

We are issuing this invitation at a time when we are horrified to see Russian troops destroying Ukraine. We do not know what the situation will be in October. We planned the topic when there were threats but not yet a war in Europe.

Back then we wrote: Living together always means living with conflict. It seems as if conflicts have recently become more painful, and divisions are hardening or are only now surfacing. The very naming of conflicts evokes vulnerability: global and regional conflicts, wars and growing arms buildup, capitalist exploitation, climate crisis, growing nationalism, colonialism and racism, expulsion and fleeing, patriarchal structures and violence in society and the church, dealing with and responding to COVID-19... Often violence shapes these conflicts and divisions.

Jesus encourages us to be peacemakers and overcome and transform divisions by active nonviolence.

Being in dialogue is a way to practise this active nonviolence. What are the preconditions for dialogue? Jesus teaches us to start with ourselves.

What does it mean to remain open to dialogue when rational arguments seem in vain? When is dialogue the way to a solution - and when does it come to nothing instead of preventing violence?

This year's international conference is taking place in Croatia, creating the opportunity to learn from peacemakers in that country and region.

This conference will create a space where we identify our own conflict issues and solutions, share experiences of success or failure and work with them. We also want to face the difficult questions, e.g. of holding on to the Gospel's vision of nonviolence in times of war, to connect to our spiritual roots and learn practical techniques from each other.

An invitation to practise with each other how active nonviolence, dialogue and concrete methods of transformation and reconciliation can overcome divisions – so that peace becomes possible.

Programme

Thursday, 20 October 2022

From 16.00 Arrival and Registration
18.00 Dinner
19.00 Opening and Annual General Meeting I
21.00 Evening prayer

Friday, 21 October 2022

8.00 Breakfast
8.45 Morning Prayer
9.00 Annual General Meeting II
10.30 Break
11.00 Annual General Meeting III
12.30 Lunch
15.00 Fellowship, encounters and exchange
18.00 Dinner
19.30 Conference I: **Introduction** (*Antje Heider-Rottwilm, Germany*)
20.00 Conference II: **Panel: Faithbased nonviolence amidst and after war – learning from experiences** (*Dragica Aleksa, Luč, Croatia*
Emir Džidić, Sezam, Bosnia
Katarina Kruhonja, Centre for Nonviolence Osijek, Croatia
Otto Raffai, Regional Address for Nonviolent Action (RAND), Croatia
Slavica Stanković, Bread of Life, Serbia
Moderator: *Salomé Haldemann, France*)
21.30 Evening prayer

Saturday, 22 October 2022

8.00 Breakfast
9.00 Morning Prayer
9.15 Conference III: **Dialogue as form of active nonviolence** (*Étienne Chomé, Belgium, and Maria Biedrawa, France*)
10.30 Break
11.00 Conference IV: **Practising dialogue**

12.30 Lunch and Break
15.00 Conference V: **Workshops I**
16.30 Break
17.00 Conference VI: **Workshops II**
18.30 Dinner
20.15 Fellowship Evening

Sunday, 23 October 2022

8.30 Breakfast
9.30 **Ecumenical Worship**
“He has destroyed the hatred that was like a wall between us” (Eph 2:14)
11.00 Conference VII: **Final plenary**
12.30 Lunch and Departure

Workshops

WS 1: Politics of nonviolence in times of war: utopia or necessity? (*Ana Raffai and Goran Bozicevic, Academy for Politics of Nonviolence, Croatia*)

WS 2: Solidarity creates security: Europe and its borders (*Rûnbîr Serkepanî, Aegean Migrant Solidarity, Greece, and Jakob Fehr, German Mennonite Peace Committee, Germany*)

WS 3: A new European security architecture including Russia? (*Cécile Dubernet, Catholic Institut Paris/Justice et Paix Europe, France*)

WS 4: Transforming (religious) divisions in post-war times (*N.N., Believers for Peace*)

WS 5: Images of God, patriarchy, racism – Challenges for peace theology (*Anja Vollendorf, Laurentiuskonvent, Germany*)

Fees and Payment

Venue

Life Center Crikvenica
Šetalište Vladimira Nazora 55
51260 Crikvenica
Croatia
www.christusbund.de/croatia

Fees

(per person incl. accommodation, meals, conference costs)

Thu-Sun in double or single room	210€/ £175
Fri-Sun in double or single room	175€/ £150
Day guest package (w/o accomodation & breakfast)	35€ / £30

Concessions

Available for low income or un-waged participants; exact amount will depend on grant funding approved.

Bank transfer to

in €: Church and Peace,
Bank fuer Kirche und Diakonie,
IBAN: DE33350601901014380015
BIC: GENODED1DKD

in £: Send Sterling cheque to the order of 'Church and Peace' to Gerald Drewett, 39 Postwood Green, Hertford Heath SG13 7QJ or alternatively make transfer by BACS to sort code 16 58 10, account 20745001 and send an email to gerald.drewett@ntlworld.com

Registration

Please **register by 15 August 2022** via our website:
www.church-and-peace.org

Church and Peace is...

the Europe-wide network of peace church communities, congregations, organisations, institutions and individual members from 14 countries and a broad range of Christian traditions.



church and peace

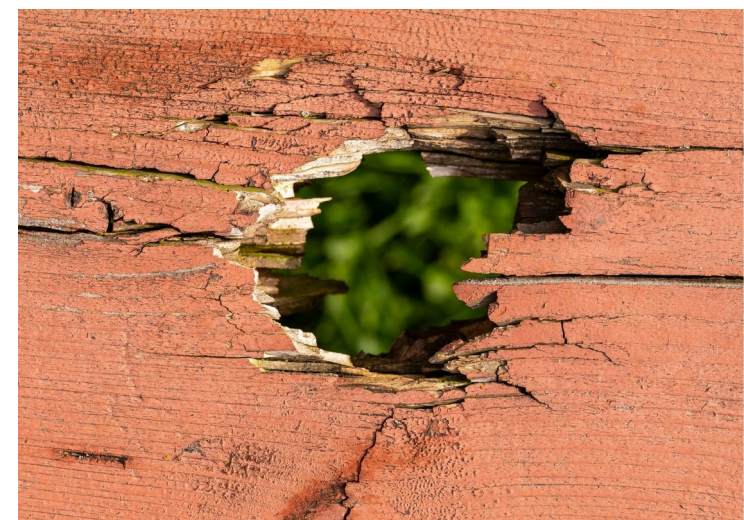
The common basis of Church and Peace is the call to nonviolence, at the heart of the Gospel, and a practical commitment to peace and reconciliation, our guidance and strength coming from the Bible. Members of Church and Peace support one another in developing a spiritual practice and lifestyle that serves peace and justice. Particularly in countries marked by conflict and war, we are united in a commitment to nonviolence and to linking peace theology and practice. Together we strive for reconciliation, engage in dialogue, peace education and conflict resolution. We work towards a just distribution of resources and advocate good stewardship of creation.

Contact

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First take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your sister's or brother's eye. (Luke 6: 42)

Division. War. Nonviolence.



International Conference and Annual General Meeting

20 – 23 October 2022

Crikvenica, Croatia