

**Compilation of Documents**  
**On Events and Projects commemorating the**

**United Nations**  
**International Reconciliation Year**  
**2009**

**presented by S.E.R. Foundation, February 2011**

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# 1. Introduction

Reconciliation is a basic and initial mode upon which enduring peace and coexistence among men and nation-states can be achieved. On dealing with the past or present, reconciliation is an essential step towards achieving political and socio-economic justice. People of all cultures have proved this through the ages, as they have utilized this method in developing unique strategies and rituals in overcoming conflicts and differences.

Reconciliation does not only play an important role in international, regional and national levels, but also on family and personal levels. More often than not, successful reconciliation paves the way for a new beginning in human relations.

## 1.1 History of the International Reconciliation Year

In 2000 the Foundation for Subjective Experience and Research, S.E.R. Foundation, issued the 1st Public Reconciliation Appeal in a Resolution Draft for Peace in the Holy Land (**annex 1**). It was born after the Midnight-Mass in 1999 in Bethlehem. The S.E.R. Pilgrims brought this into public attention through the Print and Broadcast Media which were covering the Christmas-Celebration. The S.E.R. Foundation believes that the vision for Global Peace should stand upon the hallowed ground of magnanimity through reconciliation.

During an interactive NGO/DPI Conference in 2003 in New York the S.E.R. Foundation presented the Draft-Resolution calling for a **UN-World-Reconciliation-Day (annex 2)** in 2003.

Since 2005 the S.E.R. Foundation on its own initiative has called to an annual Reconciliation-Week at the end of April every year and participating NGOs and their projects, as well as everybody who participated, were documented.

The Permanent Mission of the government of Nicaragua submitted a draft for an **International Reconciliation Year 2009**, A/61/L.22, (**annex 3**) in November 2006, which was supported by the representatives of the governments of Argentina, Brazil, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

In its 61<sup>st</sup> Session, agenda item 150, the UN General Assembly proclaimed the **Resolution for an International Reconciliation Year 2009**, A/61/L.22/Add.1, (**annex 4**).

The aim was, to disseminate concepts of Reconciliation in cultural, social and educational areas and to reconcile split societies (**excerpt, annex 5**).

## 1.2 Global S.E.R. Action Plan for the International Reconciliation Year 2009

In February 2007 the S.E.R. Foundation created a **global Action Plan (annex 6)** for the International Reconciliation Year 2009 to support the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals under the theme: "The Millennium Challenge – Human Reconciliation". There shall be coordinated programmes conducted in different forms, portraying Reconciliation as a bridge between all levels of human differences (Unity in Diversity), such as debates, essay writing contests, creative work, documentary films, musical presentations including indigenous, sports and development. Outstanding projects will be awarded prizes.

The global S.E.R. Action Plan was given to the Secretariat General of the United Nations, and on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008 presented in a Forum to all UN-Departments and UN-Bodies in New York. In addition the Action Plan was given to the Human Rights Bodies of the UN in Geneva.

S.E.R. Foundation sent an **Invitation for participating in the International Reconciliation Year 2009 (annex 7)** with the Action Plan, translated in all six UN-languages as well as into German, Italian and Japanese and made available through [www.global-balance.org](http://www.global-balance.org) where participants could register projects and send reports of their experiences.

There were **157 projects** registered from five continents and **22 countries**. They come from: Germany 55, Switzerland 50, Burundi 16, Austria 11, Palestine National Authority 4, Argentina 2, Australia 2, Nigeria 2 and the United States of America 2. One project from each country: the United Kingdom, India, Israel, Kenya, Morocco, Macedonia, the Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia, Serbia/Montenegro and South Africa.

The S.E.R. Foundation will award to all registered projects a **S.E.R. Certificate of Appreciation (annex 8)** for participating in the S.E.R. Action Plan for the International Reconciliation Year 2009.

## **2. Events and Projects during the International Reconciliation Year 2009**

**2.1 About 157 of them were submitted through the Global-Balance.Org website including reports, pictures or descriptions.**

### **1. Association Cadre de Developpement Communautaire Burundi**

**« CADEC-GIRA IYO UVA N'IYO UJA »  
MOBILISATION DES POPULATIONS AUTOUR D'UNE ADDUCTION D'EAU POTABLE**



Identification de la source de captage de l'eau au pied de la montagne GIHINGA par les Techniciens de la Direction Générale de l'Hydraulique

L'assemblée CADEC opère dans une zone qui a connu des affrontements interethniques et le passage à plusieurs reprises des belligérants. Les communautés ont alors développé des comportements inhumains à telle enseigne que ceux qui partageaient les mêmes joies et peines se sont entretués. Il est bien évident que la reconstruction socioéconomique de cette zone



passé avant par la reconstruction morale pour pouvoir rapprocher les communautés en vue d'une cohésion sociale.

Ainsi, l'association rapproche les communautés à travers les travaux d'adduction d'eau potable (15 km). En effet, les activités de puisage de l'eau occupent une place privilégiée dans la vie des burundais. Chaque jour, un enfant, une femme ou un homme se rend à la recherche de l'eau pour divers besoins familiaux. C'est un moment de rencontre entre les différentes couches de la population autour de diverses activités (lessive, puisage de l'eau, se laver, échanger des nouvelles du village, aider à soulever le récipient d'eau,...). D'une façon ou d'une autre, toutes ces activités permettent aux populations de dépasser les clivages, ethniques, politiques, sociaux, religieux....

En vue de parvenir à rapprocher les communautés tant meurtries par plus de 15 ans de guerre civile, l'asbl CADEC compte mobiliser les populations de différentes collines à travers les travaux d'aménagement d'une conduite d'eau potable (débrousser le terrain, creuser la conduite, transporter les tuyaux, couvrir de terre les tuyaux, transport de briques, moellon et pierres, construire des bornes fontaines et les entretenir).

**Au terme de cette activité qui va mobiliser environ 5.000 ménages (plus de 25.000 habitants) pendant 6 mois, les populations vont développer des attitudes de vie de groupe.** C'est une occasion privilégiée d'adopter des comportements nouveaux d'entraide, de tolérance, de solidarité, de respect mutuel et de paix sociale, **base d'une véritable réconciliation nationale durable.**



Transport du sable par les femmes

Terrassement pour le Collège Communal de KIRAMBI



## **2. Prayer for reconciliation**

**PNA/Palestine Nat. Auth.**

Every week in 2009 the Bridgettine Sisters in Bethlehem said a prayer for worldwide reconciliation.

## **3. The Temple-Project**

**Germany**

The temple project offers an opportunity for reconciliation between Jews and Muslims as far as the Temple Mountain in Jerusalem is concerned.

As the entire former Temple Mountain of the Jews is a mosque to the Muslims, the Jews do not have access to the place of their sanctum, the temple, which was destroyed by the Romans. The Muslims fear for their sanctums which are located in that place.

Reconciliation means that the Muslims offer a location to the Jews for an optional third temple, which has to be in such a position to the former location of the sanctum that it will be appropriate for a New Temple.

My project consists of my convincing the people concerned, where after 7 years of preparatory works journeys to Jordan (meeting with the Minister for Religion), Egypt (meeting with the Mufti), Saudi-Arabia (meeting with the Mufti) and Palestine (meeting with the Mufti) are necessary.

Further meetings with high-ranking rabbis are intended. For further information on fundamentals and background of the project please contact: [www.Tempel-Projekt.de](http://www.Tempel-Projekt.de)

## **4. Reconciliation – power to the world**

**Switzerland**

The topic of our open evenings 2009 was “Reconciliation – Power to the world”. Once a month on a Monday evening we were looking at these topics from different angles. (Reconciliation with our own history, with our fellow human beings, between the religions, nations, confessions, between science and religion, between the generations, reconciliation between man and woman, dealing with conflicts, etc.). [www.katharina-werk.org](http://www.katharina-werk.org)

## **4. Prayer for the world**

**Switzerland**

Prayers, songs and rituals for peace –  
Impetus and encouragement for peace within ourselves and in the world.\*

## **6. Looking for peace, practicing reconciliation:**

**In search for clues within the inter-religious dialogue**

**Switzerland**

Inter-religious encounter and experience weekends dealing with 7 different religions on the subject of peace and reconciliation. [www.katharina-werk.org](http://www.katharina-werk.org) \*

## 7. The time of silence is over

## Switzerland

### Seminar Series for the War Children of the Second World War

About 14,8 million people, living in Germany today, spent their childhood during the war years. They were born between 1930 and 1945.

For a long time nothing was said about the traumatic experiences of these war children concerning flight, eviction and threat of bombs. **But the time of silence is over.** The suffering of the war children of the Second World War is increasingly discussed publicly.

In the context of its spirituality and regarding reconciliation the Katharina-Werk, Basel, offered a seminar series for people having experienced the war as a child. These seminars are helpful to express the early traumatic experiences and to venture steps to reconcile with one's own past.

Under the topic "The time of silence is over", 10 women born between 1935 and 1951 looked into their traumatic experiences. They told their stories and experienced understanding, because all of them including the 2 supervisors were persons concerned. One of the attendees reported:

*"I got into contact with all that war and post-war misery waiting in my unconsciousness and the deeply hidden internal distress, arising from it. For the first time all these things were allowed to emerge. Thus I was seen, heard, endured and supported, accepted and loved in a way I never had experienced before."*

During the process work of these seminars the impact for the succeeding generations of these traumatic experiences became visible, too.

*"The five-part cycle was a revelation to me. Not only became the deep wounds caused by the war and post-war time, visible, but also the painful experiences which followed. I especially felt the pain seeing my 4 children grow up and realizing that I burdened them a heavy weight from my "backpack".*

This recognition was difficult and challenging for some of the attendees, but at the same time liberating, as a participant describes below:

*"I realized that I very gently took the grey film from my life and with astonishment recognized the colours from all the treasures life gave to me. Thank you!"*

They had survived everything. But for their present lives all of them wish more:

They want to live – not just survive.

Very gently, step by step, a new liveliness occurred in the course of the seminars, although the misery is still far from being healed and redeemed.

*"I found my way back to a new liberated vividness and uniqueness, because I wanted to remember."*

At the final weekend all attendees were surprised of what had become possible for all of them during the past 10 months, how a lot of pain could be liberated and how much life energy and hope could be developed. The seminars were a start on their way to reconciliation with their own past.

The offer for persons concerned in regard to the Second World War and their succeeding generation will be continued. Gudrun Rütten

## 8. Attunement – the power of the Healing Sounds

Germany



18 seminars were held under the above subject. In each of them the participants were able to learn exercises in order to get into harmony with themselves, nature and their fellow men. All attendees received information material on the International UN Year of Reconciliation 2009 and were asked to participate with their own actions. The reactions on the importance of the subject of “reconciliation” were consistently positive.

Steffi Schmid Steffi, [www.einklang-ergosoma.ch](http://www.einklang-ergosoma.ch)



## 9. Contemplation Week in the context of reconciliation Switzerland



The contemplation week during Lent has a long tradition in our parish at Volketswil. For many years 3 chaplains of our team have been organizing an evening in the chapel every year. All members of the parish are then invited for a 3-part-topic, on which we are contemplating with meditative texts, pictures and songs for an hour.

Sometimes there are exchanges in pairs or in the whole circle, but often we are just letting the words sink in silence.

2 years ago, Erika Brändle from our parish, proposed to me the subject of “reconciliation”. This was very much appreciated by all team members. Thus we could offer 3 evenings in Lent 2009 on this subject at the occasion of the UN International Reconciliation Year.

Reflecting on reconciliation, it became obvious that it will require 3 steps: reconciliation with God, with ourselves and with others. God has already forgiven us when we start to repent internally. His forgiveness precedes our reconciliation with ourselves. And reconciled with ourselves we can approach others differently. Thus our longing for worldwide peace always includes a religious and psychological dimension, whether we like it or not. Our 3 evenings were attended by an average of 15 persons, sitting in a circle in the chapel around a designed centre.

Our chaplain team supported the peace-making team with different Bible stories, especially regarding reconciliation with God through the story of the fight at the Jabbok between Jacob and the angel, who may perhaps have represented God.

We had good feedback on these evenings and they were again an asset to our parish life.

Michaele Madu, community leader of the Volketswil parish



## 10. A Place to meet – Lectures Series

Switzerland

### Thoughts on the International UN Reconciliation Year 2009

About 25 women were present at the ecumenical centre at Pieterlen on 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2009 to attend a lecture on “Thoughts about the International UN Reconciliation Year 2009” Sonja Schmid, the lecturer, said in her speech that reconciliation always starts within oneself, from that radiating into the family and circle of friends. Through a practical exercise the participants were able to experience themselves how pleasant reconciliation feels. She also pointed out to art and creativity being a factor of reconciliation, especially as far as music and singing are concerned. Her lecture was shaped actively by her own every day life experiences and lead subsequently to the importance of the efforts for reconciliation in world affairs. She furthermore mentioned the commitment of the S.E.R. Foundation at the United Nations as far as reconciliation and the International UN Reconciliation Year are concerned. The lecture was closed by a small ritual and prayer for reconciliation and peace. During the following breakfast it was visible how much this subject had impressed the attendees and reminded them of their own life experiences, and they continued to discuss and work on this subject. Sonja Schmid

## 12. Children brought up by Fairytales

Germany

### Children brought up by Fairytales, Reconciliation with inner values of Mankind

#### Reconciliation with inner beauty:

The 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2009, in the church St. Stephanus, Berlin-Wedding (D), took place a beautiful 45 min performance of the eurythmy-theater company Theater-Einklang based actually in Basel (Switzerland), performing the well known Grimm's Fairytale “the Fisherman and his Wife” . Eighty-eight Children of very different cultural backgrounds from the area, aged 1,5 to 5 years, accompanied by their teachers, attended this performance. Some of the children were well prepared for the show by their teachers, others weren't. But it was amazing to see how deeply concentrated they all followed the action on the stage, even the very little ones.



Fairy tales, an universal language:

Folk fairy tales have a deep pedagogical meaning full of wisdom. The image-language they use can be taken in by all children, regardless of their cultural and social background, and at a deep level generate with time a strong positive moral attitude leading further to spiritual freedom, health and social recognition.

Fairy tales are a unique tool to integrate together German and foreign children, sharing the same values of an ancient European culture.

“The Fisherman and his Wife”:

This Fairy tale tells of finding happiness within you, regardless of all the materialistic possessions and the greed for power, and also faith that your wishes will come true. This is particularly up to date at this moment of consummation craze, financial crisis and the general tension created by frustration and fear of tomorrow.



Reconciliation with inner humanistic values leads to peace:

Interest and understanding of different cultures are a preliminary condition for a collective peaceful life. This is particularly important in Berlin where so many cultures are represented and where the general economic situation of the city is quite difficult.

This event was partially sponsored by the European Fund “Soziale Stadt”, designed to help the cultural integration of some very deprived areas in Berlin.

The Theater-Einklang is socially engaged with theatre, Eurythmy and live music, to create shows that enhance the inner values of mankind.

Fotos von Carmen Zweig

[www.theater-einklang.com/theater.html](http://www.theater-einklang.com/theater.html)





The intention of this project was to support Sr. Mariallac's daily work especially at Christmas time, collecting imperishable food and toys for families who are reduced to penury. We were impressed by many unexpected reactions from givers, saying thank you and encouraging us. When we made a collection at a big store in Wienerstrasse, there were about 42 big boxes full of high quality food, chocolate and sweets for children; it was like joy coming back to them when giving generously.

The whole project was done by personal communication (careful – not being unwellcome) within families, friends, colleagues, from church or in the apartment house. We ourselves got "rich" and often deeply touched by the stories behind (e.g. when children gave their toys or for "poor children"); and again there were many generous givers (very often money and nice clothes too).

Food, toys ... nearly filled half a car, provided by the parish-kindergarten in St. Veit – additional activity in the busy time before Christmas! It was a great joy for families and children. This year 90 families got "presents". The "sisters of merci" in Graz are in the charity system, it is their call to help people in cases of need: mothers with children, people who seek asylum, homeless, old and lonely people. Very often illness or divorce cause their problems. There are three or even four meals in the "Marienstüberl" provided by Sr. Elisabeth for everybody every day. Poor families can come twice a week to Sr. Marillac for victuals. They do home visits or care for visiting nurse; they give legal assistance and accompany people to offices; they work for integration in their kindergarten.

Sr. Marillac: "People, when in trouble, get more distrustful now and tolerant behaviour is not always a matter of course. "The "sisters of merci" are working in a network with the local "Caritas" and various institutions. The municipal of Graz, Land Steiermark, and the "Vinci Werke" support them with considerable amounts of food and other goods. The religious belief that you honour God in every person enables them to meet the many faces of poverty. Another message from Saint Vincen v. Paul, founder of their order, is: "let God be at work, for us it should be enough to join".

"Many big shops, well known bakeries and farmers let them have victuals, bread, fruit and vegetables. There is something: people are touched by human fates – they just want to bring hope to everybody as poverty is part of reality. I think, we all have "given times and hungry days" and there is heart's wisdom which may keep us close to earth! Margarita Schuster





## 14. Weekly Tree-Meditation starting in summer 2009 and Ergosoma training Austria



At many Mondays in 2009 the tree meditation for all people interested took place. This exercise strengthens our inner core and takes us a step closer to reconciliation with ourselves, our fellow beings and our environment.

