



Peace by peaceful means

INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE

VIENNA, AUSTRIA – JUNE 10TH/11TH 2023

FINAL PROGRAM

The conference will take place on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th June.

Location:

All the participants will get information about the new venue on Friday.

Inviting Organizations:

International Peace Bureau, CODEPINK, World Assembly of Struggles and Resistances of the World Social Forum, Transform! Europe, Europe for Peace, International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR), Peace in Ukraine, Campaign for Peace Disarmament and Common Security (CPDCS), Prague Spring 2

Local Organizers and Supporters:

AbFaNG (Action Alliance for Peace, active Neutrality and Non-Violence), Institute for Intercultural Research and Cooperation (IIRC), WILPF Austria, IFOR Austria

Want to support the event?

Donate to the event's bank account:

IPS Projektkonto (Förderverein AbFaNG) at ERSTE Bank

IBAN: AT32 2011 1842 6745 2601

BIC/SWIFT: GIBAATWWXXX

or to the International Peace Bureau's Paypal account



(QR Code to Paypal Donations)

Sponsors:

CODEPINK, Transform! Europe, Meeting Destination Vienna

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**Please consider the ongoing updates on the program.
Subsequent changes to the program and speakers may occur.**

Last updated on: 8/06/2023

A call for peace

We condemn the illegal Russian invasion in Ukraine. We are fully aware of NATO's co-responsibility for this long-term conflict as one of many examples of violations of international law. At the same time, we are affected by the consequences this war and all wars have on societies – from injuries and deaths to the long-term deprivation striking the women who are providing vital care even in times of war, fighting for livelihood and peace despite violations of human rights. It is destroying the country's environment and infrastructure, causing rising food and energy prices around the world, exacerbating poverty and hunger – especially in the global South – and threatening the entire world with a nuclear war.

It is time for the weapons to fall silent and for diplomacy to begin to resolve the conflict. We must counter the logic of war with the logic of peace.

Let us gather to discuss the state and the wider context of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, the positions of our various governments, the efforts, obstacles, and opportunities of the various peace movements and most importantly, how we can work more effectively to promote a ceasefire and negotiations, and peaceful solutions as the alternative to war.

Peace is not only the task of states and diplomats but nowadays more and more also of the global civil society. What is urgently needed now is a global movement demanding that all parties stop fighting and start talking. The international support garnered by the International Peace Bureau's Christmas ceasefire appeal, the appeals at the UN General Assembly and by many governments, even comments from some political leaders of Russia and Ukraine show that a window of opportunity may be opening.

Why Vienna?

Austria is a neutral country. It is a "UN City" and the home to the Secretariat of the OSCE (the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe), which had been monitoring the situation in the Donbas since the signing of the Minsk II agreement.

Join the Peace Summit!

It is the responsibility of peace movements all around the world and of all peace-loving peoples to strengthen these efforts. The Vienna Summit for Peace in Ukraine can be a powerful sign of hope and a catalyst for more and stronger peace actions globally.

The future of humanity hangs in the balance;
we must seize the moment before it's too late

Saturday, June 10th

10:00 – 11:00 Opening Session

- Opening music
- Greetings & Welcome:
 - Gerhard Kofler, (AbFaNG, Austria); Rosa Logar, (WILPF, Austria)
 - Sean Conner (IPB)

Video Greetings

- Noam Chomsky (USA)
- Cardinal Álvaro Leonel Ramazzini Imeri (Guatemala)

11:00 – 12:30 Plenary: Actions for Negotiations and a Ceasefire

The plenary will focus on the current situation in Ukraine and how to shift the narrative from war and military support to a peaceful resolution and common security. This includes questions on the role of governments and civil society as well as arguments against and for a ceasefire followed by negotiations and a peace plan.

