

INTERNATIONAL UNIONS AND PEACE.
GIVE PEACE A CHANCE.
TOGETHER FOR PEACE.
VIENNA. JUNE 19 2022.
PHILIP JENNINGS CO PRESIDENT IPB.

Dear Friends,
The TUC is the trade union centre in the UK.

At its London headquarters they have a large courtyard graced by an imposing Epstein statue.

A statue of a woman carrying a dead child in her arms – it serves as a moving and daily reminder of the human costs of war.

It speaks to our movement to never give up our struggle for peace.

Peace is union business it is not marginal to our goals.

Examine union constitutions and you will find in the early sentences a clear commitment to peace, against war, against weapons of mass destruction, against militarization, against the war mongers.

To the union movement peace is not just about the absence of war.

Our policies go way beyond.

We are organizations that see a continuum of policies and action for peace.

We are practitioners for peace in the broadest sense.

With war in Ukraine we must go back to these core values, bring new energy and thinking as we are called once again to reimagine peace.

We see a world on edge.

In 2022 humanity faces the existential threats of nuclear war, climate change and pandemics.

This is compounded by a toxic mix inequality, extremism, nationalism, gender violence and shrinking democratic space.

How humanity responds to these threats will decide our very survival.

We must not be found wanting.

The global security system is teetering on the edge.

As the UN Secretary General's report Our Common Agenda says:
`Humanity faces a stark and urgent choice: breakdown or breakthrough`.

With the war in Ukraine, we have breakdown.

Global unions, the peace movement, the climate activists must build a new powerful coalition for change.

There is much that unites us.

We reject economic and political violence against people.

We reject the climate violence against our planet and say there are no jobs on a dead planet.

We reject the fascists, xenophobes, the racists, and their far-right political machines.

We reject violence against women.

We call for a world free of nuclear weapons for disarmament and arms control.

The doomsday clock is 100 seconds to midnight the closest in history.

The urgency of now is upon us and as MLK said `There comes a time when silence is betrayal`.

We are not silent.

We have a global trade union movement a strong centre in the ITUC, influential regional structures in Africa, Americas and the Asia and Pacific.

In Europe the ETUC.

In each sector we have global union federations.

Representative, active, solidarity in action every day.

Committed to building a world order based on human needs, for human security.

We make things happen.

But I bring you a warning we face a war against us that is resourced, politically driven with governments and business combining to bring our movement to its knees.

109 countries impede the registration of unions.

87% of countries have violated the right to strike.

79% of countries have violated the right to collective bargaining.

74% of countries excluded workers from the right to establish and join a trade union.

Workers experienced arbitrary arrests and detention in 68 countries.

A war against us on many fronts and nations and in the end its people and peace that suffer.

The latest is Byelorussia where the union stand against war is met with an iron military fist and in Myanmar where leaders and activists butchered, arrested, and tortured.

But we are not beaten.
We defy.
We continue to organize.
We say no justice no peace.
No peace no justice.

Our international and national movements in their history have taken courageous stands and waged campaigns for peace.

Peace activism has characterized our movement.

Demonstrations against war, strikes against war.

May Day rallies for Peace.

Boycotts, sanctions, embargoes, refusal to transfer arms, hunger strikes, peace camps, pickets, pacifism.

Engagement in peace processes, recovery, and reconstruction. Pushing peace education. For just conversion and a just transition.

Campaigns against escalating military expenditure, questioning the military industry complex, against nuclear weapons, agitating for a peace dividend.

Policies for disarmament and development.

Pro-democracy demonstrations in the street for gun controls.

Pushing for a renewed multilateralism.

We demand a new social contract, and a new dialogue of peace to replace the narrative and consequences of militarization and strategic competition.

Our history has so many examples.

At the end of the first world war, the Versailles treaty brought with it the creation of the ILO and the world's first social contract the Labour committee was chaired by a union leader.

The origins of the EU today were based on an iron and steel agreement with union involvement, a peace agreement to control production and arms development.

We supported the Helsinki accords and the creation of new institutions for peace and dialogue in Europe.

We supported the new generation of arms control treaties, we support the TPNW, we demand the implementation of the NPT.

We never thought it was the end of history but with instruments like the Paris Treaty the development of the OSCE we thought a new history was being modelled on transparency accountability, regulation, and dialogue.