The "tree meditation" and ergosoma training for reconciling body and mind and soul.

It helps us to reach inner stability and to find again our wholeness.....

Dr. Krista Grein



### **Drumming, singing, praying, dancing for Justice and Reconciliation**

Under the subject of **“Reconciliation is the highest form of dialogue”**, a quotation from the former UN General Secretary Kofi Annan, the open church Bern has invited for a night of singing, drumming, praying and dancing for justice and reconciliation at the Heiliggeistkirche during the night of 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> of March. About 200 women and men followed this invitation.

At the centre of this evening were reconciliation- und peace songs from Northern Europe and Africa, from the traditions of the big world religions (Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism) and from the native Indian traditions, accompanied by Barbara Mordasini and her team at the big drum.

In the middle of the night all singing people could express their concerns in a big murmur choir.

### **On the pillars and walls there were texts and quotations for reconciliation.**

We also had a collection and were able to transfer Fr. 220.- for each of the following projects:

Palestine/Israel “Zelt der Völker” [www.zeltdervoelker.ch](http://www.zeltdervoelker.ch)

Former Yugoslavia

- Heks-Project „interreligious instruction books“
- Caritas-Project in Serbia-Montenegro: with young volunteers

Africa: The big Sea Region

- Rwanda: APAX – education for peace
- Initiative of Geneva for peace

The Roma-couple spending the night in the church gave a special note to the reconciliation night! For the leader-team: Irene Neubauer



### INTEGRATION THROUGH RECONCILIATION

Summary Report from Qualified Social Workers Karl Buchwald and Wolfgang Püls

Our Association for Integration Support has existed since 1971. Our projects are mostly financed by the Archdiocese of Vienna. From the Federal Ministry of Justice we get an annual support and additionally we receive donations.

Over the period of 38 years we have taken care for more than 3,000 men and women returning from prison in our various housing areas. Currently our association has got 40 residential places in Vienna. The support of the people returning from prison is going on very well thanks to the good teamwork. In all this long time since our association exists, we have not encountered any serious problems, such as threats or violence against our employees. This is truly remarkable.

#### Staff

The project is led by 2 **social workers**. They are responsible for all organizational (including residential facilities) and administrative (including financial management) tasks as well as the general social work (including taking care of our clients).

The honorary **Volunteers**, often religiously motivated, are still the soul of our association. They do not just take care of the mental wellbeing of our ex-prisoners, they also – and that's very important! - do the laundry, the cooking and they organize celebrations, too.

**Community Servants** are important contact persons for our residents. Interns take care of the special attendance and they help organizing the free time of our inhabitants.

Weekly team meetings and supervisions coordinate the care.



#### Residents

Years ago alcohol problems for residents stood in the foreground. In recent years drug addiction (30%) is overtaking even the alcohol problems.

The first contact with our residents takes place via our counselling service for ex-prisoners in Blutgasse 1, where further care and follow-up takes place, too. In addition to our living quarters and the counselling service, we also offer a work training program to learn how to get back into a regular job.

## Statistics

The average age of our clients is over 40 years. The average stay is 7 months. Approximately 25% of our clients come from foreign countries. The results of our housing projects show the efficiency of our activities: 2/3 of our clients have a fixed home and approximately half also have a fixed workplace. The relapse rate during our service time is below 10%. Therefore our project fulfils its task by providing a kind of stability to prevent the relapse of a client, which should lead to more reconciliation with himself and society. As the statistics show, we are working very efficiently. This success is based on the combination of human affection with professional care.



## 17. Philosophical circle with Head and Heart

**Austria**

During the International Year of Reconciliation the subject of reconciliation was particularly discussed every two weeks. Bea Fasolt hosted the philosophizing at the peace table. Particularly important to her in 2009 was:

- readiness for reconciliation with oneself and the other
- mindfulness to oneself, the other and every life,
- reconciliation with the reality of everyday-life
- mutual acceptance of each opinion and active listening

At the end of the philosophical circle was a significant charge of heart energy.

Bea Fasolt



## 18. Art and creative Reconciliation: “designe peace“ Switzerland

**On January 9, 2009 a workshop took place at the Zürich High school of arts, department of design.** It was embedded in the seminar of the institut wich had besides other research projects the common subject “designing peace” and was meant to develop creative ideas of realization.

Rita Jacob, Board Member of the S.E.R. Foundation Switzerland, guided the workshop and explained the different meanings of the term “reconciliation” as it is known and practised in different cultures.

Reconciliation is a fundamental markstone in the research of peace and conflict. It is a theme that has deep impacts on psychology, sociology, law, religion, philosophy groun-ding in human roots. As a means for conflict-solution it may be regarded as a process as well as the goal.

In western countries for instance the stress is laid usually on the exploration of the past, whereas in Arab countries a more holistic view is practised in the sense of creating a consciousness for making an effort to integrate the physical, intellectual, psychological and spiritual (not religious) dimensions.

During the workshop various theories for conflict-solution were presented, as well as the worldwide call for action and the action plan of the SER Foundation for the international year of Reconciliation in order to support the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations.

There was an exchange of ideas on various strategies on the way to reconciliation and peace.

Also art as a means for expression and initiation for innovative thinking was thoroughly discussed.

A guided meditation and visualisation contributed to the creative and practical part of the workshop and inspired the participants to work out their ideas in symbols and designs on paper.

The workshop ended in a lively discussion and reflections on possibilities of cooperation.

Anke Bruns



## 19. Meeting each other – approaching one another

### Austria

During the hectic holiday season before Christmas we wanted to animate our fellow human beings to pause and have a little chat with us with mulled wine and cookies.

When we established our booth and turned the music louder, the visitors of the park became interested and looked at us curiously. We approached them and invited them to join us. While the adults were more reserved and only hesitantly accepted our offer, there was no reluctance on part of the children. They seemed to be surprised that there was a free juice, donuts and cookies and helped themselves happily. They frankly reported on their experiences and their wishes for Christmas.

The hot mulled wine and the stories of our guests made us forget the low temperature. Thus we spent a pleasant afternoon and discovered that it does not need much to approach one another and to talk together and suddenly there was a better understanding for the other!

Josef Höfler



## 20. Reconciliation with oneself

### Switzerland

Accepting the current situation with gratefulness is a major step towards finding peace. Acceptance has nothing to do with agreeing to something. And nothing needs to be changed right now. Forgiving oneself. Reconciling oneself with one's physical weaknesses, with so-called shortcomings. Focusing on everything that works, on our strengths and from this plenitude, this strength, reconciling weaknesses. Being grateful for this gift of strength, meeting it humbly and with joy.

*'A change of perspective is enough to see clearly' (Antoine de St. Exupéry)*

Giving everything the same validity, without becoming indifferent to difference, achieving respect and self-respect through attentiveness, inner joy, inner peace.

These were the themes of our yoga lessons in the 2nd quarter of 2009. We did not focus on reconciliation with the outer world, with our fellow men and women. No, the challenge of reconciliation was to reconcile ourselves with our selves. With our bodies, with our thoughts, with our moods, our feelings and our weaknesses. The challenge was to be attentive to them and respect them, to avoid condemning them. It was fascinating to realise that it was easier for all of us to forgive our fellow human beings... that reconciling and making peace with oneself was perceived as a major barrier. It was also easier to find something that we valued in someone else than to find something of value in oneself. By observing and paying attention to our selves, we had the courage to be humble and self-respectful. It is in these moments that we experienced reconciliation.

The question remains open: in how far can we reconcile ourselves with the outside world if reconciliation within has not or only partially taken place?



**Yogaschule Annemarie Koch  
Mühlehalde 10  
3268 Lobsigen**

## **Versöhnung**

**In Dankbarkeit die momentane Situation zu akzeptieren ist ein grosser Schritt  
Richtung Frieden finden**

**Akzeptieren hat nichts mit Einverstandensein zu tun  
Es muss im Moment auch nichts verändert werden**

**Sich selbst vergeben -  
Sich versöhnen mit körperlichen Schwächen, mit sogenannten  
Unzulänglichkeiten  
und den Blick auf all das richten, was geht, auf unsere Stärken**

**Aus der Fülle, der Stärke heraus die Schwächen versöhnen  
Dankbar sein für diese geschenkte Stärke, ihr mit Demut und Freude  
begegnen**

***'Um klar zu sehen genügt ein Wechsel der Blickrichtung' (A. de St. Exupéry)***

**Allem die gleiche Gültigkeit geben, aber nicht gleichgültig sein**

**Achtung und Selbstachtung  
Innere Freude  
Innerer Frieden**

**Dies waren die Themen der Yogastunden im 2. Quartal 2009.**

**Es ging dabei nicht um die Versöhnung mit der Umwelt, mit unseren Mitmenschen.  
Nein, die Herausforderung lag beim Versöhnen mit uns selbst. Mit unserem Körper,  
mit unseren Gedanken, mit unseren Stimmungsbildern, mit unseren Gefühlen und  
mit unseren Schwächen. Diese zu achten und nicht zu verachten.**

**Spannend war es, festzustellen, dass es uns allen einfacher fiel, unseren  
Mitmenschen zu vergeben... dass die Versöhnung, das Friedensschliessen mit sich  
selbst als grosse Hürde empfunden wurde.**

**An unseren Mitmenschen etwas zu finden, das wir schätzen war auch einfacher, als  
in uns selbst Schätze zu finden. Durch das Beobachten und Achten wuchs der Mut  
zur Demut und Selbstachtung. Die Versöhnung wurde in diesen Momenten gelebt.**

**Offen bleibt die Frage: Wie weit können wir uns mit der Umwelt versöhnen, wenn  
dies im Inneren nicht oder nur teilweise geschehen ist?**



## 21. Tree-Meditation to reconcile body and mind

**Austria**

The meditation took place at Beas Urkost, an organic shop, in Graz on 15.01.2009. The subjects were reconciliation and the International UN Reconciliation Year 2009.

The Tree-Meditation helps us to gain inner stability and to return to our entirety. When body and mind are reconciled, it is easier to reconnect with the Divine. It leads to an increase of well-being and to the realisation of the one-ness. Dr. Krista Grein

## 22 . Meditation and Reconciliation

**Germany**



### **Iserlohn Meditation Group**

Our monthly meetings were held under the subject of reconciliation on the occasion of the International Reconciliation Year 2009. Each meeting was prepared and chaired by one of the participants.

Thereby the following main topics arose:

- reconciliation with oneself and one's past
- reconciliation with ones' own weak points
- What is it that impedes reconciliation?
- reconciliation with unpleasant people and situations
- The following methods helped us to work on these subjects and experience reconciliation:
  - Exchanges, an internal journey, body exercises, breathing exercises, gestures, sounds, visualizations, singing and the reading of various texts.

Summary: a precondition for reconciliation is the willingness for reconciliation. It can only happen, if there is understanding and respect for the other, the other opinion.

Reconciliation starts when I am at peace with myself and from there it is passed on to my relations with my partner, friends, family, neighbours, work and my whole environment.

Sabina Berger

## 23. RadioChico Schweiz during the youth ski-camp in Lenk Switzerland

(see report no. 31)



## 24 . Make a date with Peace at World Peace Hologram

USA

The project consisted of forty nine sessions with a session per week throughout the year of 2009. The site offered free sessions to anyone in the world who wished to receive support. The first six months were dedicated to personal related to family, relationship, finances, life purpose and health. The second half of the year focused on World Peace topics related to economy, leadership, environmental issues, human rights and tolerance.

Working with the process of Resonance Repatterning© sessions worked at the fundamental core level of life where we are all connected. The tenet of inner peace ripples out into the world in your relationships, these sessions worked with limiting beliefs, attitudes and issues holding back individuals in their quest for experiencing greater peace in their lives. For more information, visit: <http://www.worldpeacehologram.org>

Chair and Contact for project: Kimberly Rex at [kimberlyrex@worldpeacehologram.org](mailto:kimberlyrex@worldpeacehologram.org)

### VISION of World Peace Hologram:



### ABOUT US

“We are an association of people from around the world who have the ideal of putting love into action by being an instrument of transformation for ourselves and others.

We acknowledge the inherent goodness, strength and wisdom within all beings. We live and work with integrity, empowering ourselves and others to manifest a higher consciousness.

Through our work we are inspired to resonate with life enhancing intentions, which bring healing to ourselves, our communities and our planet. “

## 25. Youth for Peace and Reconciliation Burundi



### The report of activities (February)

#### INTRODUCTION

JAMAA is a non-profit-making association agreed by the Ministerial Ordinance number 530/357 of the 02/10/1995. Our mission is to promote a conscious youth, organized and linked for its own blooming and that of Burundi.

JAMAA uses as tools: The dialogue, the exchanges, information objectifies for a better comprehension of the other. Education and training aiming at the development of the aptitudes and the behaviors for the emergence of a clear conscience and the implementation of actions in favor of peace and the good being of all.

With the aim of accompany this year dedicated by the United Nations like Year of the Reconciliation, JAMAA asbl has draws up a pilot project named "Youth for Peace and Reconciliation" whose general objective is to mobilize the young people in particular, and the population in general on their noble role to consolidate peace and the reconciliation in their areas.

JAMAA has tools from which the causes and consequences of the local and regional conflicts are visualized, the best and effective methodologies to leave in conflicts peacefully are shown and the pleading for the social economic reintegration for the young who has been enlisted by politicians in their political struggle who at the end found themselves forgotten by their torturer.

These tools are the Film "the BEST CHOICE" and "DUTY OF CONSCIENCE" and the Cartoons "the BEST CHOICE AND NTAMWANA WO GUSHORA", **the cartoon the BEST CHOICE was selected by UNESCO in France as better tools which can be to used to educate about reconciliation.** We have also a Public Space for Young people containing a conference room, double in one ground for Basket and Volley ball, from where the activities for the young people are there permanently.



**1. The activities of February month: They are unrolls in the province of Bujumbura rural,**

Date	Activities	Place of the activity	Observations
from 2. – 13. February	Mobilization of our members and our focal points on the initiative to take part in the projects of the International year of Reconciliation 2009 and distribution of the invitations and the cartoons to the others taking part non-member of Jamaa	Espace publique JAMAA.	The members agreed to take part and contribute for the realization of this good initiative.  157 Participants
from 16. – 20. February	Eliminatory phase and preparation of the plays sketch, theatre, drawing and songs. Excenges about the cartoon's and the video contain and recommendations.	Ground Kinama St Family for teams (Mutimbuzi and Kinama) Ground ETS for teams Mugoboka and Kanyosha, kamenge, Ngagara	The team of Mutimbuzi was selected to play the final one with the team of kanyosha, thus the team cultural of Ruyange and Kinama. 243 participants
from 23. -26. February	Final and Final half Matches, contest of dense and songs under topics "we bring together for the better world". Projection of the video : " the best choice" and "duty of conscience"	All the activities occurred in public space Jamaa except the matches final which had been played in the ground of the COMIBU at Nyakabiga	Kanyosha beat Mutimbuzi on the penalties 3 - 0 because the match was finishes on the score of 1 goal everywhere, the sketch "Ntamwana wo kujanja ntambara" had price too.





## 26. Winter School 2009, conflicts unite

## Switzerland

**School of Social Work of the University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland (UASNW), and University of Basel**

The Winter School 2009 on: “The UN International Year of Reconciliation in the Context of Globalization” was held in Basel from January 12-16, 2009. Approximately 360 Bachelor’s and Master’s students at the School of Social Work of the UASNW and the University of Basel turned their attention to this urgent topic. More than 30 speakers from teaching, research, and practice presented, from various thematic perspectives, knowledge on causes of conflicts, conflict development, and the process of reconciliation as a form of dealing with conflicts. Responsible for the planning and module organization were the Institute for Social Planning and Urban Development (ISS) of the School of Social Work and the Institute of Sociology at the University of Basel.



### *International Year of Reconciliation and the role of social work*

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2009 the International Year of Reconciliation (Resolution 61/17). It emphasized the importance of reconciliation processes in domestic, national, and international conflicts. It stated that “dialogue among opponents from positions of respect and tolerance is an essential element of peace and reconciliation” and that “truth and justice are indispensable elements for the attainment of reconciliation and lasting peace.” The Assembly invited “concerned Governments and international and non-governmental organizations to support reconciliation processes among affected and/or divided societies and to plan and implement adequate cultural, educational and social programmes to promote the concept of reconciliation, including by holding conferences and seminars and disseminating information about the issue.”

Taking up on the UN Resolution, Winter School 2009 studied aspects of reconciliation as a form of conflict resolution in a discourse pertaining to social work and sociology. In the course of the one-week Winter School, connections were drawn from globalization as the overall context to international and national conflicts, to the significance of religion in conflicts and reconciliation, and to reconciliation processes in domestic conflicts and conflicts in the area of labor/work. All of these different conflict areas are frequently shown to be an overarching phenomenon of social change and stand in a more or less direct relation to globalization.

In the context of conflicts and reconciliation, social work can make an important contribution and play a preventative, mediating, monitoring, and supporting role. Based on the understanding that conflict in human relationships is normal and that it even functions as an

engine of change, it is necessary to promote constructive dealing with conflicts and non-violent conflict resolution strategies.

