



Newsletter



September 2018

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

numerous events took place on the occasion of the International Day of Peace on 21st of September all over the world. IPB and the IPB Youth Network celebrated this day with interesting speeches and enriching discussions in Berlin. The IPBYN also held the 3rd Pre-Conference in London and the Scottish CND organized a March against nuclear weapons.

Moreover, we proudly announce the three Seán MacBride Peace Prize Winners of 2018. Each of them did exceptional work within different areas of the peace movement. The first awarding ceremony will take place in Cyprus on November 24th, 2018. Read about their stories and work [here](#).

Last but not least, for all those of you who want to support us, please [donate](#) to IPB. We depend on any donation, regardless the amount.

We hope you enjoy reading!

With our warmest wishes

Theresa Kresse
Lorena Schwab



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THE SEÁN MAC BRIDE PEACE PRIZE WINNERS 2018

The International Peace Bureau awards the Séan MacBride Peace Prize every year to a person, or organisation, or movement in recognition of its outstanding work for peace, disarmament and/or human rights.

The awarding ceremony of AHDR and Home for Cooperation will take place in Cyprus on 24th of November. Find the event on our website: <http://www.ipb.org/events/sean-macbride-peace-prize-ceremony/>

This year the IPB Board has chosen the following three winners of the prize:

Douglas Roche



Douglas Roche's indefatigable work, in particular as President of the UN Association and as Ambassador for Disarmament during the height of the Cold War, helped maintain strong Canadian public support for the ideals of multilateralism in one of the most turbulent times in modern history. He is the

founding Chairman Emeritus of the Middle Powers Initiative (MPI), an international network of NGOs that hosts international meetings of states seeking the elimination of nuclear weapons. Canada's former Ambassador for Disarmament is a dedicated champion of nuclear abolition able to move easily among nations and peace congresses. He was also highly instrumental in creating Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND). During negotiations, whether as Canada's ambassador, the Holy See's special adviser, the Chairman of MPI, or as the Past President of PNND, he continued to be an articulate and well-informed delegate to the UN's NPT and disarmament negotiations. A constant inspiration who provides solid leadership and sage guidance for many international and national organisations including the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs movement. We award Mr. Roche for his tireless efforts to promote international peace and disarmament.

Helena Maleno

Helena Maleno is a human rights defender and an activist for migrants' rights, as well as a Journalist and researcher, based in Tangier (Morocco). In 2002, Maleno founded the association "Caminando Fronteras" (Walking along borders), which is one of the main organizations at the southern European border devoted to denounce human rights violations. Caminando Fronteras provides support to sub-Saharan communities during the migration process. Maleno is widely known, also, for her public task alerting maritime authorities to the plight of

vulnerable migrants in the Mediterranean. Unfortunately, the Moroccan authorities, following a report from the Spanish police over allegations that Maleno had been collaborating with people traffickers, are prosecuting Helena Maleno. In addition, different groups in Morocco have harassed the activist for criticizing the government and especially state abuses against migrants and women. Consequently, her own life was in danger. As a Peace organization, we admire Helena Maleno's efforts to save hundreds of lives in the Mediterranean Sea, and her strong commitment to defending human rights.



Information on the awarding ceremonies will be published soon.

For more information, see:
[http://www.ipb.org/news/sean-macbride-peace1.](http://www.ipb.org/news/sean-macbride-peace1)

AHDR (Association For Historical Dialogue and Research) and Home for Cooperation

The AHDR envisions a society where dialogue on issues of history, historiography, history teaching, and history learning is welcomed as an integral part of democracy and is considered as a means for the advancement of historical understanding and critical thinking. The AHDR's Board, comprising of Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot educators and historians, is a brilliant example of how productive cooperation, creative ideas, and respect can blossom, regardless of division. In the context of AHDR's efforts to promote a Culture of Peace through education, at a local, national and international level, the organization has also engaged in a series of Peace

Education projects and activities. These have showcased the impact of deconstructing stereotypes and increasing contact in creating a paradigm shift in education as a prerequisite for laying the foundations for sustainable peace. Home for Cooperation was established by the AHDR in 2011 as a research and educational centre, mostly bringing academics and historians together. Today the Home has become a landmark building within the Ledra Palace crossing, UN buffer zone. The Home hosts an extensive variety of cultural, artistic and educational programs with the aim to foster creativity and intercultural trust in Cyprus and internationally. It follows "arts-based peacebuilding" to transform interpersonal and intercommunal conflicts in Cyprus; with projects and programmes that aim to redefine relationships and build capacity where the artistic medium is used to heal personal/collective trauma and to promote interconnectivity through arts and culture. The IPB highly appreciates the efforts and promotion of Culture of Peace and as well as the peace building activities.