Speakers

- Jeffrey Sachs (Professor at Columbia University and Pontifical Academy, USA)
- David Choquehuanca (Vice-president of Bolivia)
- Anuradha Chenoy (Former Professor at Jawaharlal University, India)
- Ann Wright (Former US Colonel and Diplomat) and video from Dennis Kucinich (Member of the US House of Representatives)

Moderator: Niamh Aine Ni Bhriain (TNI, Ireland)

12:30 – 13:00 Short Break

Saturday, afternoon

13:00– 14:15

Plenary: Civil Society Movement and Peace Voices against the War from Russia and Ukraine

With the support of the Rosa-Luxemburg Stiftung



Speakers

- Oleg Bodrov (Public Council of the South Coast of the Gulf of Finland, Russia)
- Asya Gagieva (Activist, Russia)
- Nina Potarska (WILPF, Ukraine)
- Karyna Radchenko (Partnership for Advancing Innovative Sustainability, Ukraine)
- Yurii Sheliazhenko (Ukrainian Pacifist Movement, Ukraine)
- Olga Karach (Director of the Center for Civil Initiatives "Our House", Belarus)

Moderators: Heidi Meinzolt (Germany) and Leo Gabriel (Prague Spring 2 Network, Austria)

14:15 – 15:15 Lunch Break

15:15 – 17:15 Working Groups

(A detailed description of the working groups is given on the next pages)

17:00

Welcome 'Hiking for Peace' in the entrance hall

17:30 – 18:30

Outcome of the working groups

18:30 – 20:00 Voices for Peace

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| • Fabio Alberti (Italy) | • Kate Hudson (UK) |
| • Baroness Ako-Adounvo (Ghana) | • Jan Kavan (Czech Republic) |
| • Ellen Barfield (USA) | • Tamara Lorincz (Canada) |
| • Medea Benjamin (USA) | • Chloé Meulewaeter (Spain) |
| • Kai Frithjof Brand-Jacobsen (Romania) | • Sylvie Jacqueline Ndongmo (Cameroon) |
| • Annette Brownlie (Australia) | • Binalakshmi Nepram (India) |
| • Gianpiero Cofano (Italy) | • Alain Rouy (France) |
| • Colectivo Un Llamado por La Paz (Costa Rica) | • Annemarie Sancar (Switzerland) |
| • Simo Endre (Hungary) | • Verena Winiwarter (Austria) |
| • Phill Gittins (UK) | • Tatjana Zdanoka (Lithuania) |

Chair: Katerina Anastasiou (Transform! Europe) and Reiner Braun (IPB)

Working Groups

Analysis of the nature and context of this war

1 What is this war about? A multi-perspective analysis

- Convener: Ludo de Brabander (Vrede)

The war in Ukraine that ostensibly began as an internal nationalist conflict nine years ago, took on an international dimension from the outset. In this workshop, we will discuss the root causes and context of the current war in Ukraine which escalated heavily as a result of the Russian invasion more than a year ago. It is important to address all layers of the violent conflict to achieve a lasting peace solution.

2 Dynamics of war and the nuclear threat

- Convener: Fabian Hämmerle (ICAN Austria)

Nuclear threats are an integral part of this conflict. This workshop will take a look on how nuclear weapons and the threat of their use shape the conflict, but also on dangers regarding Nuclear Power Plants and the disappearance of fissile material. Further, an overview of various relevant international and bilateral treaties regarding nuclear weapons will be presented. These basics should help the participants to engage in the general discussion at the end.

Initiatives to stop the war and working towards peace

3 Voices from inside the war

- Convener: Lisa Clark and Sergio Bassoli (Europe for Peace)

Presentation of civil society initiatives to achieve a ceasefire, to stop (the) war, to work towards peace during war. The speakers will share with us experiences of solidarity, reconciliation and peacebuilding during and after (the) war. Experiences, (re)constructing peaceful coexistence between different ethnicities/nationalities in post-war situations. Contributions and proposals for all kinds of peacebuilding projects and actions will be collected.

4 Peace proposals – a critical assessment

- Convener: Emily Molinari (IPB) and Reiner Braun (IPB)

A collection of several peace proposals that have been made public at the international and national level in recent months will be presented initially and critically reflected. Following this, ideas for a proposal focusing mainly on ceasefire and negotiations will be presented, and space will be opened for general discussion. The purpose is to give voice to the various attendees, listen to different points of view so and fuel a dialogue on how sustainable peace can be achieved.

5 The role of civil society, feminist perspectives and approaches on the way to peace

- Convener: Rosa Logar (WILPF Austria), Annemarie Sancar (PWAG)

For too long, patriarchy, militarism and neoliberalism are dominating the society with powerful narratives that often hamper and block initiatives for peace. The feminist perspective has been largely missing in the discussions on conflict and sustainable peace. Lasting peace requires feminist perspectives and approaches: in the workshop activists from women's NGOs and civil society initiatives will share their experiences and recommendations and discuss joined actions for peace.