#### *The concept of reconciliation*

There is no standard definition of reconciliation. The speakers at the Winter School made the following aspects of reconciliation the subject of discussion: dialogue, truth, remorse and confession, forgiveness, justice, and reestablishment of trust. Reconciliation is described as a lengthy, slow, and work-intensive process that targets the emotional level and that stands in contrast to the frequently demanded “instant solutions.” Another factor in reconciliation is comprehensive analysis of the conflict bottom-up and top-down. Conflict escalation and also reconciliation include the interlacing of the micro, meso, and macro levels. For reconciliation, a simultaneous top-down and bottom-up process is necessary. Reconciliation at the level of the individuals cannot be decreed. However, reconciliation and thus healing are only possible if also at the level of the community and at the macro level of the state there is establishment of the truth and interest in reconciliation.

In our discussions, establishment of the truth and the way people see right and wrong emerged as a central problem. But also the importance and influence of the different levels of power and the structural framework conditions that affect the individual became apparent.

An important and recurring topic at the Winter School was trauma and healing, for in violent conflicts such as wars and civil wars, violations against humanity occur on a massive scale that cause traumatization. No reconciliation can take place without knowledge of the phenomenology and consequences of traumatization.

#### *Reconciliation in the global community*

The Winter School opened with a look at the global framework in which conflicts occur. Attention centered on the issue of connections between social inequality and social tensions, the analysis of strategies and mechanisms of exclusion, and social equity.

Civil society approaches postulate socially responsible globalism that prevents exclusion and fosters social equity – globally and regionally. This challenge takes place at the macro, meso, and micro levels – that is, international, national, and domestic levels – and in various areas.

#### *Ethnic conflicts*

The Winter School speakers on ethnic conflicts showed for different conflict regions that rulers always succeed at instrumentalizing ethnic differences for their own political or economic motives and at promoting isolation and the building up of stereotyped prejudices. What is staged at the macro level trickles down to the micro level of the individual. In the analysis of conflicts in Africa, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Gaza Strip, it was found that ethnic, religious, and cultural differences are seldom the actual causes of conflicts.

In view of the complexity of conflict contexts and histories, it became clear how great the challenges are that reconciliation efforts in heterogeneous societies face. Only when we can break through the victim/perpetrator dynamics at the individual and societal level is it possible to stop spiraling conflicts. In several of the lectures, the speakers explained that reconciliation is based on willingness to engage in dialogue and analyze the history of the conflict and on the establishment of truth.

#### *Reconciliation in the context of domestic violence*

For the topic domestic violence, the focus was on the micro level. The microcosm of the family cannot be viewed as an isolated unit, as it always also mirrors societal trends and tendencies. This is seen not least of all in the legal context, for legislation reflects a society's underlying norms and values. All in all, the speakers summed up that domestic violence in our society is no longer a taboo subject and that it is being acknowledged as a social problem.

A main emphasis in the lectures and workshops was the analysis of the spiral of violence and the questions as to what routes lead out of this spiral of violence and how alternative, non violent behavior patterns can be learned. There was a critical debate concerning the extent to which the concept of reconciliation is appropriate in the case of domestic violence, and what prerequisites must be put in place to prevent victims of violence from being victims once again.

#### *(Inter)religious conflicts*

The examination of the topic of (inter)religious conflicts showed that from the positive side, religions are able to name, work through, and fight out conflicts. In addition, religions provide models of reconciliation and conciliation that also other groups in society can take up. On the negative side, religions can be responsible for unjust structures and in this way become perpetrators.

The contributions included, among others, a look at the internal examination of an institution of the Protestant Church in an effort to reappraise its history during the period of the Bismarck era and during the Nazi period in Germany. Another contribution examined a Christian organization's reconciliation project in Rwanda and led a discussion on the role of the Catholic Church before and during the wars. That day provided in addition an opportunity for critical self-reflection and discussion on values as well as for broadening knowledge of how different religions see themselves and others.

#### *Forms of conflict resolution and reconciliation in the world of work*

In recent decades the increasing globalization has affected gainful employment and thus also the framework conditions of labor conflicts. In Switzerland, where labor peace has a long tradition, labor conflicts are all the more frequently individualized. One of the visions presented showed that here, reconciliation could mean becoming liberated from a relationship of debt, resp. debtor and creditor, the process of victim of circumstances and practical constraints, and becoming an autonomous actor in a network of social relationships. But in addition to this vision, also concrete examples of institutions that initiate and monitor reconciliation were presented, such as the work of the complaints commissioner (Ombudsman) of the Canton of Basel-Stadt or the example of company social work and conflict resolution in the area of employer/employee relations.

#### *The reconciliation challenge*

One focus of the Winter School was the reconciliation process in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Thanks to the research partnership that the Institute for Social Planning and Urban Development (ISS) has established with the University of Tuzla in Bosnia and Herzegovina and with Vive Zene (a non-governmental organization working in the area of trauma and violence), there was the opportunity to make use of the differentiated specialist knowledge of our research partners on the topic of reconciliation for the Winter School. Speaking from various perspectives, our colleagues from Bosnia and Herzegovina reported on the framework conditions and obstacles in the rebuilding and reconciliation process.

#### *Positive echo*

In a final round attended by students and the organizers of the Winter School, the students expressed positive feedback on the one-week Winter School. They appreciated the variety of the material but found the density of the input to be at the upper limit. As to content, they missed the topic of reconciliation with the Eastern bloc. The joint conducting of the Winter School by the University of Basel and the School of Social Work of the UASNW found a positive echo. Not least for that reason, the students would have welcomed more informal platforms for exchange and also opportunities for more participation in the workshops.

The Winter School was planned by members of the Institute for Social Planning and Urban Development, School of Social Work at UASNW – Dr. Miryam Eser, Prof. Urs Kaegi, Prof. Johanna Kohn, Barbara Schürch and Prof. Dr. des. Eva Tov – and by Prof. Dr. Ueli Mäder, School of Social Work at UASNW and Institute of Sociology at the University of Basel.

Contact: Barbara Schürch, lic. phil., research associate, Institute for Social Planning and Urban Development ISS, [barbara.schürch@fhnw.ch](mailto:barbara.schürch@fhnw.ch) Photos: Barbara Schürch, Montage: Jonas Frei

## 27. New England in the Fall Bike Ride

## Northern Ireland

### Co-operation Ireland 'New England in the Fall' Bike Ride

A total of 30 cyclists from all over Ireland, both North and South, headed out to New England in September 2009 to undertake a 350 mile cycle challenge in support of Co-operation Ireland's peace building work. The event raised in excess of €20,000 for Co-operation Ireland, which will be used to fund the charity's programmes for youth, community and education, designed to bring together people from all backgrounds to encourage trust and respect within all communities and all cultures throughout the island of Ireland. The bike ride took place over 5 days at the end of September 2009, with the cyclists riding approximately 70 miles each day through some of the most beautiful scenery in New England. Co-operation Ireland was delighted to receive the help and support of local sponsors in the New England area. Our thanks also to the Irish Consul, Michael Lonergan, for hosting a reception at the Irish Consulate on Monday 28 September in recognition of the efforts of cyclists and sponsors.



The New England in the Fall Bike Ride was not only a tremendous opportunity for participants to experience the trip of a lifetime, but also by raising funds through sponsorship for Co-operation Ireland, each of the cyclists will be helping the charity in its very important work on both sides of the border, in working towards a lasting peace on our island.

### About Co-operation Ireland

Co-operation Ireland was set up as a charitable organisation in 1979 with the aim of improving relations between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. To this end, the organisation aims to advance mutual understanding and respect by promoting practical co-operation. For the past 30 years, Co-operation Ireland has established itself as a key player in the attempt to bring about a stable and lasting peace on the island of Ireland. Only when people from different backgrounds are brought together to learn about each other can negative stereotypes be dispelled, and subsequent mistrust and violence end.

To continually develop Co-operation Ireland's peace building programme activities extensive funds are required and various fundraising initiatives are organised with either a Sporting or Corporate theme. Some of the major overseas cycling events that Co-operation Ireland has organised over the years and which have raised substantial funds for the charity include Canadian Rockies in 1999, French/German Borders Region in 2000, The Great Down Under Sporting Challenge to Australia in 2002, Biking USA in 2004, Bike South Africa in 2006 and Bike Nepal in 2008. The events are also synonymous with the work of Co-operation Ireland in improving relationships between the peoples of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.



## 28. The Voice

## Pakistan

The Voice has been set-up by ordinary people to do extra-ordinary task with their limited resources. "Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the right of the poor and oppressed". The Voice is a non-political, non-governmental and non-profit organization. Its motto is **"help those who are not able to help themselves."**

The Voice is working for more then thirty children that are disabled/handicapped and over twenty children that are orphans and over 45 street children with poor back ground or who are abused as child labour. The work has already being carried out in the regions of the Punjab, with friends' until now. Currently ninety five children are receiving a regular helping hand although not so proper in accordance to their expectations or requirements but still a support that is at least better than nothing.



Moreover The Voice is also helping the Brick kiln bonded labours in general by relieving them from the bondage and providing them opportunities or connecting them with people that can finance them directly for any Micro-business opportunity.

The voice has recently started a project for the rights of the Women in 2008 providing them free legal Aid and help in the cases of Rape, Domestic Violence, Forced Conversion, Bonded Labour etc.





The Voice was started in 2000 as a group of six graduate students who were doing graduation and were working part time. They were moved and overwhelmed by the disabilities and miseries of the Orphans and Disabled children around them in the society. Therefore they decided to help the children from their own income, and with the passage of time they kept on studying and helping the poor children. Now they have become a strong educated group among the society that is willing to support and help the destitute children through their own sources and through the help of the other people who are willing to help these forgotten poor creatures of God with Love and Dedication. The Voice is providing education, health, skills, and reinstatement to the destitute children and to build up the alleviation, cooperation and coordination between them and the society. The Voice is working for more than 30 children that are disabled/handicapped and over twenty children that are orphans and over 45 street children with poor back ground or are abused as child labor.

The work has already being carried out in the regions of the Punjab, with friends' until now. Currently ninety five children are receiving a regular helping hand although not so proper in accordance to their expectations or requirements but still a support that is at least better than nothing .At this point The Voice is helping and is ready to help the destitute children who are descended in their own home, society and country at this stage we would like to provide them with their basic needs of life, some technical skills (if they are able to adapt them) and the basic education in order to prevent them from the inferiority complex and the lack of confidence. Moreover The Voice is also working for the elimination of the social evils that are affecting children in different ways in the society.

The Voice is also trying to help the persecuted Christians in need. The Voice helps them legally, by representing them in the courts, and some times provides them shelters if in desperate needs (with the help of Catholic Institutes etc). The cases upon which the Voice society is working are mainly the cases of religious persecution in any or all forms.

The voice is also working for the rights of the Women providing them free legal Aid and help in the cases of Rape, Domestic Violence, Forced Conversion, Bonded Labor etc. Moreover The Voice is also helping the Brick kiln bonded labors in general by relieving them from the bondage and providing them opportunities or connecting them with people that can finance them directly for any micro-business opportunity.

As it is a known fact that there are only 3% Christians in Pakistan and majority among them is poor, the living standards are very meager that they can hardly fulfill their bread and butter for daily life. Especially in the remote and rural areas the life is very difficult for the Christians. Christians have to face many challenges of Discrimination in every day field of life on the basis of their religion, and poverty is yet another challenge. Moreover the majority among Christians is illiterate or very less educated and therefore has very minimal paying jobs e.g. laborers or farmers etc, therefore there are the maximum reasons and chances for the Christians to be exposed towards violence and discrimination. As it is obvious that women are the most persecuted group among the human beings living in Pakistan therefore a strong need was felt by the voice group to work upon such a project that could defend the causes and rights of women, and for the persecuted Christians. ([raisethevoice@gmail.com](mailto:raisethevoice@gmail.com) )

Aneeqa Maria Akhtar, Advocate High Court, Coordinator The Vioce

## 29. Living Reconciliation - but how?

## Germany

We are a group of people, more precisely 12 men and women of various age and profession, who have been meeting every month for 5 years to converse about their life and Christian faith. During our monthly meetings, we are given the opportunity to engage with an issue that is very important to us. Exchanging experiences and being ready to break new ground, that is what represents our ambition. "Living reconciliation – but how" led us on our project day, January 18, 2009, both as question and challenge.



After a short introduction, we started with singing a song together "Meine engen Grenzen / My narrow limitations" and listened to the poem "Unaufhaltsam / Unstoppable" by Hilde Domin as preparation to the following creative part. In this part, we were able to face the proposed question closely relating to reconciliation: "What is the beginning of every confrontation?"

We formulated the answers as a group, complemented one another and finally came to the following solution: Our jealousy, the grudge, the greed, our egoism, disinterest, disrespect, our remaining in clichés, prejudices, role thinking, are the reasons for misunderstandings in many cases. The important question arose: "And what can lead us out of this? What can make us stop and turn around? What can make a new beginning possible? What does reconciliation mean, especially to me? Which words and sentences are reconciliatory to me? Which color and shape could I use to express my idea of reconciliation in a painting?"

By using drawing and writing paper, colors, paint brushes and pencils, pictures and texts evolved, in which every member of our group tried to deal with the subject "Living reconciliation – but how?" in his very own and individual way, hereby revealing inner thoughts and feelings (see text examples and painting "Reconciliation"). A very intense exchange of ideas followed: Everyone introduced his text or painting to the entire group. Amazing, that there were so many individual perspectives.

Finally, we sang the songs "Da berühren sich Himmel und Erde / Heaven and earth are touching each other" and "Einmal wird der Himmel singen / One day, heaven will sing". Everyone was happy and visible relieved, because this afternoon the confrontation with such a difficult topic had ended with a promising and hopeful perspective for our future.

Franziskanischer Ehepaarkreis

## 30. Labyrinth – inward and outward Paths

Germany

**Preparation:** Sweat Lodge at Witten on 11.20.2009: prayers for worldwide reconciliation; design and subsequent use of the labyrinth; energetic cleaning



**Construction:** corresponding to the millennia-old Cretan labyrinth – starting from a cross the circular paths are winding through 7 rounds up to the centre, i.e. the union of square and circle as symbol of the wholeness of the universe.

**Location:** on a plot at the Findhof seminar house

**Reconciliation motif as symbol of the centre:** assisted by a friend, we made a sculpture: a woman and a man are joining hands; above their heads there is the globe.



**Opening:** 18.10.2009. on the occasion of a party with about 30 persons from a circle of friends; information on the S.E.R. Foundation and reconciliation; shaman ritual (burning incense and drumming); everybody made his way to the centre; where all persons gathered and prayed; once arrived outside a large circle was formed and we sang together. Everybody could take a stone with him on his way to the centre in order to deposit a load or express a good wish. There also was a possibility to label a prayer flag and add it to the originals; later when it was dark candles were burning everywhere.

Einladung für Ökumenischen Kreis, kath. Frauengemeinschaft, SchülerInnen des Gymnasiums Lindlar und andere Interessierte.

Angelika van Amern

## 31. RadioChico Schweiz daily on the way and active on the subject of Reconciliation Switzerland

**RADIOCHICO**

### Reconciliation: Interviews, a Song and a Story for the UNO Year 2009

For the past 10 months RadioChico Schweiz – a not-for-profit internet radio project for and with children and young people – was busy hunting for interviews on the subject of reconciliation. Teams of young reporters working with RadioChico Schweiz interviewed people of all creeds on the occasion of the UNO International Year of Reconciliation. We decided to select the best interviews and present them as a CD-Rom. In addition, the RadioChico team wrote a story on the theme of reconciliation and a singer produced a unique song especially for the occasion.

The aim of the Förderverein RadioChico Schweiz is to empower children and young people. We are proud to present this extract of numerous activities developed by the Radio Project throughout the year 2009. This is our contribution to the International Year of Reconciliation.

#### The interviews

Be they girls, boys, young women, seniors, priests, businessmen, sportswomen, mothers or politicians: all interviewees had something interesting and personal to say about forgiveness and reconciliation. The present CD-Rom offers a selection of these interviews. The young reporters and moderators (most of them schoolchildren) came across interesting statements. One of these statements fascinated us for number of weeks while we were producing this CD-Rom: reconciliation requires “jumping over one’s own shadow” – a German saying expressing the need to break out of ingrained patterns of thought or behaviour.

“Jump over one’s own shadow?” We tried it out and found out that this is an impossible undertaking. My own shadow constantly follows me. Only at noon can I stand on it... but if I actually try to jump over it... no success! However, it’s definitely possible to jump over the shadow of an enemy.

Could it be that this statement is the true answer to the difficult question of reconciliation? Is it possible that the shadow of our enemy has to do with ourselves? And that jumping over it will allow us to forgive and take the path of reconciliation, hand in hand with our former enemy? Then, let’s jump and enjoy the jumping sessions!



#### The song and the story – “Versöhnung: Liebe ist...”

David Joss, of the Band GUNDI, offered us a fantastic present: He wrote and performed a new RECONCILIATION song for RadioChico. We used this song to underline the different interviews.

