

Current fields of action

Nonviolent intervention in international crises

Having established the “*Civilian Peace Service*” as addition to development cooperation, BSV also works together with the international organisation *Nonviolent Peaceforce* and supports its work towards non-violent intervention on a greater scale (www.nonviolent-peaceforce.de).

Furthermore, BSV supports peace organisations in Israel/Palestine and Iraq to strengthen non-violent action on a local level. Therefore, we have established cooperation with a number of organisations in the area, for example with *LaOnf* in Iraq.

In Belarus, we cooperate with *Our House* – a network of local human rights defenders- in order to establish a bottom-up democracy with a non-violent and emancipated Belarusian civil society.

On European level, we support the work of *EN.CPS – European Network for Civil Peace Services* and of the *European Peace building Liaison Office (EPLO)*. Our common goals are to develop European Peace Service and to integrate civil peace action into the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union. In order to achieve these goals, we promote lobby work, e.g. holding public discussions with candidates for the EU Parliament during the 2009 election.

Promoting peace and resisting the military

BSV supports the *Cooperation for Peace* and takes part in current campaigns against armament, military and military interventions. We promote the development of civil concepts and capabilities for civil conflict intervention in press releases, conferences and our own publications. In addition to that, we publicly accuse the waste of resources on war expenses that are supposed to go into keeping of the peace.

Education for a non-violent society

In the educational field, we organise networking between schools all over the country and the development of projects of dispute settlement during biannual

conferences (www.streitschlichtungskongress.de). By distributing posters and trainings we have been supporting the spreading and use of the innovative *No-Blame Approach* against discrimination.

In addition, we tour through German schools with experts and activists to discuss peace-related topics.

Being the Federation for Social Defence, we stand for a culture of non-violent conflict resolution within a society. Consequently, we strongly focus our work on the foundation and qualification of local networks and the expertise connected to the project “Constructive Conflict Resolution in the Communal Environment in NRW” that we organised in cooperation with similarly oriented associations between 2002 and 2006.

Regarding the transformation of complex group conflicts, we work on establishing the French concept of *Thérapie Sociale* in Germany, because this approach combines therapeutic intervention and intercultural qualification with a concept of participative neighbourly development.

In addition, we work on exchange and further development of training concepts with a number of partner organisations on European level. With financial support by the federal government, we support the introduction of a curriculum for constructive conflict resolution in teacher trainings in Belarus.

Work groups within BSV

- Educational Work for a Nonviolent Society
- BSV 2.0 (promote peace and the BSV with the help of new media)
- Peace Tax (e.g. lobbyism on federal level to achieve respective legislature)
- Department for Peace Work and Nonviolent Dispute Settlement membership corporation (research institute)
- Israel/Palestine, Iraq (work on the cooperation with Palestinian and Iraqi partner organisations)
- Nonviolent Peaceforce (international association with more than 90 member organisations, very active in peace work)
- Social Defence (active against cutbacks in social areas)

Federation for Social Defence

Bund für Soziale Verteidigung - BSV

**transform conflicts non-
violently
abolish military and armament**

The Federation for Social Defence

The Federation for Social Defence, originally "Bund für Soziale Verteidigung" or abbreviated "BSV", is an independent non-governmental organisation based in Germany that unites people and organisations of pacifistic and antimilitaristic conviction. Some of these organisations have also taken special responsibility for the political development of BSV.

BSV was founded in 1989 in the follow-up of a big conference on social and civilian-based defence, held in Minden in 1988, in order to have an organisation to promote social defence and to work for total disarmament. Its office is located in Minden/Westphalia close to the train track connecting Bielefeld and Hannover.

Social defence

BSV considers social any kind of defence of institutions and values of society with non-violent methods. Basic to the concept is pacifist resistance to suppression, exploitation, military force and the violation of human rights on a global level. Anybody supporting the idea of Social Defence as a new method to deal with conflicts even on a greater scale has the vision of the coexistence of peoples and nations in social justice and mutual respect.

Excerpt from the Declaration of Minden, 1988:

"The Federation for Social Defence is a union of people who share the conviction that it is time to enforce non-violent methods of conflict resolution, to abolish relations of power and to create an ecologically sustainable and even-handed society free of military force."

Results of our work so far

- Development of the concept of a civilian peace service, followed by the formation of the "Forum for Civilian Peace Service" (forum ZFD)
- Assistance to and support of a four-months long qualification course in civil conflict resolution for people who want to serve as peace keepers abroad
- Founding and support of the Balkan Peace Team (1994-2001) which, years before the war in Kosovo, supported dialogue between ethnic groups in conflict and the protection of human rights in the former Republic of Yugoslavia
- Several publications:
 - "Background- and discussion papers" on mediation programmes at schools, non-violent campaigns, pacifism and resistance against the military etc. as well as informational booklets for multipliers working with young people
 - information material on social defence, civil conflict resolution, non-violent intervention etc.
 - books; recently: Johan Galtung et al: New Ways towards Peace
 - quarterly newsletter "SOCIAL DEFENCE"
- Integration and qualification of hundreds of multipliers in North Rhine- Westphalian communities ("Wege aus der Gewalt" – "Moving away from violence")
- Development of municipal concepts of action and analyses of conflicts
- Active participation in campaigns against war and military
- Implementation of the campaign "Vorrang für Zivil" ("Priority for Civil...") in order to achieve a revision of societal thinking about military force and military peace policies.

Bank account:

Bund für Soziale Verteidigung, Sparkasse Minden-Lübbecke (BLZ 490 501 01), Account no. 89 42 0814

Membership and how to support us

I want to learn more about the Federation for Social Defence and its projects. Please send me the quarterly published newsletter "Social Defence" and the e-mail newsletter without any obligation.

Name, First name: _____

Address: _____

Private phone: _____

Business Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Date of birth: _____

Occupation: _____

I would like to become member of the Federation for Social Defence and will pay a membership fee of _____ (50 EURO p.a. minimum, please contact us to learn about possibilities of reduction)

I would like to support the Federation for Social Defence by donations, and commit myself to a monthly/quarterly/yearly payment of _____ EURO.

I hereby allow BSV to debit the amount above mentioned from my

account number: _____

bank: _____

identification number: _____

Withdrawal of the permission is possible at any time.

Place, date: _____

Signature: _____

Please send your reply to :

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Schwarzer Weg 8
32423 Minden

Phone: 0571-29456 (Mo.-Fri. 9h-15h), fax: 0571-23019

E-mail: info@soziale-verteidigung.de