Getting to know one of the Peace Prize Winners: AHDR and Home for Cooperation

1. What are the projects AHDR and Home for Cooperation about?

AHDR is a non-for profit, non-governmental organisation working in the field of education with the understanding that education is the most effective tool we have for promoting multi-cultural, multi-lingual, and multi-faith societies built on the values of human rights, trust, partnership, equality and mutual respect.

Since its foundation in 2003, AHDR has enlisted members from various ethnic, linguistic, and professional backgrounds working at various educational levels in Cyprus, making the first steps towards a greater effort to maintain a continuous, open dialogue about enhanced pedagogic practices in history education. During the last five years AHDR claims a leading role in Peace Education in Cyprus providing exceptional training for teachers and students across the existing divide.

The Home for Cooperation was initiated by AHDR in 2011 to become a unique community centre located in the heart of Nicosia. It is the embodiment of intercommunal cooperation, contributing to the collective efforts of civil society in their engagement with peacebuilding and intercultural dialogue. Using its sources, it encourages people to cooperate with each other beyond constraints and dividing lines.

2. What is your vision and what do you do to achieve your objectives?

AHDR envisions a society where dialogue on issues of history, historiography, history teaching and learning is welcomed as an integral part of democracy and is considered as a means for the advancement of historical understanding and critical thinking. In this context, the AHDR organizes conferences, seminars, teacher training workshops and provides access to platforms where young children and young people from all over Cyprus and abroad regardless of their ethnicity, religious, cultural and social background come together to exchange their ideas and experiences.

The Home for Cooperation essentially aims to act as a bridge-builder between separated communities, memories and visions. It provides working spaces and opportunities for Non-Governmental Organisations and individuals to design and implement innovative projects.

The Home for Cooperation(H4C) is geographically and symbolically accessible to all people leaving in Cyprus. The H4C not only stands as one of the best concrete examples of what people in Cyprus can achieve through cooperation, but also operates as an incubator of future ideas and initiatives of individuals and groups from across the divide working together with a common vision for a re-united and peaceful country.

3. How did the people involved in the project and in the local community receive the good news?

As the AHDR is all aware, recognition brings about motivation. Becoming a member of the community of organizations which have been honored by Sean MacBride Peace Prize by IPB is highly encouraging for the Board, staff, members, friends and volunteers of the AHDR. Having received this prominent award, we are determined to work harder for the empowerment of the people of Cyprus to build bridges to defy hatred and fear and to move towards mutual understanding, forgiveness and reconciliation

4. What are your future projects and/ or wishes for the next years?

The continuation of the Imagine Project, the Phrasebook Project in collaboration with the OSCE and organizing teacher training sessions as well as promoting Greek and Turkish Language lessons in the Home for Cooperation, Buffer Fringe V, film screenings and concerts pertaining to welcoming and internalizing peace and alternatives and responses to hatred.

An Interview with the co-presidents of AHDR Alev Tuğberk and Kyriakos Pachoulides



IPB YOUTH NETWORK

IPB Youth Network Public Event an Working Meeting to „Challenges and Positive Approaches to Peace“

International Day of Peace, 21st September 2018

IPBYN, in collaboration with IPB and Scientists for Peace Germany (NatWiss), organised a public event on the topic of "Challenges and Positive Approaches to Peace" at Humboldt University on this year's international day for peace.

All attendees of Friday's session, the 21st of September, were able to listen to several lectures, given by experts and civil society stakeholders.

The introduction and greetings were given by Marie Cucurella, an IPBYN representative, Amela Skiljan, the coordinator of the IPB Office in Berlin, Angelo Cardona, the IPBYN representative of South America, and finally Oliver Hasenkamp, representing the UN Association of Germany.