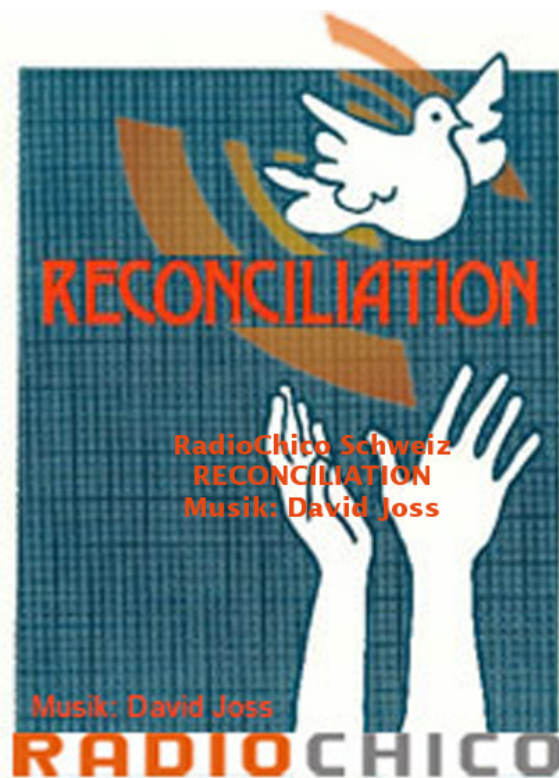
In addition to the interviews, the RadioChico Team members wrote a story entitled “Reconciliation: Love is...”. In this story – a story of the kind that can happen anywhere in the world – cultures and family members work towards reconciliation, overcoming inner conflicts.



We hope that our listeners will enjoy the result of the children's efforts to explore a very difficult and important theme! We also hope that this contribution will help to raise consciousness of the need for forgiveness, reconciliation and peace. May the UNO Year 2009 fulfill the expectations of its initiators!

Annemarie Koch  
President, Förderverein RadioChico Schweiz





## Dienstag, 17. 11. 2009

**Reconciliation/Aussöhnung ist angewandte diplomatische Führung und Staatskunst in edler Gesinnung.**

Der ehemalige UNO Generalsekretär Kofi Annan sagte: "Versöhnung ist die höchste Form des Dialogs". Die Vereinten Nationen (UN) haben dieses Potential erkannt und das Jahr 2009 zum Internationalen Jahr der Aussöhnung erklärt.

**RadioChico nimmt mit Projekten aktiv teil!**



### Zeiten

Tagesmoderation: Alkan

**10:00** News immer zur vollen Stunde

**10:30** Rückblick in die wunderschöne RadioChico Projektwoche mit der Schule Bäh-Ho-Ri, Diemtigtal, im Radio-Studio Goldbach-Lützelbühl

**10:45** TV Tipp

**11:45** Scoolhighlights

**14:15** TV Tipp

**15:45** Interview mit Herrn Sönke Nissen: ITIL Service Management  
Moderatorin Kajana

**16:15** TV Tipp

**17:30** Reportage über Presheva  
Moderation: Alkan

**19:00** Sport

**00:00** Schweizer Nationalhymne

### SENDEPROGRAMM

Tagesprogramme sind [hier](#)

Nächste Projektwoche:

[Klasse 7.1A](#), Schule 6221  
Rickenbach

Neu: Newsletter

[Hier](#) abonnieren!

Hitparade RCS & Future  
Stars RCS

[Hit-Top30](#) [Future Stars](#)

Für live streams: anklicken!

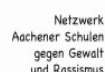


## Run for Diversity – Contra Violence and Racism

On June 26th 2009 the 8th **Run 4 Peace** took place in Aachen's city centre. More than 4.200 children and teenagers from 37 local schools participated.



Laufen für **Vielfalt**  
gegen Gewalt und Rassismus





Following the motto „**Run for Diversity – Contra Violence and Racism**“ the children and teenagers demanded: „We want to live in a colourful, diverse and tolerant city, in which all people have the same rights and can live without fear.“

To confirm their demand, they ran the 900m long distance again and again. With each round they received an ink-stamp on their arm so that afterwards the rounds could be counted. Some children made it up to 16 rounds. They were rewarded for their success by their friends, relatives and acquaintances who had agreed to sponsor the children. In doing so the young people collected almost 50.000 € which they donated to support peace organisations working in Aachen, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia.



The children and teenagers were well prepared for their **Run 4 Peace**. In the months before the run their schools partook in the educational programme that accompanies each **Run 4 Peace**, thus **more than 1.500 children profited from the programme**.

**Two of the many highlights of the educational programme are briefly shown here:**

- The pantomime Scheibub held workshops for primary schools. In pantomimic scenes he showed the children where and how violence starts and where it leads to. Even the smallest schoolchildren understood the story Scheibub wanted to tell without using words when he mimed as man from the stoneage, as mafioso, or as cowboy. „You are showing us things people do when they one quarrel“, the children commented on his performance. Afterwards Scheibub did pantomimic scenes together with the children taking their personal experiences as a starting point, showing them how to deal with conflict and how to minimise prejudices. He showed the children how to understand their own body and their attitude better and thereby also to understand better the people around them.



- How does it feel if you come to Germany from abroad? If you don't speak the language? If you look differently? If you have a different culture? Will you be welcomed? Will you be treated well? How does it feel to face xenophobia and racism?

Six students who left their home-country to study in Aachen and who attract attention simply by the colour of their skins, held workshops in many schools in order to debate with the children about how it feels to be different. The workshops helped the children to broach the issue of prejudices and racism and their own experiences with it.

Aachen's **Run4Peace** is organised by a network of 8 peace organisations and finds great support in Aachen. Patrons of the Run are Mayor Dr. Jürgen Linden, Bishop Dr. Heinrich Mussinghoff und Superintendent Hans-Peter Bruckhoff. More than 100 volunteers help to make the **Run4Peace** work.

In 2009 **Run4Peace** inspired by the idea from Aachen took place in Augsburg, Berlin, Bonn, Bremen, Freiburg und Hamburg as well as in Bosnia-Herzegovina und Mazedonia.

## 38. - 52. Seminars carried by "Kath. Erwachsenenbildung" in Koblenz Germany

### 38. / 39. "... so that it may start differently – living reconciled!" Bibliodrama

Looking at one's life and faith in the context of a biblical text and experiencing that new steps can be taken through reconciliation. (In March and May)

### 40. "I have seen thy face, and thou wast pleased with me (Gen. 33,10)

The two twin brothers Esau and Jacob were so different as they could possibly be and from childhood on and over the years they had become deadly enemies. After years of separation they are facing each other with each of them having his own life story. Longing for reconciliation and mistrust are confronting each other. Their lives can begin anew.



**41. For thy brother was dead and is alive again; and was lost, and is found. (Luc.15,32)**

Bibliodrama-weekend - Biblical family stories

**42. Living reconciled, even if life takes a different turn (Rut 1,6-22)**

Bibliodrama-weekend in lent

**43. Living reconciled, so that abundance is set free (Luc. 7,36-50)**

Bibliodrama-evening in lent

**44. When reconciliation has no roots (1. Sam. 19,1-12)**

Bibliodrama evening in lent

**45. Living reconciled so that others, in their turn, can live. (Luc. 19,1-10)**

Bibliodrama-evening in lent

**46. How to do love: the learned advocate (Luc.10,25-37)**

Evening lecture with Erich Riechers SAC

**47. The price of Tolerance – Ways to Dialogue**

Contemplation day during lent: A peaceful co-existence – also religious – does not grow by itself. How can there be unity without fighting diversity?

**48.The Islamic Theology – Challenge and Change**

The seminar offered a platform for discussions on the following central subjects :today's understanding of the Koran, relationship between faith and rationality, missionary work in the Islam, "translation" of the Muslim faith into our modern world, thus contributing to the progress of defining the relationship between Christianity and Islam.

**49. How to Deal with our Guilt? Coping Strategies in Christianity**

Prof. Niederschlag showed in his lecture coping strategies that Christianity offers with regard to guilt and reconciliation, and he also looked into difficult questions.

**50. Reconciliation – Daughters, Sons, Parents**

Is it a question of duty or a chance for reconciliation? Who is supposed to take the first step? How could it look like? Dr. phil. Mathias Jung looked into this problem and showed ways to reconciliation.

**51. Climacteric Period – Reconciliation with Changes**

This evening was about the climacteric period looked at from a new, perhaps different perspective. The climacteric period – both for women and men – offers the chance of looking back, taking a break and appreciating what has been achieved in life so far. In transitioning to the next stage of life it may be necessary to get accustomed to the fact that some life-plans and -dreams may remain unaccomplished. It is essential to tidy up and declutter, which may be accompanied by grief or anger, emotional and/or physical hardship. A conciliatory dealing with ourselves and living with contradictions and ambivalences may open new perspectives to a changed form of living.

**52. Paths out of Hatred and Violence – Steps to approach one another**

The Detmold confession as a model for resolving conflicts.

After the Rwanda genocide in 1994, Rwandans of different confessions and ethnic groups formulated a courageous confession, admitting their ethnic groups' guilt entanglement and showing a path to reconciliation.

## 53. Reconciliation – a Path to Peace in the Holy Land Germany



### Deanery Koblenz / Monastery Arenberg

In the context of the monastery Forum and as a contribution to the UN Reconciliation Year the Monastery Arenberg invited to a lecture on reconciliation in the Holy Land on 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2009. Approximately 40 participants attended. Steffi Schmid, the project manager of the S.E.R. Elijah- Project, a project for international understanding and reconciliation in Israel and the West Banks PNA, reported on her experiences in the Holy Land and introduced the S.E.R. Elijah-Project.

Being a co-founder of the S.E.R. Foundation she explained its commitment for reconciliation in the world and the United Nations as well as its dedication to peace in the Holy Land and she emphasized the importance for peacemakers to regard everyone with an open mind and to remain in one's inner stability. It is the only way to bear sufferings and injustices and not to get involved in emotions. These are the prerequisites, which are necessary to work in a conflict area.

The S.E.R. Elijah-Project offers training and schooling programmes for personality development, health care and awareness improvement in co-operation with organisations on site. The means are voice and energy work and meditation. Reconciliation starts within ourselves, then spreading to families, circles of friends etc.

The experience of reconciliation leads to the awareness of "unity in diversity" and opens our eyes for a new consciousness of the one great "human family".



Steffi Schmid's lecture was accompanied by hang sounds and songs. At the end there was an opportunity to ask questions. The evening was concluded by a prayer for reconciliation and peace.



## **54. The History of a separation – from the Jewish and the Christian perspective** **Germany**

**Kath. Erwachsenenbildung Koblenz, Day of studies:** The separation between Judaism and Christianity is irreversible. Nevertheless it is worth dealing with the historic and religious development of the two sibling religions.

## **55. The Church in Africa in the service of Reconciliation, Justice and Peace** **Germany**

**Kath. Erwachsenenbildung Koblenz, Day of studies**

## **56. Visits to elderly and sick people in Styria** **Austria**

Weekly visits to singles, elderly and mentally unstable persons

- to complete formalities
- to provide social services
- talks for personal encouragement

Many people visited were in conflict with their own family and fate. In these cases I tried to speak about peace and reconciliation during our conversations.

## **57. Volunteer services in the House Rosalie at Graz** **Austria**

House Rosalie is a home for women, suffering from alcoholism, addicted to drugs, beaten and abused. Thanks to the volunteer services house Rosalie can continue to exist. The main focus is on conversations, which are appreciated and used open-heartedly by the residents.



Sr Marillac, Sister of Mercy, Graz / Austria

## 59. Weeping for the Polar Caps – a counterfactual attempt of global empathy Germany

We start crying whenever we have lost somebody or something, we cry out of fear, anger sorrow or rage. According to different studies, weeping is a social behaviour, functioning as a reminder of an event or warning of danger to other members of a social group, which might be important for the survival of a society. On the other hand we start crying, whenever we, ourselves – in our private life – are primarily concerned.

This is understandable!

Let's just assume that globalisation would force us to feel sympathy and empathy – as well as to sell our knowledge and our products beyond the borders; assuming any wounded people living around the world would bring us to feel the same sorrow as if it was for our own grandmother, best friend, own child – what would the consequences be? Would we still be able to work? To love, sleep, eat, have sex, go to cinema?

Launching this project “Weeping for the polar caps” the laboratory for counterfactual thinking wanted to experiment humorously with the conception of a transnational empathy. From the results of a three months lasting theatrical research with inhabitants of Berlin, political protagonists and experts from different scientific disciplines, a staged performance, video installations and performative interactions for a mile of empathy were developed. Performance: in August 2009 in the Berlin urban districts Kreuzberg, Wedding, Marzahn and Neukölln.

## 60. Solve that reconciliation is necessary for peace, order and justice Burundi

**REPORT OF THE DEBATE ON PEACE AND RECONCILIATION HELD ON MAY 23rd 2009 AT MUTANGA CAMPUS-UNIVERSITY OF BURUNDI**, presented by Diomède Mujojoma

After a long time of preparation of the debate, the day arrived. It was waited impatiently by many, especially my class mates. It was on Saturday, 23rd of May, 2009. At a quarter to eleven, the debate began.

The amphitheatre was full of students and some teachers of the University. There were impatient to listen to a student from junior level holding a debate, treating a delicate subject : « **Peace and Reconciliation** » in a community and in a country that has suffered a lot from civil crises due to internal divisions.

It was not at random that I chose to deal with this subject : Peace and Reconciliation. It was in to the call made by the United Nations to the whole World to participate to **the International Reconciliation Year 2009**.

The main aim was : **To teach people how Reconciliation is necessary for Order, Justice and Peace restoration**. The specific aims were:

- To define the concepts of Forgiveness, Reconciliation, Order, Justice and Peace.
- To show and explain different kinds of conflicts, how they evolve to violence.
- To show how Forgiveness and Reconciliation are important for violence solution.
- To make people understand that their differences are not to separate them, but rather to enrich them.
- To get people develop friendship, unity and fight for brotherhood and peace.





After my exposé, many questions have been asked and answered clearly. Everybody was convinced that Forgiveness and Reconciliation are important to achieve Peace, Order and Justice. Then, after being informed about the different kinds of conflicts and how conflicts evolve to violence, and finally, after having been taught on the process of solving conflicts, the participants engaged themselves to commit themselves in peace making.

At one PM of local time or eleven GMT, the debate was forced to end while participants did not want it. Everybody was excited, their face were enlightened.

## **61. Family Concert with the Camerata Suzuki Switzerland**

### **Palace Concert in the Romanic Chapel of Spiez, on 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2009**

The Camerata Suzuki CH consists of 15 young instrumentalists aged between 9 and 17, who have been trained according to the Suzuki method since their age of 3.

They are supervised by 2 professional musicians, the flautist and conductor Andreas Schär as well as the violinist Sandrine Schär-Chiffelle, the founder and director of the Biel Suzuki violin school.

The Suzuki-method was introduced by Professor Shinichi Suzuki 60 years ago. It is based on the same principles as for learning the first language: The child gets acquainted with its instrument and music at an early stage. Teachers and parents create a motivating atmosphere, encouraging the child by an understanding affection and appreciation.

At the Concert at Spiez the amazing relaxed attitude and power of expression of the young musicians was duly admired and celebrated!

## 62. Peace and Reconciliation

## Burundi

### Concert for peace and reconciliation in Kayanza



Brief eye view on its occurrence

**Sunday April 19th, 2009, the Holy Family Singing Choir has made a trip to Kayanza town at RUGANZA parish precisely.** That trip was aiming at holding a concert for peace and reconciliation in the sense of celebration of the **International Year for Peace and Reconciliation 2009, proclaimed by the United Nations.**

Two singing choirs of Kayanza, one for children and another for adults have welcomed the Holy Family Singing Choir. Nobody guess why Kayanza and no other place were chosen.

First of all, Kayanza is one of the provinces of Burundi having a lot of people and it has been more touched by the crisis then other provinces. Next, Kayanza is located in north of the country at more than 100 km from Bujumbura, it is among provinces which receives a lot of refugees (in their coming back).



The concert began just after the mass which was held by Holy Family Choir members. A great crowd was at the rendez-vous and local authorities had also taken part in those ceremonies: the governor conseller in charge of culture, senator Emilien Hakizimana elected in Kayanza location and a lot of religion responsible. The public was diversified (heterogeneous: young people, men and women).

The songs and dances were inviting the public to council, to cease with the divisionist spirit, receiving the other as a brother in order to realize the ideal of living the unity in the diversity.

In the middle of the concert, the Nun who had accompanied the Holy Family Choir, in the name of the Sanctuary Priest Deogratias Maruhukiro, pronounced a speech. This speech was centered on the participation of the Holy Family Choir in the fight for peace and reconciliation in the World. After that, the parish priest in his allocution centered his message on peace and reconciliation and addressed his thanks to the Holy Family Choir for having chosen Kayanza as an address of execution of that project. He recommended our choir to organize another concert in Kayanza because the public has been very attracted.

