

## Short report on activities of BSV since London Council 2017



BSV has three main themes in its work:

1<sup>st</sup> International Non-Violent Intervention

2<sup>nd</sup> Peace Education in Germany

3<sup>rd</sup> Pacifism and Antimilitarism

Regarding the first theme we just finished and evaluated on Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping which aimed to inform people (mainly, but not only from peace organizations) and politicians about the concept of Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping that is practised all over the world by numerous organizations like Nonviolent Peaceforce, PBI, Christian Peacemakers and others.

We produced some flyers, articles, an exhibition (“Effective without weapons”), had a special bulletin on that topic in a peace science magazine and we had incorporated the topic into a public hearing of the Subcommittee on Civil Crisis Prevention, Conflict Transformation and Networked Actions of the German Parliament (with Rachel Julian, peace researcher from Leeds University, Tiffany Easthom, Nonviolent Peaceforce, and Alexander Hug, OSCE monitoring mission Ukraine). This year, Tiffany also was present at the Peace Conference organized as alternative to Munich Security Conference in February 2018, did a lecture in Karlsruhe as well as in Berlin (Bread for the World, Parliament).

All these events, some more contacts with parliamentarians and the participation in an internet platform on foreign and security policies run by German Foreign Ministry supposedly helped reaching a quote on the tool of Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping in an official Policy Paper called “Prevent Crisis, Solve Conflicts, Consolidate Peace – Guidelines of the Government”, page 21:

*The German Government supports the development of civil concepts (...) as was proposed by the High-Level Independent Panel on United Nations Peace Operations. For this it enhances especially the concept of Civilian Peacekeeping as a proven tool to protect humans against violence and severe human rights violations. (my own translation)*

BSV will continue its work for Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping with the goal to really implement this proposition by actively supporting projects of this kind of work, e.g. by Nonviolent Peaceforce and other organizations financially (at best at the expense on military budgets – but even if not so). Moreover we still support the civil rights movement “Our House” in Belarus.

Not to forget of course the joint project by WRI on Turkey in which BSV (or say especially Christine Schweitzer) is engaged, together with other German affiliate, Connection, and IFOR Austria as well as former WRI staff, Andreas Speck, and WRI exec member, Hulya Upcinar.

Regarding Peace Education we have begun a project “Peace goes Mainstream” which aimed to produce material for young people on non-violent alternatives to military conflict work. We have produced a video and a comic as well as a simulation on coltan production in DR Congo.

Now we have a new staff person on that project so we will see what will come next.

Another big project is “Love Storm”, which seeks to counter hate speech and mobbing in social media. One of the four staff members is David Scheuing, representative of DFG-VK in WRI.

Regarding Pacifism and Antimilitarism work against arms trade is one of the main items which – at least is one of the focal points of the work of some exec members of BSV. In May there is a big relay race going around a whole week from Oberndorf in South West Germany (Headquarter of “Heckler & Koch”) to Berlin. This is part of the campaign “Action Outcry – Stop Arms Trade” that I introduced in workshops in WRI conferences in Seoul 2015 as well as in London 2017. If possible we still are engaged in the activities at German nuclear weapon base Büchel.

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