Now we have war in 60 nations.

We have war in Europe.

The aggressive military invasion of the Russia by Ukraine has pushed the doomsday clock closer to midnight.

The union response has been clear.

For Russia to end this war, a ceasefire, withdrawal of Russian troops, peace talks. We condemn this invasion.

There have been Antiwar protest in many nations.

We denounce the repression in Russia against those who oppose the war in Ukraine.

Welcome the accession process for Ukraine to join the EU.
Support humanitarian corridors.

Welcome all refugees fleeing from Ukraine to put in place adequate measures for relocation, reception, and integration in EU countries.

Support unions in their actions, including strikes, blockades, and other forms of industrial action.

Provided humanitarian assistance.

Mobilise actions for peace.

Practical support for the Ukrainian trade union movement.

To get a fuller picture of union action I recommend you look at the ETUC Peace Watch. It is also welcome that the ETUC have established a Peace Task Force.

We have no choice but to reenergize and push peace as a top priority on the union agenda. It is time to Re imagine Peace.

Just a few weeks ago the Olof Palme Centre with the ITUC and the IPB published a milestone report on Common Security. We created a new Global Commission to mark the anniversary of the original Palme Commission report first published in 1982.

As wars continue, military expenditure breaks two trillion dollars, arms control treaties collapse, superpower rivalry tensions reach new unsafe heights, massive investment in new

weapons systems, an increasing number of and a new generation of nuclear weapons, we felt it was time for us to develop new policy responses.

Its mission critical for our movement.

Ukraine has reminded us of the costs of war.

The UN Global Crisis Response Group on the global impact of the war in Ukraine found in a world still reeling from the pandemic and experiencing sudden climate change that the ability of nations to deal with adversity was already eroded.

Combined with the impact of war on energy and food prices 181 million people are facing a food crisis, 19 million more people face undernourishment, time is running out to meet the 2023 food crisis.

1.6 billion people live in nations severely exposed to at least one dimension of the crisis, 1.2 billion are exposed to all three dimensions of food, energy, and finance crises simultaneously.

We are faced with an unprecedented wave of hunger and destitution.

Our report Common Security 2022: For Our Shared Future, published just a few weeks ago, is our contribution to reframe security and reimagining our world to find an alternative path. When the original report was published in 1982 superpower relations were at rock bottom, military pacts and their million strong armies faced and threatened each other, the risk of nuclear war was high.

The original report concluded

`International security must rest on a commitment to joint survival rather than a threat of mutual destruction`.

The report said there could be no winners in a nuclear war so we must seek security together.

The idea of Common Security emerged.

The report then has a disturbing resonance with 2022.

In the new report we set out a vision for a better world to revitalize the idea of Common Security in doing so we make a series of recommendations focused on four main areas –

1. Strengthen the global architecture for peace.
2. A new peace dividend for disarmament and development.
3. Revitalized Nuclear Arms control and disarmament
4. New military technologies and Outer Space Weapons.
- 5.

We have agreed six new principles for our common global security.

We have suggested a range of ideas on how to strengthen global and regional multilateralism through common security.

We suggest holding a new Helsinki 2 process in 2025, 50 years after the first Helsinki agreement.

Stress the need for strategic stability talks between the USA and Russia ,USA and China strategic dialogue.

For regular UN Peace Conferences on the model of the Conference of the Parties.
To give more power to the General Assembly to avoid individual members paralyzing the UN common security system.

For general and complete disarmament.

To strengthen international law in the area of disarmament, arms control, nonproliferation and the arms trade.

For a new social contract.

We repeat a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought and demand the complete abolition of nuclear weapons.

We say no first use of weapons, promote nuclear free zones to move away from nuclear deterrence paradigm. Bans on cyber-attacks on nuclear command and control systems, prohibition of autonomous weapons systems, strengthen outer space treaties.

To strengthen the international for Women, Peace, and Security by setting a 50% goal for women's participation at all levels of international and peace undertakings.

In closing the trade union movement throughout its history has been committed to peace, the global descent into chaos and war, the breaking of international law, ignoring the UN charter, of military and nuclear escalation of war means we must not be found wanting in this time of all dangers to fight for peace.

Its time to fight for our common global security.

Thankyou.