**Let's recall that the Family Choir was accompanied with a journalist of "Radio Maria Burundi" who broadcasted that Sunday afternoon and Monday the great realizations of the concert.**

Jean Etienne Ndayizigiye, President of the "Chorale St. Famille" Mont Sion Gikungu, Bujumbura

## **63. 3<sup>rd</sup> Bremer Peace Run**

**Germany**

The Bremen peace run is a sports event, where pupils are supporting the civil peace work actively. Prior to the run each runner looks for private sponsors, who are willing to pay a free chosen amount per completed round. The money will then be donated to a peace project in Macedonia and to an international youth movement in Bremen respectively. The peace run, however, is at the same time an educational project. In the run-up to the race, there are various educational programmes for the participating schools on the subject of "**civil conflict resolving**", among others a visit to peace workers, who report on their experiences in conflict-affected areas.

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Bremen peace run took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2009** on the Bremen market place and was carried through by the forum of civil peace services in co-operation with the Bremen Youth Council, the Lidice House and the Federal Sports League.

## **64. Peace or Justice? Truth-Finding or Punishment of the Offenders?**

**Switzerland**

**Romero House Lucerne on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2009**

Andreas Zumach, reporter in Geneva, is interviewing Rainer Huhle from the human rights centre in Nürnberg on the difficulties in reconciliation, using the example of the conflicts in Latin America and in different world religions. How can reconciliation become possible after civil wars or other territorial conflicts, usually going along with severe human rights violations. Whether in Columbia, Peru or South Africa – the basic question always is the same: Are the public recognition of the victims of violence and human rights violations and the confession of the offenders sufficient and satisfactory.



## **65. Path marks – exchange marks**

**Switzerland**

This project is dealing with small objects of persons who are on their way in a relationship with each other. Through their shaping the objects emblematised conformity and autonomy at the same time. Each mark can be assigned to a bearer by the specific materials and their colourings.

If people go separate ways for a while, the objects are exchanged, thus becoming visible marks for our being accompanied and supported by the other.

Hans Stalder

## **66. “Tour du monde en musique”**

**Switzerland**

**Concerts des jeunes musiciens à Oberwil avec l'ensemble Suzuki de Bienne le 2nd Juin 2009.**

Sous la direction de Martin Schaefer violoniste folk et encadrés par 2 autres musiciens professionnels Sandrine Schär-Chiffelle violoniste et directrice de l'Ecole de violon Méthode Suzuki ainsi qu'Andrea Vitzkelety violoncelliste, de jeunes musiciens âgés de 5 à 16 ans interpréteront des œuvres du monde entier.

Malgré leur très jeune âge plusieurs violonistes du groupe ont une expérience musicale de plus de 10 années car ils ont débuté leur instrument vers 4 ans selon les principes de l'apprentissage de la langue maternelle utilisés dans la Méthode Suzuki. Tout comme la Méthode Suzuki, la musique folk s'apprend d'abord d'oreille donc sans partition et permet à l'interprète plus de naturel et de profondeur.

Le « **Tour du monde en musique** » proposé par l'ensemble de jeunes musiciens débutera en Moldavie avec « Bessarabianca » passera par la Hongrie avec « Csardas », la Grèce « Milisi mou » et plusieurs autres destinations pour terminer le voyage avec « Tsouika Hora » de la Roumanie.

## 67. The GigggleIT Project

Australia

### GigggleIT 2008 - 2009.

“The GigggleIT Project has been a valuable teaching and learning tool that embraced not only educational outcomes but also the values and attitudes relevant to today's society.” Diana Kirkland, Carine Senior High School, Australia.



GigggleIT has become such a successful collaborative project it will be ongoing and include a diverse long term agenda. Also attached are associated photographs. This project is an example of how **“high – minded diplomatic leadership”** and **“statesmanship in action”** can provide a **“bridge for reconciliation”** through “Unity in Diversity” on an **international stage**. This project fulfils the aims and objectives of the reconciliation agenda of the S.E.R. Foundation.

The GigggleIT Project, is an initiative of the International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) Children’s and Young Adult Literature (CYAL), Special Interest Group (SIG). The GigggleIT Project is an example of how the IASL, **endeavours to promote an inclusive outlook, racial tolerance and collaboration using the Association as a mentoring and information sharing conduit.**

The Association promotes literacy outcomes and provides educational support for teachers and students worldwide, while also promoting global unity, racial tolerance and understandings through the use of children's humour and writings, which in turn lead children to think about cultural similarities and differences.

- Aims & Objectives:**
- to publish electronically, an international compendium of children's writing and creative works. This electronic compendium will then be published as a hard copy book for distribution to those children who can and cannot access the Internet.
  - to promote and encourage the publication of children's work across multi-lingual platforms;
  - to publish a compendium of original children's literature; and
  - to promote the International Children's Digital Library (link) (ICDL).
  - to promote cross-cultural understandings and collaboration for children and young adults around the world
- Learning Outcomes:**
- develop critical literacy skills and creative writing skills through research of national identity as found in national literature;
  - explore the humour of their own culture/s and ethnic groups through myths, legends, stories, anecdotes and jokes particular to that culture and gain a better understanding of their own national identity through the comparison of international literature;
  - increase their understandings of cultural/ethnic differences and similarities;
  - use technology and humour as motivational tools to create global connections and spread joy;
  - contribute to the publication of a global work of children's literature, produced for and by the world's children.
- Free Resources:**
- **GiggleIT Project Web portal** – student web site, teacher website, Professional Development web site & (print) GiggleIT Manual; complete teaching-learning program; free Web space for each school to publish online eg. <<http://www.iasl-online.org/sla/giggleIT/concordia.htm>>
  - **School Libraries in Action** - 50+ GiggleIT teaching resources, free generic literacy teaching resources <<http://www.iasl-online.org/sla/index.htm>>
  - **Free Support Services** - all GiggleIT participants; <Email: [giggle\\_it@live.com.au](mailto:giggle_it@live.com.au)>
  - **Free International Platform** – moderated, for all children of the world to express their ideas and concerns.

### Examples:

To gain a better understanding of participants' own national identity through the comparison of international literature.

*WHO AM I? by Sindy, South Africa*

I am a young citizen  
 With rights  
 Proud of myself  
 Proud of my heritage  
 Multilingual  
 Multicultural  
 I embrace diversity  
 Like our nation  
 I say unity in diversity



**Increase participants' understandings of cultural/ethnic differences and similarities.**

***Where we are in the world - Our Country by Rasyidah, Australia.***

Australia is situated on the south eastern side of the world. Being such an enormous country, many Australians consider this land as a miniature 'world' of its own. Australia is one of the seven continents on this planet. Australia is an eminent place, famous for its kangaroos, unique culture, slang, footy and beer. Filled with people bursting with national pride, this is one of the irreplaceable places on Earth. Our school is in the Town of Victoria Park, located in Perth, Western Australia. The Town's council's aim is to work in partnership and harmony with the community and enrich the quality of life of the residents living here. They do this by enhancing the Town's Identity, Spirit and Diversity

**Use technology and humour as motivational tools to create global connections and spread joy. Responses from teachers.**

Pat, the students who wrote the stories have been proud to show off what they have written to their teachers and classmates. They have asked when they could write more, and other students have indicated an interest in doing so also. (***Jill Bowman – Teacher Librarian, Newtown Primary School, QLD, AUSTRALIA***)

The GiggleIT project has been a wonderful project for the Year 8 students at Ursula Frayne College in Western Australia. The project has given the students a forum for their writing. To be able to see their work on the net alongside work of students from other schools and other parts of the world has given them enthusiasm to improve their own writing. The poetry unit was a collaboration between myself in the library and the Year 8 middle school teachers and the Giggle IT project was just what we needed to give the students something to aim for. You can certainly have permission to use the information – Rasyidah is tickled pink! (***Jill Oats – Teacher Librarian, Ursula Frayne College, WA, Australia***)

Here is a brief evaluation of GiggleIT, it was fabulous and I hope I can be involved next year with another class of Year 8 students. Thanks for the project. Does the IASL have any more projects in mind we could participate in? The GiggleIT Project was highly engaging, the students loved the idea of participating in an international project. The tasks were collaborative and involved teaching and learning that motivated students to work together with students they would not usually work with. Being a runner up in the competition to rename the e-books was thrilling for students. GiggleIT has been a valuable teaching and learning tool that embraced not only educational outcomes but also the values and attitudes relevant to today's society. (***Diana Kirkland – Teacher Librarian, Carine Senior High School, WA, Australia***)

The project has proved to be a good outlet for their (the students') writing. They are more encouraged to write because they know the whole world will read their stories and poems. As a result those who are going to high school still want to continue writing. The project allows for good networking in our awards ceremony on Saturday parents received feedback about the GiggleIT project and after the function many came to me and asked for the website. I gave them. The lower grades are looking forward to it. We are all excited about it and we do not want to stop submitting. (***Thembi Majombozi English Teacher, Vulamazibuko PS & Giyani PS, Soweto, South Africa***)

**FONDATION MARIYA ARAFASHA / BURUNDI****Célébration de l'Année 2009 dédiée par les Nations Unies à la Réconciliation**

Dès son lancement en mars 2007, la fondation Mariya Arafasha/Burundi a placé la paix et la réconciliation dans ses priorités d'intervention. Elle a accueilli avec intérêt l'appel des Nations Unies de fêter l'année 2009 comme une année de réconciliation. Au cours de cette année 2009 écoulée, trois grandes activités illustrent l'engagement de la fondation Mariya Arafasha pour une cohabitation pacifique au Burundi et une paix durable dans le monde. Il s'agit d'abord de la «Semaine de Réconciliation» organisée au mois d'avril, ensuite le festival des chants et danses de paix et de réconciliation organisé au mois d'août et enfin le voyage effectué en Allemagne au mois de septembre pour animer des concerts de chants de paix et de réconciliation.

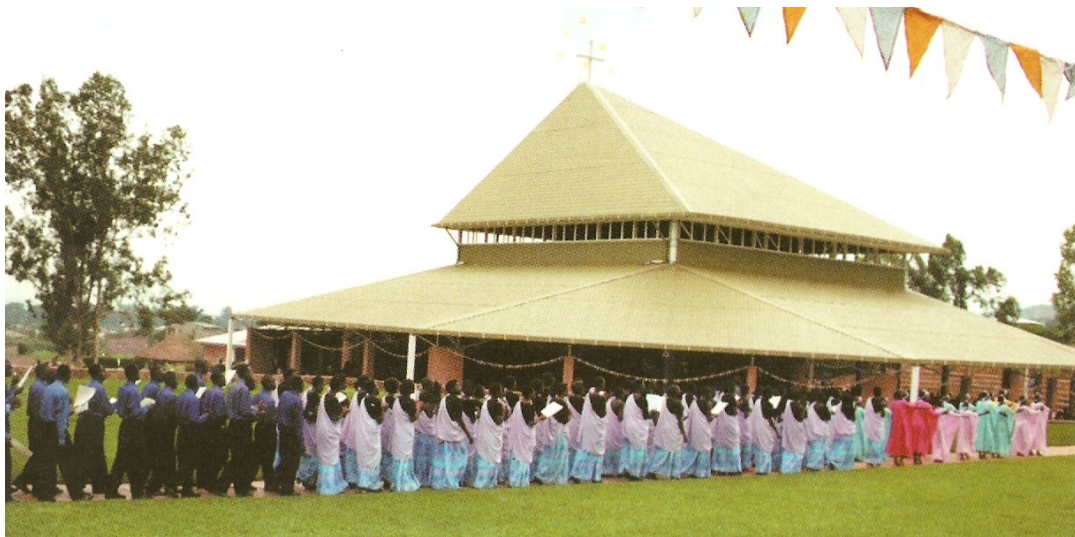
**1. Semaine de paix et de réconciliation**

Cette semaine organisée juste après Pâques a réuni surtout les jeunes en vacances pour discuter et échanger des témoignages de réconciliation. La fondation Mariya Arafasha avait invité cinq Irlandais d'origines différentes et des jeunes Burundais pour partager des expériences de réconciliation. Ainsi les jeunes ont pu suivre les expériences et les efforts de cohabitation en Irlande du Nord, en Afrique du Sud, en Israël, aux Etats-Unis et au Burundi. Les séances d'échanges de témoignages étaient suivies par des travaux en petits groupes pour mieux intérioriser les différents messages. De plus, neuf groupes d'animation culturelle rivalisaient de talents pour faire participer aux personnes présentes à de différents chants et danses d'encouragement à la tolérance et la cohabitation pacifique. Lors de la clôture de cette semaine de réconciliation, un concert de deux heures fut suivi par un millier de personnes de tous âges.

**2. Festival de paix et de réconciliation le 26 août**

Dès octobre 2008, les responsables de la fondation Mariya Arafasha ont mis sur pied un comité technique chargé de préparer un projet de contribution à la consolidation de la paix

au Burundi. Ce comité a élaboré ledit projet qui comprend trois grands volets : la production des CD et DVD de chants de paix et de réconciliation ; l'animation de concerts dans différentes provinces du Burundi et l'équipement de la fondation Mariya Arafasha en matériel de sonorisation et d'animation des concerts. Tout en cherchant les moyens financiers nécessaires pour réaliser ces objectifs, le comité technique a invité différents groupes culturels pour composer des chants, des danses et des sketches avec des messages de cohabitation pacifique. Il a procédé à la sélection des différents numéros et a pu enregistrer neuf groupes avec une vingtaine de chants, une dizaine de danses et 2 sketches. Ces groupes sont constitués essentiellement par des jeunes, scolarisés et non scolarisés, des fonctionnaires, hommes et femmes, et même des enfants du primaire. Dans l'ensemble, au moins 500 personnes issues de ces groupes ont participé à la préparation de ces chants et danses. Avec surtout l'aide du Ministère burundais de la jeunesse, des sports et de la culture, la fondation Mariya Arafasha a alors organisé le 26 août à Mont Sion Gikungu un festival de chants et de réconciliation et les nombreux spectateurs ont apprécié la créativité et la diversité des talents des différents groupes. Cependant les volets enregistrement et production de ces différents chants sur des supports audiovisuels, l'équipement en matériel de sonorisation et d'animation des concerts et l'organisation des concerts dans les provinces du Burundi attendent toujours leur financement.



### **3. Animation de concerts de paix et de réconciliation fin septembre 2009 en Allemagne**

Grâce à une invitation de la cathédrale de Cologne et de la SER Foundation Germany, 28 personnes de la fondation Mariya Arafasha et dix-sept autres personnes de l'organisation Vie Nouvelle pour la Réconciliation purent animer deux messes et deux concerts de paix et de réconciliation. Une première messe eut lieu à Vallendar/Schoenstatt en présence de près de 800 élèves et grâce à schoenstatt.tv, des milliers de téléspectateurs dans le monde entier ont pu la suivre depuis leurs maisons. La messe et le concert dans la cathédrale de Cologne eurent encore plus d'échos. Le bulletin hebdomadaire de l'archidiocèse de Cologne y a même consacré des pages spéciales dans les éditions qui ont suivi l'événement.

Ainsi, au cours de cette année 2009 dédiée à la réconciliation, nous avons pu donner notre modeste contribution pour l'établissement d'une culture de paix et d'harmonie entre les hommes. Et grâce aux différents intervenants, notre message de paix et de réconciliation a pu traverser les frontières du Burundi et de l'Afrique. Un enrichissement mutuel s'est opéré entre Burundais et Irlandais et entre Burundais et Allemands. Avec un soutien financier suffisant notre contribution pourrait encore atteindre beaucoup de personnes et avoir un impact plus durable.

Pour la fondation Mariya Arafasha. Herménégilde Ntabiriho, Secrétaire général



## 69. Hosanna forever

Germany

### A concert to listen to, to feel, to dance and to sing along

We sing because we enjoy singing and we want to share this joy with the audience. Singing is a way to our inner self, too and therefore it is the basis for reconciliation with ourselves and with others.

## 70. Harmony inside – Harmony outside – Unity in Diversity Switzerland

### Forum for Solodarity and Spirituality SOSOS

Steffi Schmid showed in her lecture how the International UN Year of Reconciliation 2009 came about and talked about the commitment for reconciliation of the S.E.R. Foundations, thus contributing to the implementation of the UN Millennium Development Goals.

She emphasized the importance of developing the consciousness in order to get into a true reconciliation process.

During the second part of the day, body and voice exercises and a meditation were on the programme, which were leading to harmony with oneself and one's fellow men.

This day was concluded by a common peace ritual, music and a prayer in a wonderful atmosphere.

Steffi Schmid



### The Magic of Silence

The longing for silence led me to St. Gallen, to a meditation night in advent. We would be awake and praying in the dark, we were told. All night long, from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. Printed on the invitation I read the words of the mystic John Tauler: "You must be silent, concentrated and detached. The night is helpful to that purpose. It's silent and long." Not too long, I hope, I'm telling myself during the trip. Anyway, will I be able to endure sitting still for nine hours? Or will I fall asleep? And what secrets will the night wake hold in stock for me?

A retreat of the entire editorial staff of the "reformiert", full of hard work, in the quiet mountains of Grison. Now I'm on a noisy bus in St. Gallen. The chatting of young women styled for going out is flitting through the air. A mobile is beeping. The motor of the bus is roaring. The loudspeaker announces the next stop "Am Weg".