The event moved on, after the warm words of welcome and the emphasize on the importance to embrace this international day of peace, to the first lecture on the Israel Palestine relation given by Emma Pritchard. Prof. Dr. Jürgen Scheffran, who is currently lecturing at the University of Hamburg,

held the second lecture. He elaborated on how the climate and conflict are interrelated through the intensification of scarce resources and conflict of interests and human migration. Anne Balzer, a member of ICAN Germany, presented the current status on internationally ratified treaties and their respective shortcomings. Professor Mohssen Masserat, who was teaching at the University of Osnabrück, Germany, provided a rich insight on the implications of the Iran conflict. Some of the points discussed concerned the *raison d'État* of the United States of America to leave the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) which was previously under way with Iran, concerning the interim deal of Iran to downsize its nuclear program. Last but not least, Agata Stajer from the Youth Peace Ambassadors Network (YPAN) presented the audience with a talk about the "Positive Approaches to Peace".

An open panel debate with the speakers and the audience sparked a couple of thought-provoking questions were raised. Presentations and videos of the event will be available at www.ipbyouthnetwork.org.

The Working Meeting on Saturday, 22nd September 2018, was a follow up event of the Public Event on Friday and served as a space for open discussions in the framework of topics that are related to IPBYN as well as to the organisation of the 2019 World Youth Congress on Peacebuilding. The outcomes were also meant to be a resource for each participant to use in their individual actions and work and to share with their own networks within the peace movement.



Thanks to the different backgrounds and origins of the 16 participants, the contribution of ideas and experiences was wide ranging and allowed an international perspective. The participants from 10 different countries in America, Europe and Asia also had experiences in peace work in other parts of the world. Only a few of them were already active with IPBYN, while the rest of the group was not yet integrated in the Network. Consequently the exchange of experiences and stories regarding their work in the peace movement was perceived as fruitful and enriching.

After a small introduction into the work of the International Peace Bureau and IPBYN and the exchange of experiences in peacebuilding actions, the program continued with a methodology of discussion groups.

The first working step included a brainstorm surrounding the question: In your view, what would be the most essential element that a peaceful world should include?. Afterwards, they gathered in discussion groups lead by one moderator and had 45 minutes to discuss the question: Which steps would you take to turn this element into reality?. Finally, the Working Meeting ended with an agreement on new guidelines and objectives for the future work of IPBYN and the process towards their international congress in 2019.



Please find the full activity report here:

<http://www.ipb.org/activities/2018-activities/ipb-youth-network-ipbyn-public-event-and-working-meeting-to-challenges-and-positive-approaches-to-peace-in-berlin-21-22-september-2018/>

IPB Youth Network 3rd Pre-conference

By Angelo Cardona and Cecilia Andrei, IPBYN

The 3rd pre-conference of the International Peace Bureau Youth Network (IPBYN) was held on September 15th at Rudolf Steiner House, in London, UK. The event was co-organized with Humanity United for Universal Demilitarisation (HUFUD), PeaceJam UK, and Corruption Watch UK.

The main purpose of the conference was to expose how decision-makers are highly involved in the arms trade and cooperating with the business of war. This was discussed through a variety of lectures and film screenings presented during the day.



Angelo Cardona, IPBYN member and HUFUD Director in Latin America, gave the lecture "The hidden shadow of war" where he tackled the business of war and how it has impacted the implementation of the Peace Accord in his country, Colombia, and how it affects the advancement of peace in different regions of the world.

Cecilia Andrei, IPBYN member and PeaceJam volunteer, spoke about the concept of "Sustainable Peace", noting that this term has only recently entered the UN language. She discussed the efforts of researchers and academics to empirically measure peace and the factors that can contribute to its sustainability, mentioning the Global Peace Index 2018 and the Positive Peace Index 2017.

The conference was followed by a Peace March through Westminster, including stops in Parliament Square and outside 10 Downing Street. HUFUD banners read slogans such as "Arms for Love, NOT for Killing!", "Hold HANDS, Not GUNS" and "Make PEACE, Not Weapons".