6 The geostrategic transformations

- Convener: Cora Fabros (AEPF) and Leo Gabriel (Prague Spring 2)

The roots of the long-lasting conflict between Russia and the Ukraine lead us right away to the most extensive geopolitical conflict since the end of the Cold War. This working group will discuss the consequences of the polarization between the NATO alliance and the so-called Eurasian Block. What does this war mean for the countries of the Global South versus the European Union and what are the possibilities for a political solution under a global perspective?

7 Post-war lessons: The new peace architecture for Europe

- Convener: Alessandra Fontanella (IPB) and Sean Conner (IPB)

This workshop approaches the theme of common security and the OSCE call to action: Reaffirming a Common Purpose as part of the Helsinki +50 initiative. Our aim is to address the question of what shape a new peace architecture for Europe should take, whilst considering the integral roles that civil society can play within this framework. Moreover, we will explore which necessary preconditions should be implemented to pave the way for the new architecture to thrive. Introductory speakers will be followed by creative brainstorming and discussions in small groups.

8 Rediscovering peace

- Convener: Mattia Donati (Comunità di Sant'Egidio) and Massimiliano Franco (ACLI Youth)

The aim of this workshop is to strengthen the connections among young people and youth organizations against war and to promote more peace initiatives at the European and international level, also in solidarity with young pacifists and conscientious objectors from Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. This will be done by mapping and exploring the common conditions and resources for youth-led peace initiatives, valuing the crucial role of young people and youth organizations as "active agents of peace" also in line with the UN Youth, Peace and Security Agenda.

9 Living with war, struggling for peace

The (violation of the) right of conscientious objection to military service during the Russian-Ukrainian war

- Convener: Yurii Sheliashenko (WRI) and Zaira Zafarana (MIR Italy)

Starting from a brief overview of the current situation – through first hand testimonies – participants are welcome to exchange views on the exercising of the right to refuse to kill and nonviolent resistance to war and peace building. Possible ways to effectively support this human right will be addressed as well as actions in solidarity with those who are persecuted and criminalized because of their conscientious objection. The #ObjectWarCampaign and other initiatives to protect conscientious objectors will be presented and further discussed.

Sunday, June 11th

09:30 – 11:30 Pathways to Peace

In the opening plenary session (10') the conveners explain the procedure and present the two questions which will be discussed in 8 groups with moderators each. Formats are whisper groups and loud thinking. After the first groups work (30'), thoughts will be shared and discussed in the plenary (30'). After a break, the second question will be discussed in the groups (30'), then the key findings are shared again in plenary. After a closing round on shared pathways to peace, the conveners explain the idea of a DeFile as a bridge to the final plenary session of the symposium.

Conveners: Heidi Meinzolt (WILPF, Germany) and Annemarie Sancar (PWAG, Switzerland)

11:30 – 12:15 Light Lunch

12:15 – 13:45 Panel Discussion

Dialogue of politicians and social movements for negotiations and a ceasefire – Acting together for peace!

- Video from Lula da Silva, President of Brazil
- Video from Wang Danning (Charhar Institut, China)

Speakers

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| • Michael von der Schulenburg
(former UN diplomat, Germany) | • Father Alejandro Solalinde
(Hermanos En El Camino Director, Mexico) |
| • Clare Daly
(Member of the European Parliament, Ireland) | • Ann Wright
(Former US Colonel & Diplomat, USA) |
| • Maurizio Landini (video)
(General Secretary CGIL, Italy) | • Reiner Braun
(IPB, Germany) |

Moderator: Medea Benjamin (CODEPINK, USA)

13:45 – 14:15 Break

14:15 – 15:00 Closing Plenary

- Presentation of the “Vienna Appeal for Peace in Ukraine” introduced by Werner Wintersteiner (Austria), Almut Rochowanski (Austria), Bert Knorr (USA), and Reiner Braun (Germany) together with the international preparatory team
- Act now: the results of the summit and the next steps
(conference & declaration documents)
- Closing remarks by Alain Rouy (National Secretary of Mouvement de la Paix, France and IPB)