I get off and climb the hill to the ecumenical church of Halden. The sounds of the city are fading away beneath me. Its sea of lights is glimmering through the black of the night. As soon as I walk through the church door all is quiet. In the centre of the hall a candle is flickering, meditation mats are laid out in a circle around it. "Hello!" Charly greets me exuberantly. I sit down on a mat. An angel watches on the wall in front of me. I am in his good care for the silent meditation. The space continues to fill. Soon there are about two dozen people in the circle, ready for the experiment. Elisabeth Tröndle of the forum Solidarity and Spirituality in East Switzerland (sosos) explains the procedure: meditation for twenty minutes, walking silently in a circle for five minutes, meditation for twenty minutes. Then a 15 minutes' break for coffee, cake, or bathroom. We are to remain silent. Only the initial words for entering into meditation interrupt the silence. And our chant "Dona nobis pacem", give us peace! I happily join in the canon. The chant is filling the space of church and hearts.

"Be calm and remain in not-knowingness", is the impulse for the second meditation hour. I'm adjusting myself, legs crossed. The space is silent. But in my head is a merry-go-round of thoughts. Silence, you wish! Like a gland, my brain is producing an incessant chatter. How's that supposed to work, remaining in not-knowingness? an inner voice asks. The train of thought is going on and follows its own track, dragging me along. Stop! I remind myself, I'm meditating silently! But the river of thoughts is pattering on – incessantly. How can I stop it? How can I find not-knowingness and silence?

Perhaps if I concentrate on my breath. In and out. In and out. I'm observing the stream of air flowing through me. I hear my silent breathing. My nose is a bit blocked. The air is rustling through the nostrils.

After midnight I'm more and more tired. I catch my head dropping. An aeroplane thundering away above the city and breaking the silence brings me back from my nodding, and back onto the mat. There's a rustling in the roof beams. The stomach of someone beside me is rumbling. After every round my lids are heavier. At three o'clock I capitulate and withdraw from the centre of the space for sleep. I'm surrendering to dreamland on the mat. Suddenly a gentle voice wakes me up: "It's past five. Would you like to join us at the end?" I want to and I try to recover. Am I waking or dreaming? The space feels different: freer, wider, clearer – filled with light and silence. The singing voices, too, coming from the circle to me like from a different world, high and clear. After a powerful round of chanting – Om Shanti Om – we close our night of silence and return to the world of sounds and speech.

Have I found the silence? Not as I had imagined. I found the noise in my head instead, produced by the merry-go-round of thoughts. Incessantly. Without pause. Unavoidable. And yet: The magic of silence has changed something. The silence has conquered the space.

Even the cat notices. It's dribbling in on its soft paws immediately as we open the doors. A regular visitor, attracted by the silence in the church space. Pussy is purring while I'm running my fingers through its fur. One of the first sounds after the silent night.

When I walk to the bus after breakfast the sounds are somehow more precise. As if outlined suddenly, sharp as a knife they are pressing on my ears: twittering sparrows, the murmuring creek, clattering shoe soles on the pavement, and a crow croaking in the midst of it. A hammering walkman from some ear plugs passing me, the slowly awakening city. And I awakening with it.

Daniela Schwegler

## **72. Constant Friction or relaxed Togetherness? – respectful communication within the family** **Switzerland**

Lecture and deepening exercises with Elisabeth Weishaupt and Elisabeth Tröndle on subjects such as: how to deal with different needs and conflicts, perception of feelings and emotions, the terrible twos, puberty, relationship between siblings and young and elderly people respectively.

Reflection on ones' own forms of communication and learning about new forms.

## **73. Big Mind – Big Heart – steps on our path to reconciliation with ourselves** **Switzerland**

Introduction to the work with the "Bigmind Process" and silent mediation with Marcel Steiner, teacher for meditation, also being in training for a "Bigmind Facilitator".

The Bigmind Process (one form of work on personality) is a combination of occidental psychology and Zen-experiences, developed by Genpo Roshi, Zen-Master in Salt Lake City, USA.



**General description of project progress during the reporting period:**

3019 – On the Radar has had a tremendous year of activities with exceptional community involvement and significant outcomes for young people and police. Through an exciting collaboration with the Youth Enterprise Hub in Braybrook, we were able to fulfil our aims and objectives and go significantly beyond those original expectations.

**Engagement activities**

We carried out a series of engagement activities that brought young people and police together in informal friendly circumstances to warm them up to the deeper work of the camps and cultural training. These were a beach trip, an indoor rock climbing trip, a Community celebration for Harmony Day, a small performance event for young people and a community dinner organised by young people for the purpose of explaining their plans for the camp to their parents and other community members. All events were well attended with over 100 young people taking part, four police officers and over 150 community members.

**Playback West**

Playback West was trained with the specific purpose of performing within 3019 – On the Radar activities. The group was selected for their capacity to reflect and engage the target community. The group is made up for five young people led by a skilled practitioner with many years of experience in facilitating complex community dialogue through theatrical techniques. We undertook an intensive two week training program and regular weekly rehearsals. We had a series of practice performances, both outside of the Braybrook community and within the Braybrook Community setting. This allowed the group to develop skills and sensitivity and build relationships with the young people from the community before the major performance in which police and young people were asked to discuss the problems they have had with one another during the camp.

**Camp**

The camp took place July 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>. Thirteen young men between the ages of 12 and 22 and three police officers from Footscray Police Station attended. Many of the young people and police in attendance had specific history of conflict and ongoing tension. A number of the young people did not have previous history of trouble with the police, but had brothers and friends who did have history of difficulties with police and generally shared the same negative attitudes towards police.

The camp was extremely successful with young people and police taking part in shared activities both structured and unstructured, and open honest dialogue from all parties, speaking directly about the difficulties each experienced with the other. Playback West played out these stories out as theatre, each time offering the opportunity for comment from the rest of the group. All stories were treated with respect and accepted as true. This was significant, as a number of the young people had expressed doubt about their stories of violence at the hands of police being believed. The stories were discussed in an open forum the following day, reflecting seriously about policing methods, challenges posed to local police, young people's experiences of harassment and violence at the hands of police and community concerns about violence and crime in the local area.

Many of the issues discussed had no clear solutions, but both sides were able to see the struggles faced by the other side.

"Now I understand the police more and hopefully they understand us more. They didn't seem like cops." (young camp participant)

"I actually finally got to meet PM [a police officer] - everybody used to say he was a bad cop, he was cruel. He's actually a cool guy, funny guy - he's actually good at rugby." (Young participant)

"[I learnt] that the youth on the camp had the community's interest at heart. They proved that there is another element to them that police seldom are exposed too." (police officer camp participant)



## **Cultural Training**

The cultural training program was developed over ten weeks from July 13<sup>th</sup> to September 14<sup>th</sup>, responding to the issues that arose during the camp. Five young people took part in the development of the presentation. We had guest speakers from Footscray Police and other police departments and the Centre for Multicultural Youth.

The group made a practice presentation on September 14<sup>th</sup> with friends, interested community members and police representatives in the audience. We requested feedback from the audience and incorporated this into the final presentation. One young person from the audience was so interested in what he saw that he requested to become part of the presenting team when we made the formal presentation to the entire staff of the Footscray Police Station on October 20<sup>th</sup>. The additional performer was welcomed and incorporated by the group. It was significant that he took part, as he was one of the young people who had been excluded from earlier activities. Another of the young people who had been excluded attended the presentation in support of the group.

The presentation gave police insight into the experiences young people have when they are approached by police on the streets, the incidents that have occurred when police have misused their power, the range of differing opinions young people have regarding police and some of the different cultural backgrounds young people from Braybrook have and experiences they have had with police in their countries of origin.

"It is very hard for us as youth to open our hearts ... we're looking for peace, we're really looking for good change, so we really worked hard for it." (Youth participant)

"I'm not sure if all of them really heard it, but I believe that most of them heard that. That was the right way to do it. It was a good opportunity. It was a good chance." (Youth participant)

"It was good to have the issues and problems talked about so openly. Usually those things don't get spoken about." (Police Audience Member)

## **DVD**

Western Edge Youth Arts supported a DVD project run by partner organisation Youth Enterprise Hub. This saw the creation of a DVD dramatising one of the stories told by the young people during the Playback West performance on camp, and included chapters outlining young people's responses to the story, police responses to the story and an outline of legal rights and responsibilities when dealing with the police.

A number of the young people from the camp and the workshop program were involved in creating the script and speaking about their perspective of relationships between young people and police. Western Edge supported this project by arranging Playback West actors and directing the short film. The DVD was launched on November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009.



## 75. Reconciliation with our body

## Switzerland

At the occasion of the International Reconciliation Year 2009 the Ergosoma practice in Basle offered a “tree of life meditation” once a week. The subject of reconciliation accompanied the meditators throughout the whole year.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> of December 2009, the last of this year’s meditation evenings, the subject of reconciliation was again carefully taken into the silence.

The following key sentences were spontaneously thrown in:

The life tree meditation helps me to reconcile with myself

The life tree meditation helps me release old connections and establish new ones.

The life tree meditation is a first step towards the garden of life and to reconciliation with the holy curse of Adam and Eve.

The life tree meditation strengthens the we-feeling and is therefore a first step towards reconciliation.

The life tree meditation strengthens the cyclic consciousness. Reconciliation is the end of a cycle and the beginning of a new one.

The life tree meditation helps me to feel my body better, it helps me to mental and physical relaxation.

The life tree meditation is a possibility, to refrain, to open up, to develop tolerance, rendering reconciliation possible.

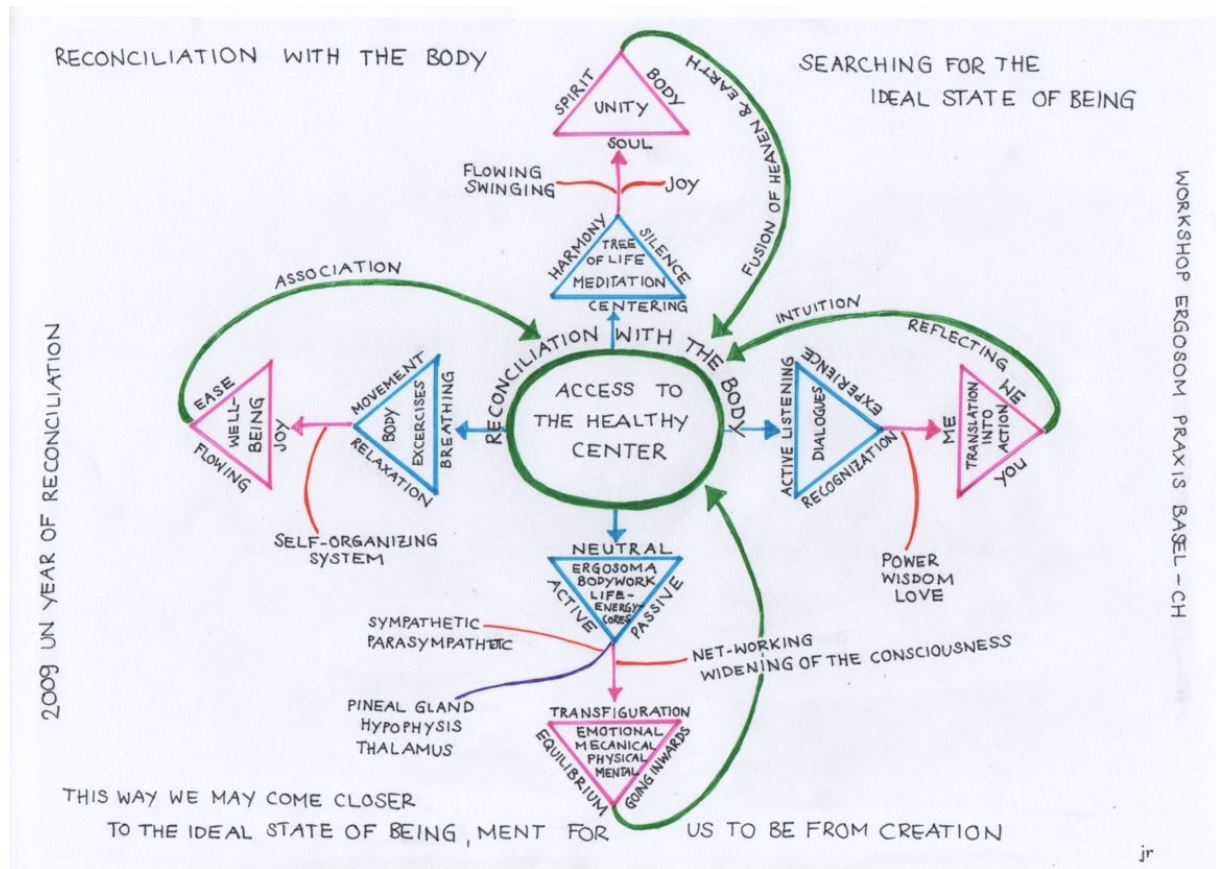
The life tree meditation makes me feel that reconciliation leads to freedom and peace.

These meditation evenings will be continued in 2010.





## Reconciliation with the Body - searching for the ideal state of Being



## 76. Memorial-Pilgrimage “courageous – then and now“ together with Ruth Dreifuss Switzerland

**Injustice and civil courage do not become time-barred**, was the topic of the **Easter Monday march 2009** in the St. Gallen Rhine Valley where about 350 people attended demonstrating against Switzerland's refugee policy during the second world war and today's asylum policy.



This march also took place in remembrance of the police officer Paul Grüninger, the most prominent escape agent for Jewish people. In 1938 he defied the Swiss governmental orders of border closure to all Jewish refugees and for this reason was summarily and dishonorably discharged in spring 1939. He falsified documents in favour of the refugees thus putting his conscience and humanity above the orders of the authorities. Unfortunately he did not live long enough to witness his rehabilitation.

Ruth Dreifuss, the former Federal Councilor of Switzerland, who attended the march and whose father campaigned for the Jewish refugees during the Second World War, reminded in her speech that even in democracy injustice is happening again and again, referring to Switzerland's present refugee policy and called for more civil courage.







Ueli Wildberger from the organisation committee of the Easter march emphasized the importance of keeping the dark side of one's own history in mind. The official Switzerland at that time sent people to death, whereas the unofficial Switzerland showed civil courage thus saving the lives of many refugees. Paul Grüninger's civil disobedience alone saved the lives of more than 3000 people. (excerpt of a newspaper's report)

## 77. Nation-wide activities to celebrate: 2009 International Reconciliation Year Nigeria

Need for reconciliation: History of crisis: Nigeria is a crisis ridden country with constant Religious crisis in the North, the Niger Delta Crisis caused by economic injustice in the south geo-political zone. Population displacement over the Bukkassi Peninsula both on the Nigerian side and Cameroon side paints the picture of man's inhumanity to fellow man and raw economic injustice.

Ethnic hatred is another factor threatening the unity of this great nation causing envisions as Nigeria has over 250 language groups with each tribe trying to dominate and to gain rule over the other. This is an age-long problem for which religious leaders, the clergy, traditional rulers, politicians in Diaspora, youth groups, Federal and state governments, are all seeking for a solution, which of course lies in reconciliation.

## 78. Children Bible-Day Germany

The subject of „blessed are those who bring about peace today“ is worked on age-specifically with children aged between 6 and 11 years. Each group will work on the following subjects: speaking the language of peace, getting strong through peace in community, friendship creating peace, leisure time – shaping God's creation. Holy Francis of Assisi being the ideal, who realised God's peace in his life in an exemplary manner.

The aim is to teach the children that peace is indispensable in our lives. God desires peace for all of us and has given us the necessary tools for its implementation: hands so we help, eyes so we see injustice and intervene; ears so we listen to each other, a mouth so we talk to each other; a heart so we respond with love and respect.

## 79. The S.E.R. Elijah-Project

## Germany

**People in the Bethlehem PNA area and Israel get trainings in seminars for personality development, awareness improvement and health care to find ways and methods how to get into harmony with themselves, nature and their fellow men.**

These methods allow the salutary experience of harmony with oneself and the unity of all Being, creating the inner desire to advocate for reconciliation and peace within one's own environment as well as in society. These methods will be regularly practised and dealt with in detail in exercise workshops. Thus ideas for peace and reconciliation projects will evolve within project groups for the well-being of the civil society. These will be implemented jointly and in networking with other organisations leading to the experience that ***unity in diversity*** can be experienced and realised.



In the course of the year the basis for this project has been worked out. The concept was developed, documentations prepared, partner organisations and sponsors were found, and the dates for the seminars in 2010 fixed. The number of participants is encouraging and the basis promises a good start for this project in 2010. [www.ser-elijahproject.net](http://www.ser-elijahproject.net)

Steffi Schmid, project manager S.E.R. Elijah-Project



## 80. As we forgive

USA

Could you forgive a person who murdered your family? This is the question faced by the subjects of “As we forgive”, a documentary about Rosaria and Chantal – two Rwandan women coming face-to-face with the men who slaughtered their families during the 1994 genocide.

The subjects of “As We Forgive” speak for a nation still wracked by the grief of a genocide that killed one in eight Rwandans in 1994. Overwhelmed by an enormous backlog of court cases, the government has returned over 50,000 genocide perpetrators back to the very communities they helped to destroy. Without the hope of full justice, Rwanda has turned to a new solution: **Reconciliation**.

