous weapons ever made. How to do it in technical terms is not obvious and requires brainpower. We cannot but feel pity for the nine nuclear states and those who are under the so-called nuclear umbrella, for having such devastating arms in their possession, creating fear also among their own population.

Instead of seeking potential enemies, existing military forces should be retrained to fight global climate change and environmental degradation, which warrants urgent remedial actions and a holistic approach. In order to do so, we need to

find ways to change attitudes and rethink unsustainable and destructive production and consumption patterns. The military's ability to create jobs is not an excuse for keeping a system that, paradoxically, is undermining the security of both humanity and the planet. Besides, recent research projects have shown that a job in the military in general costs the society two-three times the cost of an average job in the civil sector.

It is important to bring also young people on board in advancing the culture of peace. That can best be facilitated by relevant peace education in its widest sense. This and other positive social purposes are however difficult to achieve as long as our resources are devoured by military expenditure. UN Security Council's resolution 2250 on Youth, peace and security, a follow up to UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, peace and security, requires of UN Member States that they support youth-led conflict-prevention and peace-building programs and urges states to support youth violence prevention and encourages investment in the promotion of a culture of peace.

Quality education, including learning to live peacefully together and tackle conflicts and disappointments without resorting to violence, should be the order of the day – from early childhood to higher education. In the current situation we may have to give particular attention to young men who feel that what life offers is not in accordance with their expectations. They may feel that globalization, neoliberal growth models and also the quest for gender equality have undermined their work possibilities and dominant positions in the family, in working life and in politics. These groups of men are already, and may become even more so, a risk factor both for themselves and for society. They may seek adherence to fundamentalist gangs or groups where there are possibilities both to use force and have a supporting peer community that they have difficulties in finding elsewhere in society.

One important thing that our generation can do for these young people and for generations to come is to provide healthy, democratic,

participatory opportunities for and with them. We can ask the young people of Colombia, Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Yemen, Libya or other countries if they want peace, human rights, justice and equal opportunities. Listening to them, it seems obvious that we have to use all the tools in our toolbox to help them make their visions and dreams of a world without war come true.

We need to listen carefully and empathically to Martin Luther King's famous dream and also echo the words of Bertha von Suttner, who was the one who inspired Alfred Nobel to make a prize for champions of peace, when she in her book *Down with the weapons* states that we need to develop "an active disgust for war". In fact, war should be criminalized and put in the dustbin of history as something human beings undertook in their less mature stage.

The path of confrontational policies and accompanying militarization we are on is not leading us ahead. The UN Action Plan for a Culture of Peace must now come into full use. Let it reinvigorate international organizations and Member States alike! And let us state with Martin Luther King, with insight and in righteous indignation:

The supreme task is to organize and unite people so that their anger becomes a transforming force."

Ingeborg Breiner is a former IPB Co-President and former Director of UNESCO.