More than 90.000 signatures were handed over to various groups of parliamentarians in the German Bundestag, saying "no" to the 2 per cent budget spending for the NATO.

Members of the working committee of „Appeal: Disarm! Don't Arm!“ ("Abrüsten statt Aufrüsten") symbolically presented the over 90.000 gathered signatures that were collected to oppose the planned raise in military expenses within the budget of the German Government for 2019.



Meeting with the SPD Parliamentary Group

The talks were held with representatives of the SPD (social democrats), Alliance 90/The Greens (the environmental party) and the Linke (the leftist party). The new military budget of 2019 is ought to be increased by 11,9 %, which amounts to a total budget of €42, 4 billion. This is the highest annual increase in the last 30 years.

With more than 200 events on the Anti-War-Day on the 1st September 2018, unionists and active participants of the peace movement protested against war and the ever increasing military spendings. On nearly all the events, the initiative „Appeal: Disarm! Don't Arm“ mobilized people and gathered signatures for the campaign.

The German Government, alongside with the other 28 member states of NATO, agreed to increase their

military budget to 2% of the GDP. This means that by 2024/25 more than €85 billion are allocated to the military and defence system instead of social development and poverty alleviation. This money will inevitably fuel violent conflict and wars through the ever-increasing interconnectivity of social and natural problems. This has to be avoided by all means!



"Two percent, or at least a further 30 billion euros, that are missing in the civilian sector. This includes schools and day-care centers, social housing, hospitals, public transportation, municipal infrastructure, retirement provisions, ecological reconstruction, climate justice, and international aid for empowerment and capacity building." (From the Statement of the „Appeal: Disarm! Don't Arm!“)

Therefore, the collection of signatures will be continued!



Meeting with the Green Parliamentary Party

You can find more information about the initiative at: <https://abruosten.jetzt/english-version/>



"The aim of the rally was to highlight the strength of support from many UN member states for Scotland, a country hosting nuclear weapons against its wishes. Scotland is a significant and relatively autonomous part of a nuclear-armed state which opposes its possession of weapons of mass destruction. As things stand we cannot become a party to the new UN Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons but there are lots of ways in which we can align ourselves to the Treaty."

<http://www.banthebomb.org/>

The Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament works for the abolition of all nuclear weapons in Britain as a step toward the global elimination of these weapons of mass destruction.





News From IPB

Our Team in Berlin has new helping hands

Theresa Kresse is IPB's new coordinator at the Berlin Office since September. She covers for Amela Skiljan who is currently on her maternity leave for the next months.

During the last few years Theresa has undergone an undergraduate programme at Malmö University in Peace and Conflict Studies and a graduate programme in Development Studies at Lund University, Sweden. Throughout those years she participated in two study exchanges, one in Ankara, Turkey and one in Hong Kong. While studying for her graduate programme she had the opportunity to intern in the programme department of the London-based NGO „Democratic Progress Institute“ for half a year. Moreover, the participation in various international conferences as delegate or executive board member has given her various skills and expertise in international affairs and comparative politics. Theresa is mainly interested in topics concerning critical development theory, body rights and social justice.

In her spare time she usually plays Gaelic and Australian Football or is simply just enjoying the small pleasures in life such as deserts and staying in touch with her friends.

Lorena Schwab De La O is our new intern at the IPB office since the beginning of September.

She just came back to Berlin after her stay in Mexico City, where she got to know the work of the Mexican National Commission for the UNESCO. As a Mexican and German citizen, she has always been interested in the conflicts, politics and social movements of the region of Latin America. During her studies of Social- and Cultural Anthropology and Latin American Studies, she engaged more profoundly with these topics. Lorena will support us with the organization of our next events as well as updating social media, developing documents and more. She is happy to be at IPB and learn about the movement against war from the perspective of a NGO in order to develop in her career in the area of peace and conflict and human rights.

During her free time she loves doing yoga, travelling, dancing salsa and spending time outside.

For our next Newsletter we would like to include a calendar with events that are taking place all over the world. Therefore, we would like to encourage you to send us information about **your** events in the month of NOVEMBER. Please send them to

info@ipb-office.berlin