## 81. Establishing Community Structures for Peace in the Catholic Ecclesiastical Province in Abuja Nigeria

The project is a follow-up on our just concluding project (which started in 2006). The project seeks to ensure ownership of the peacebuilding process by target communities including 44 violence-prone communities spread across Nigeria’s North-Central states of Benue, Kogi and Nasarawa as well as Abuja FCT. The project shall involve series of trainings, case studies, state bi-annual for a to support government intervention in community issues, facilitation of community initiatives including intra- and inter-community activities, be they sports or cultural activities, as well as other creative initiatives.

The project aims, among other things, to ensure sustainable ownership of the peace process by the target communities and their respective state governments.

## 83. The participation of others

Israel

### **Copt. Orth. St. Dimiana’s College in Jerusalem Old-City**

The participation of others makes a person think in peace, not fighting, especially the feelings of pain, sorrow and deprivation. When the man test painful feelings of others resulting from the violence makes him a peace-loving.

- Students participated in the provision of material things to be submitted for the elderly and patients in a nursing home in Palestine
- A team of teachers visited the house of the elderly and provided them. He spent the full day with them.
- The parents support the project and sustained the material to participate in the assessment of the elderly.
- The clergy through prayers during this period to promote global peace and the renunciation of violence and terrorism.
- Some students work plates reflect the results of the war and peace have been the work of a photographic exhibition in the school reflect the peace of reconciliation.

## 84. Vredes(kinder)festival = Peace (Children) Festival The Netherlands



I organised for Pais Peace organisation (Dutch section of War Resisters' International) in Sittard, Holland for the International Day of Peace an event on 20. September, the Vredes(kinder)festival, Peace (children's) festival. The festival was filled with singing, Children's Theatre Oppekop and djembé.

Oppekop told the story of Professor Annelief who tried to make peace, when there was injustice

Children (8-12 years old) of 4 schools had written poems, and I made a booklet with 50 poems (we've sold 30 booklets). The 4 schools got a prize, the Eugène James prize. James was a man who had done a lot for children in Sittard and who had organized big multicultural festivals in Sittard. He died December 2007.

About 160-170 people came to the feast. And I heard the people liked it. I'm very satisfied.

Jenny Watson  
Pais



## **85. Vision 3000 – free Education in Singing, Danzing and Acting for unemployed People** **Germany**

“Vision 3000 “ offers possibilities for free education in singing, dancing and acting to unemployed people of all ages and professions.

The aim is to perform: musicals, concerts and plays, the proceeds of these will be distributed to the employed. Everybody has a dream; to realize it is the meaning of life.

*Vision 3000* wants to give a chance to younger and older unemployed: to live according to their visions and dreams, to start all over again and earn their living with full commitment and creativity.

Reconciliation to us means: to promote marginal groups in our society, give an opportunity to the unemployed to let their potential come to light, express the inexpressible and touch the hearts.

## **86. Arts Building Peace School** **Macedonia**

Arts Building Peace School is a project aimed at children and youth to learn how to use arts to build peace and overcome tensions, hatred and violence. It gathers children and youth from different ethnic background to get artistic and civic education in a specific curricula (plastic arts and design; photo and video; music) to create art works with messages for peace, tolerance and human rights.

Two classes (children and youth); 20 participants each group) will be formed for each art, six in total, 120 students per semester, 240 per year) Each semester will last 22 days and will be held in winter and summer. After each semester during 10 days public presentations and other events will be held.

Education through art and free expression are the main methodological guidelines that are used within the project. The students present reality of their surroundings – primarily at school and in their family environment. One of the methods is to establish a dialogue in order to express negative as well as positive emotions through art. The students are stimulated to express themselves verbally as well as through symbols and signs, and sublime their emotions through presentations of signs and messages within different techniques.

## 87. "I said the things you told me not to say"

Germany

First performance in the International UN-Year of Reconciliation 2009

By the fringe ensemble/phoenix5



I SAID THE THINGS YOU TOLD ME NOT TO SAY is a documentary performance, based on records of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa (1996) which was launched by Nelson Mandela and Bishop Tutu in order to establish a dialogue between offenders and victims in the South African apartheid-regime.

It is not an easy subject, that director Frank Heuel is staging here. For example when the former commander of an anti-terrorist unit tries to justify the proved murders by reference to his duty as a policeman. Or when the pregnant actress Laila Nielsen assumes the role of a mother, whose son was killed in the Resistance.

A quote from the hearing protocol of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa, 1996: "I am willing to hear the truth in all its ugliness. Nevertheless I am prepared to forgive".



The fringe ensemble is member of the "Bonn Action Alliance of the UN-Year of Reconciliation". The aim of the Alliance is to show how peace can be found and lived through reconciliation processes and communication.

I SAID THE THINGS YOU TOLD ME NOT TO SAY is sponsert by the city of Münster, the art-foundation NRW, the primeminister of Nordrhein-Westfalen, the city of Bonn and the InWEnt gGmbH with funds of BMZ.



## 88. „Winter at Dusk“

Germany

*The Fringe Ensemble plays “Winter im Morgengrauen” in the “Ballsaal-Theater“*

**The banality of evil: A Play by Danish writer Jens-Martin Eriksen shows what war can make of people.**



The philosopher Hannah Arendt coined the term of “the banality of evil”. A term referring to Nazi mass murder but transferable also to other contexts. Wherever the machinery of power is set to work driving its subjects - through propaganda and manipulation - to excesses of violence and factorylike murder of innocent civilians.

That precisely is what happens to the nameless protagonist of the novel “Winter at Dusk” which, in view of the atrocities in the Kosovo, the Danish author and playwright Jens-Martin Eriksen wrote in 1996 and which the director Frank Heuel turned into a 90-minute enthralling and disturbing drama for production collective Fringe Ensemble/Phoenix 5. All rendered in a language which sounds as terribly trivial as in the novel thus giving a new image to the banality of evil. Nobody speaks of “ethnic cleansing”, and yet, the cynical contempt for humanity implied is noticeable throughout the play and imminent.

To this purpose, Heuel’s idea to give the role of the protagonist to three actors increasing in age, Manuel Klein, David Fischer, and Harald Redmer proves congenial. This trick makes it possible on one hand to demonstrate the inner turmoil of the anonymous soldier in an equally anonymous malice in a zone of war somewhere in Europe and on the other hand to generalize his fate. The story begins rather unspectacularly with a group of young soldiers waiting for their marching orders after hardly a day of “basic training” in a school transformed into barracks. They are supposed to escort the men of a village – shortly called “the escorted”. That’s what the order says in the beginning. But it is soon made clear that this is not all and the protagonist and his comrades take part in executions.

Doing that, so he recounts, it was important that everybody stand in front of the trench at the same time, so nobody has to stand in line for dying. It only takes a few days to turn the soldiers into will-less executors who at the most ask questions about logistic problems during the executions.

Until the narrator finds himself opposite an old friend from childhood one day. He doesn’t manage to shoot him. He only allows someone else to do the job while the eyes of the victim are following him. Klein, Fischer and Redmer render the figure with a threateningly trivial intensity. Too bad that concentration suffers a little while listening for over 90 minutes to the text. Because that’s the focus of the play.

That is the strength and sometimes also the weakness of this production. It will not leave anyone untouched. Sometimes even a laconic recount is sufficient to show how mercilessly war claims its victims on all sides. Ulrike Strauch, General-Anzeiger Bonn, 28.02.2000

## 90. Reconciliation Week at Mont Sion Gikungu Burundi

### Reconciliation Week at Mont Sion Gikungu from 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> April 2009

In the context of the International Reconciliation Year the Mariya Arafasha Foundation has organised various activities on the subject of reconciliation at Mont Sion Gikungu in Burundi, dedicated to young people on vacation. Different groups working at the sanctuary took part: the choirs (La chorale Sainte Marie Goreth, chorale Sainte Thérèse de l'Enfant Jésus, chorale Sainte Famille, chorale Saint Martin, chorale Santa Maria et chorale Saint Nicolas de Flue), altar servers, the dancers' club "Inyange zu ku kirimba" and the tambourine club "Espoir de Mont Sion", as well as 5 young foreigners, coming from Northern Ireland, Israel, South Africa and the United States, and belonging to a Youth Mission Group.

During the whole week manual work was done in the mornings related to the needs of the children which the foundation is supporting and in the afternoons presentations of various groups took place.



Various groups (children, young people and adults) performing dances and songs

The first day was called **Burundean Day**. Young people discovered the beauty of Mont Sion.

The second day was called: **Ireland Day**. Tom, an Irishman, reported on the conflict between Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland. He said that in order to resolve the conflict, people have to regard themselves as God looks upon them. Therefore we have to reinstall this positive look at mankind. His experience and opinion could serve us as an example as far as forgiveness and reconciliation are concerned. A further witness was given by David who lost his son while a bomb exploded on the market place. He chose forgiveness extended to the murderers instead of revenge. Concluding he recommended to cultivate a spirit of forgiveness just as Jesus instructed us to do.

These witnesses were followed by the report of Miss Diane from Burundi who saw her parents murdered by their neighbours, but she was able to escape together with her brothers. They were lucky: foster parents took care of them including schooling and education: Although Diane was borne Catholic, she now grew up in an Anglican family. Due to her traumatic experiences she had not been able to laugh for 3 years and it was only when she joined the choir of the Sainte Famille de Mont Sion Gikungu, that she developed a spirit of forgiveness. So far the choir had only consisted of Hutu members whereas she is a Tutsi.

The third day was called **Israel-Palestinian Day**. Jack referred to the Israel-Palestinian conflict in the Middle East, dating back to 1948, when the Israeli state was founded. Today reconciliation starts to be visible between individuals and groups, Jack said. He mentioned his grandfather, supporting needy Palestinian children, not considering the hatred between

the 2 peoples. Finally he asked the people listening to reconcile with their enemies, so that we may live as God's daughters and sons", he said. Then a young Burundian reported on his experiences made during the crisis in 1993. Still being a child, Jean Marie Vianney, sick with cholera, saw his parents and the rest of his family being killed. He was saved because of his illness. Eventually he arrived at Mont Sion Gikungu, but due to his traumata he did not speak to anybody, because he was full of hatred. It was only during the preparations for the Outpouring of the Holy Ghost and the instructions on forgiveness that he decided to reconcile with the executioners of his family, **"Now I feel peace in my heart"** he concluded.



On the 4th day Nosipho, a young South African woman, reported on her experiences. She has traced her country's history concerning racial discrimination and Apartheid. Referring to forgiveness she cited Mandela as an example for reconciliation. Stéphanie, a young American woman told different stories of South African people, who, although having experienced aggressions, chose forgiveness rather than revenge, she said.

After the witnesses of the speakers, the young Burundians presented the idea of forgiveness and reconciliation in their following performances, promising to break with the old disconnecting views of their parents because they are the Burundi of tomorrow, they said.

**The reconciliation week was concluded by a mini concert on 19<sup>th</sup> of April**, which was attended by many Christians from Mont Sion. The official representative of the foundation Mariya Arafasha did not hide his joy over the success of the activities during the reconciliation week. He expressed his thanks to the young people and asked them to subsequently cultivate a spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation within their everyday life.

Tom from Northern Ireland



Stéphanie from the USA



Jack from Bethlehem





## 91. Concerts de Réconciliation des Chorales du Burundi et de Cologne Allemagne

### Tournée de la Chorale *Sainte- Famille* et la Fondation *Mariya Arafasha* en Allemagne

Par Sébastien Ntahongendera

Dans l'esprit de la célébration de l'Année Internationale des Nations Unies pour la Réconciliation

(2009), la chorale *Sainte Famille* et la Fondation *Mariya Arafasha* viennent d'effectuer une tournée en Allemagne du 23 au 30 septembre, où elles ont notamment coanimé la messe du dimanche 28 septembre au « Dom » la célèbre Cathédrale de Cologne, haut lieu touristique et de pèlerinage. Le projet a été le fruit d'une heureuse coopération entre les Pères Schoenstattiens burundais, la Fondation S.E.R. de l'Allemagne et le Dom chorale de Cologne.



#### **Les « Ambassadeurs de la Réconciliation » en chant d'Action de Grâce**

« Si j'étais encore jeune, je courrais à la cathédrale de Cologne, mardi soir, pour leur concert ! (...). J'ai vu le spectacle dimanche à la Cathédrale de Cologne sur la télévision locale et j'ai senti m'animer une foi joyeuse que je n'avais pas connue depuis des années ; je n'avais jamais vu le Dom se mettre à aussi chanter et danser de joie en Dieu (...) Ce que nous pouvons tous apprendre de ces hommes, et puis savoir, c'est que ce sont « nos frères et soeurs en « Schoenstatt ». Tels sont les mots de Elizabeth H. (77) ; tel est l'événement qu'elle a vécu le dimanche 27 sept. devant la télévision expérimenté dans la transmission de services divins. Le pèlerinage a eu lieu notamment sur le mont Schoenstatt et à Vallendar en présence de plus de 800 élèves de l'école Mariale Schoenstattienne de Vallendar, ainsi que de nombreuses personnes de Vallendar qui avaient pris d'assaut les lieux indiqués, en raison d'un article y afférent qui avait paru dans le *Rhein Zeitung* le 25 septembre.

#### **Les « Ambassadeurs de la Réconciliation » en pleine excursion**

Dans les différentes allocutions qu'on prononcées les chefs de la délégation depuis les Pères Déogratais et Anicet jusqu'à Monseigneur Simon Ntamwana l'archevêque de Gitega,



les thèmes « réconciliation » et « inculturation » ont été mis en évidence. « Chez-nous, la célébration eucharistique, c'est le chant et la danse ; on prie en dansant, et on dansant en sachant qu'on est en prière », a notamment rappelé l'Archevêque dans un allemand épuré du moindre accent local !



*Le père Déogratias en allocution à l'autel du dôme*  
Ces danses, on en a savouré de tous les rythmes et genres connus dans notre musique traditionnelle : « amayaya » la danse des bras, umuyebe la danse des pieds, « umutsibo », qui se reconnaît par sa mesure 3/4 ou 6/8 selon le cas, tout avait été invité pour célébrer le Bon Dieu dans son sein Lieu.

### ***Les danseuses en pas d'action de grâce***



Signalons que les Burundais vivant en Allemagne étaient venus de tous les coins et dans les concerts, et dans la célébration eucharistique pour soutenir nos vaillants « Ambassadeurs de la Réconciliation et de l'Inculturation ».

Un grand merci aux organisateurs:  
Christopher Mähl, Marisa Amarayo et  
Josefine Brecht (right to left)



**„The system of slavery is nowhere near being overcome.“**



**An element not to be disregarded in the debate about the coexistence of various cultures in Europe held in Caux on the occasion of the conference “Living Variety Together” is the colonial past of Europe and the question how to deal with this heritage.**

Ibrahima Thioub, director of the historical seminar of the Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, Senegal, explains his view that the apologies of the European and American States for the crimes of slavery are useless: How are the theses regarding slavery in Senegal received? Is there a public debate of the issue and is there a changed perception noticeable of the history of slavery in Africa? The discussions are frequently held in very small academic circles. It is true, in the past years, there has been a widening of the discussion especially through the foundation of ever new radio stations which invite scientists to share the results of their research. Yet it is hard to say how people react to our work, because not all historians ask the same questions that are currently discussed in public.

In Senegal, the question of slavery is not discussed in the same way as on an international level. When Europeans discuss slavery they usually refer exclusively to the slave trading with its starting point from the African coast and which was carried on till 1948. In Senegal, however, slavery has another dimension. For example, there is a belief among the population that who is a slave once can never again avert that fate. The status of a slave is passed on to the descendants by blood. In certain Senegal villages this phenomenon still exists: There are still families identifiable as former slave families. Often these people accept that status, and a cast-like system is created. They cannot intermarry with other social classes, they suffer from prejudices and are often excluded from social functions.

Besides, we have to do away with the so far dominating and simplifying opinion that only Europeans and Americans were taking part in slave trading. The system of slave trading was much more complex and trading began far from the African coasts.

This debate is gaining momentum and people have to come to terms with it. They advocate the point that people today cannot be held responsible for the crimes of their predecessors. But, in your view, is there a responsibility of organisations, of states? Would an official apology of European states and the USA have an effect? In my opinion, regret follows a religious logic. I don't think that slave trade can be “healed” with an official apology – be it from the American President or from the Pope.

The problem is the following: The system developed in the 15<sup>th</sup> century is still functioning today and follows the same logic. This model was established by European industrial and trade companies. The French energy group Total cooperates today with African governments

and the colour of skin is irrelevant. The only interesting issue for these groups are the exploitable resources. True reparation would be to break with this system of exploitation. That means we have to repair not only Africa but also Europe. In my opinion, the former colonies were decolonised without decolonising the capitals at the same time. If you want change it has to happen globally, because the problems are interdependent.

The first step is to understand what happened and how this system came into existence. Let's remain with the example of Total: There is the general impression today that France comes to help Gabun, but if the Gabun resources were used properly, that is, to serve the population of Gabun, it would be the other way round: The people of Gabun would help France.

So, where is the problem? The solution of this problem is certainly not an apology for what happened in the period of slave trading. People have to realize that the most important thing is that every human being needs a minimum to survive. This is a political decision and it should not be blindly left to the market. The current crisis shows this but as soon as the crisis is overcome it's forgotten.

And who is suffering from this? The population. And why? Because the people in power in Africa educate their children outside Africa. Where are their descendants going to school? In Switzerland, in Canada, in the USA. When they are ill, they come to Switzerland to have their operations. Therefore, they are not interested to do something about the schools or hospitals of Dakar or Brazzaville. They are not interested and neither are their families. This is the system we have to reform. The similarity of slave trading in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and the present situation of exploiting resources to the benefit of a small European and African elite is obvious. But it's this very fact the Europeans don't want to be confronted with.

Is it the responsibility of Africa or rather of Europe to initiate such a discussion? First it's the responsibility of Africa. We have already started this discussion but people much too often forget. In the Senegambia area, shortly after the beginning of transatlantic slave trading, there was a revolt against the African governments participating in slave trading. So those governments collapsed. The governments following them, however, a short time later applied the same methods against which they had previously mobilised the population. This in turn led to protests and criticism.

Today we must try to understand those developments in the past in order to avoid the very same mistakes. This discussion will last until we have found an alternative to the present destructive model. Matthias Stauffacher / Adriana Borra

### **93. Twinning Project between Muslim and Christian Youth Philippines**

It is a project between students from a Christian community with students from a Muslim community, where they become pen-pals. The objective is to build bridges of understanding between the two groups as there is generally prejudice between Muslims and Christians exacerbated by the Mindanao armed conflict. This twinning started in Aug. 2004 and is ongoing.

### **94. One world .. one nation India**

In India most communities are divided in cast, race and religions. Our organization works creatively with a new concept of social mobilization and peace in society.

## 95. Mediation and Conflict Management in Kosovo; Roundtable with Shukrije Gashi Switzerland

### Report: Mediation and Conflict Management in Kosovo



#### ***Roundtable with Shukrije Gashi,***

Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009, 4.30 p.m.- 7.00 p.m.  
at Berner Fachhochschule,

**Centre of competence for Mediation and  
Conflict Management, Hallerstrasse 8, Room  
218, 2nd floor**

Organized by: **the Consortium Group:  
KOSOVA/O: Building Social Capacity for  
Democratic Participation in a Multi-Ethnic  
Society by Disseminating the Idea of and  
Tools for Conflict Management and Mediation**

Shuki, a lawyer and mediator, **explained to the  
ten participants her work in Prishtina, Kosovo,  
and answered many questions about  
reconciliation and mediation in her daily life,  
from students, a socialworker, mediators, NGO  
Representatives, lawyers and Peacemakers.**

Shukrije Gashi, or Shuki as people call her, is the Director of “Partners-Kosova” Center for Conflict management, [www.partnerskosova.org](http://www.partnerskosova.org). She deals with training and mediation services, training of local government officials and elected municipal representatives in leadership and citizen participation, mentoring and empowering women, men and youth, as well as facilitating the minority return and reintegration to Kosovo. More than 150'000 migrants from Kosovo are living in Switzerland at the moment. As a mediator she usually works for free because the economic situation of the citizens after the war is so bad.

In Kosovo mediation and reconciliation have a very long tradition. Already 200 years before the Magna Carta of 1215, there existed „The Kanun“ the albanian common law with rules about reconciliation and mediation. Shuki attributes the inspiration for her current mediation and conflict resolution work to her family, and especially to her grandmother, who was a well-known mediator in Kosovo. Once Shuki was sentenced to two years in jail for her engagement for human rights.

Steps for mediation and reconciliation: When both parties are ready, the first step is to bring the partners around a table to listen and to discuss. The communication ability of the mediator is essential. Shuki settles conflicts by avoiding revenge and building peaceful and sustainable relationships. The compensation has never been money during the last one hundred years, but the war changed the living conditions. The end of the reconciliation process is having a meal together and shaking hands. Her humility seems unwarranted and is obviously a key to her success.

The aim of the people of Kosovo is independence, the renewal of the state with mediation and reconciliation and European integration. Shuki, we thank you and the organisers very much for this valuable lesson. With Peace for you and your country! Rita Jakob



## **96. Pilgrimage for Reconciliation and meeting to Kevelaer Germany**

**The today's pilgrimage is dedicated to reconciliation. We have met here in order to contribute to reconciliation and peace on the occasion of the international UN-year of reconciliation. The UN year of reconciliation receives significant support by the S.E.R. Foundation. Why has the foundation chosen reconciliation and peace as its task? What does reconciliation mean?**

Our foundation made it its business to contribute to order, peace and justice. We have come to these subjects during our pilgrimages, which first took us on the trails of different Italian Saints such as: Antonius of Padua, Holy Francis of Assisi, Chiara of Assisi, Leopold Mandic etc.

How did these people become saints? As different as their origins and their lives may be – all of them have the inner peace within, which brought them into contact with God enabling them to serve people in humility and gratitude.

Our pilgrimage took us on to the Holy Land on the trail of Jesus, from Jesus to Christ, from Mary to the Mother of God to Holy Mary, Mary, who is venerated here at Kevelaer, too.

It is a special gift to experience the teachings of Jesus at those places where they occurred – thus learning what the meaning is when we say: The 5<sup>th</sup> gospel is not written, you have to experience it.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2000 we saw the 3<sup>rd</sup> Intifada start in Jerusalem and we understood why Jesus cried over Jerusalem, when looking at this unique city from the Mount of Olives. This place is today called Dominus flevit. He saw that the people were unable to live in peace with themselves and their fellow human beings.

Therefore we drew up a resolution for peace in the Holy Land, asking to declare all Holy Places to be a spiritual heritage of the whole mankind and to put them under UN mandate. Holy Places are a gift from God – nobody can possess them.

With this demand we found access to the United Nations, the only world-organisation, where representatives from 192 countries come together to work for peace, order and justice in order to establish a better world for all of us.

While we were collecting signatures, we encountered fears, rejection etc. and we were looking for the reason. We realised that something had to be done in advance:

The first step, leading to peace, is reconciliation, with oneself and one's own fate, family, friends etc.

True peace comes from within, from the heart of every single man. Sustainable peace is not possible without the inner readiness for reconciliation and the experience of being reconciled, the subjective experience. Then I can shake hands with my neighbour and the victim can meet the offender. Reconciliation starts with the victim, for the soul of the offender knows that he is wrong.

But let us look at this peaceful place, blessed by Holy Mary, and open our hearts for the Lord, Jesus Christ, who gave us peace and brought us charity, the basis for a true togetherness.

Josefine Brecht

## 97. Peace Week in Beit-Jala, according to the vision of Micah 4:1-5 PNA/ Palestine Nat. Auth.



**Interview with Jadallah Shihadeh, July the 4<sup>th</sup> , 2009.**

**This interview was made a few days before the arranged Peace Week in Beit Jala, July the 6<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> 2009.**

- *According to you, which role should religion play in the society?*

Religion needs to play an important role in this area, because most people here are religious. The Middle East is the birthplace for Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Muslims look at the West Bank as their holy land. It is important to create mutual understanding and respect between people with different religious views.

- *Why do you consider interreligious dialogue to be so important?*

It is important for different people to meet each other. Communicating and shared activities can work as a good icebreaker. To understand how other people think and act you need to know something about their history and their culture. At Beit Ibrahim (The guesthouse of Abraham), all activities have the aim of reconciliation between different ethnic and religious groups. It is also important to overcome the fear of "the other".

- *In Beit Ibrahim you are doing practical dialogue. What is most important, practical or academic dialogue?*

We need both. It is easier to get people involved in a practical dialogue from the grassroots level.

- *How do you think can pluralism influence your community?*

Pluralism can definitely be a positive thing. It can bring richness to the community and for me, this is the most important thing. It promotes democracy and secure freedom for the inhabitants.

- *What does it mean for you to act as a good role model for others?*

All Christians should be good role models. Christians should be the light and the salt. This is a message that should also spread to Jews and Muslims. It is important to ask God for support. No human being is without mistakes. Everybody has something to learn from "the other".

- *In Beit Jala there are more Christians than Muslims living (80/20%). According to you, how can this influence the interreligious dialogue?*

One is not supposed to impose his opinion upon others when being in the majority. Christians are a majority in Beit Jala, not in Palestine. As a Christian it is important to show Muslims and Jews who we are and how it is possible to solve the challenges.

- *What do you find in the Christian Theology that makes Christianity fit for interreligious dialogue?*

The Incarnation. It makes a call for reconciliation between all peoples.

- *What do Jews, Christians and Muslims need to do to make the interreligious dialogue possible and successful?*

First and foremost it is important to have respect and belief in others. The work in Beit Ibrahim is meant to contribute to this. I am missing a Muslim initiative with a clear vision connected to dialogue.

- *How do you get in touch with the Jews that you invite for interreligious dialogue in Palestine?*

I have met them at a lot of different places in Israel and Palestine during the years. I also think Beit Ibrahim is well known and accepted in most Jewish circles today. In the beginning, we did not talk about the problems when we met but this did change.

- *What is the biggest challenge in doing interreligious dialogue in this area?*

It is keeping out the radicals because they are not interested in any dialogue. In Beit Ibrahim we have no interest of creating a black and white picture of the political situation.

- *What is the main aim of the Peace Week?*

The main aim of the Peace Week is to spread the message of life and hope. (Micha 4:1-5). We want to show the world that we are Palestinians and that we want our freedom. Not all Palestinians are terrorists. We want to create a good neighborhood relationship to the Jews. Therefore we want to help the Jewish people to get to know our society and to overcome their fears.

- *Who made the program for the Peace Week?*

Last year we organized a candle march for peace and about 2500 people participated. Afterwards, Jews, Christians and Muslims met and made plans for the Peace Week. It was not only among religious leaders there, but also ordinary people. The program for the Peace Week is therefore the result of hard work and cooperation between a lot of people.

- *What are the most important results that you have seen from interreligious dialogue?*



Today we are capable of speaking a 'language' that the other parts understand. We have a great meeting place at Beit Ibrahim where different peoples can meet without fears. We have also made friends all over the world that are sharing our vision.

The interview is a part of Heidi Merethe Bechs Master Degree in Religious Science, at the Faculty of Theology, University of Oslo.



**Khaimat Ibrahim: Tent of Abraham**

The social mission of the Abrahams-Herberge (Beit-Ibrahim. House of Abraham) and the Lutheran Church of the Reformation in Beit Jala has begun its newest inter-faith project: an after-school ministry to the children of Daheisheh refugee camp in Bethlehem, where unemployment is high, housing is over-crowded, and poverty is extreme.



On opening day, 7 January 2009, despite minimal advance announcement, at least 55 children were on hand for artwork, a full-course lunch, school homework, and play. I was privileged to be part of the activities. The next day, as word got around the camp, attendance climbed to 60, with 90 the third day. Attendance may level off with time.

Mohammed Farraja, who was born in the camp, raised in the Lutheran Boys Home, and serves on the local staff, is with Imad Abu Nassar responsible on behalf of Abrahams Herberge for this project. Imad Abu Nassar has been hired as cook. The rest of the project workers are volunteers, residents of the Daheisheh and students from nearby colleges. These students will do most of the academic tutoring and will follow up their work with the children's teachers at school.

An actual tent has been pitched on a rented plot in the middle of the camp, making the program easily available to the 12,000+ residents, half of whom are children. Whenever possible, the parents and grandparents will be encouraged to assist. For serious problems of health, learning, or behavior, professional advice will be sought.

Abrahams Herberge (Beit-Ibrahim- House of Abraham) is the first agency to offer such on-site services free of charge. It does so as part of its vision of Abraham's children being a blessing to the entire world. Other projects within this vision are the boarding home for school boys, projects of arts, crafts, and music, a social service worker for the city, inter-faith dialogue, and the guesthouse and youth hostel for Holy Land visitors.



The gathering of faith and the outreach of love which come to focus in this mission are due in large part to the vision and persistent efforts of Pastor Jadallah Shihadeh. His unshakable confidence in the grace of God, compassion for all people, and plain hard work have made wonderful things happen and provide hope in an often-hopeless situation.

Funding for the Tent of Abraham comes from the congregation itself, private donors abroad, and receipts from the guesthouse *Beit Ibrahim*. Major gifts for construction and equipment and smaller donations for daily food and supplies are most gratefully welcomed. A generous gift from the Presbyterian Church (USA) has enabled the opening of *Khaimat Ibrahim*. Donors can be assured that their money will be carefully used to share God's blessings with many.

John S. Setterlund



GONG 3000

3000 Siberian Center for Eurasian Projects

Earth is Our Common Home summer 2009 project report to UN

International UN-Year of Reconciliation



Summer 2009, Russia

What is an Earth is Our Common Home project? Its aim is creating a new vision of humanity for reconciliation and creating a new world view based on the idea of Conscious Evolution and Unity of Diversity. It is devoted to creating a network of international peace children communities as models of a new humane peace society (Altai & Baikal in Russia). We've been acting for 13 years to make it a reality.

*Nina Goncharova with Altai Republic Government and Altai team in Ust-Kan, 12 June 2009*

For this in summer 2009 we have conducted a stream of culture of peace expeditions bringing people from all over Eurasia and the world to live and co create together - in the healing places of the planet. The events took place in Altai, Bayan Aul, Sayan Mountains, at Issyk-Kul Lake and Baikal Lake (Russia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan). People learned to live together in harmony and create harmonious relationships with each other and nature. There were also meetings with citizens, representatives of governments, expeditions to sacred places. Initiators are – Talgat Akbashev, Nina Goncharova. Participants: people of Altai Republic, Russia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan from 25 places from 5 counties. **8 -22 June 2009** – the 20<sup>th</sup> culture of peace “Altai - Planet” expedition; **29 June -9 July 2009** – the 1<sup>st</sup> culture of peace expedition to Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan; **12 - 20 July 2009** - the 4<sup>th</sup> Mountain ATF School at Altai; **4-8 August 2009** - the 21<sup>st</sup> Altai - Planet expedition, **17-19 August 2009** - Good Fruits Celebration & international “New consciousness-new man-new society” conference in Krasnoyarsk region and Baikal Lake.



*Issyk-Kul expedition  
7 July 2009*



*Mountain School at Altai  
12 July 2009*



*Good Fruits Celebratio,  
18 August 2009*

**What are results and perspectives?** We have enriched an Altai project as a part of a network of international villages where youth of the world could meet and learn to live together and collectively create visions of the future and make them reality. It will be an interconnected network as a collective resonator & harmonizer of the planet during the great transition process our Earth goes through now; a counsel of elders for Earth is Our Common Home meeting to be conducted at Altai in June 2010 is created. Your cooperation is appreciated!

Nina Goncharova gong3000@ngs.ru <http://planet3000.site.voila.fr>

« **Tugire Amahoro** » signifie « **ayons la paix** ». C'est une phrase très riche et très utilisée au Burundi. Pour prendre une parole en publique, l'on doit introduire par Tugire Amahoro, pour demander la parole, pour attirer l'attention sur l'importance de ce que vous allez dire ou tout simplement pour souhaiter la paix à son prochain. On utilise également cette phrase pour clôturer son discours.

Aussi, « **Tugire Amahoro** » est le début d'une série d'activités qui ont débuté en décembre 2008 et qui ont pour but d'établir un cadre d'échange, de soutien mutuel et de promotion des valeurs de paix et de respects mutuels entre des personnes et des familles d'origines ethniques différentes mais ayant en commun l'idéal de paix et de solidarité et la promotion d'une éducation basée sur l'amour et le respect mutuel.

Le projet a commencé avec un groupe de personnes qui se sont organisées en un groupement famille pour la paix et le développement et qui ont décidé à œuvrer au sein des familles pour promouvoir la réconciliation et la consolidation dans leur vie quotidienne pour un avenir plus meilleur. Ainsi, 2 journées culturelles ont été organisées au cours de cette année et ont rassemblées 75 personnes prenant en charge 375 orphelins et autres enfants vulnérables ainsi que 17 personnes très âgées. Ces manifestations ont permis aux enfants et aux personnes marginalisées dans la société de s'exprimer sur leur préoccupation concernant la situation d'exclusion de discrimination et d'injustice à laquelle elles sont confrontées. Des leaders communautaires se sont engagés à travailler pour éradiquer les comportements qui excluent les autres et à dénoncer les injustices qu'ils auraient constatées.

**Le projet a vu la naissance d'un 2<sup>ème</sup> groupement Famille pour la Paix et le Développement.** Les 2 groupements sont implantés dans la commune urbaine de Kanyosha, l'un dans les quartiers de Nkenga Busoro et l'autre dans celui de Mukungugu. Les deux groupements inter-viennent dans la promotion de la paix, la mobilisation de la communauté pour la solidarité en faveur des personnes vulnérables de leur localité et la lutte contre la pauvreté à travers des activités génératrices de revenus. Ils se sont construits un bureau où les membres se rencontrent une fois le mois pour s'échanger sur leurs réalisations ainsi que sur les problèmes de leurs communautés.





### **Au cours d'une journée culturelle jeunes filles se préparant à danser**

Ils ont un projet de constituer un fonds communautaire pour l'éducation qui permettra à leurs enfants de poursuivre leurs études secondaires dans des établissements de qualité. Les bénéficiaires des bourses vont à leur tour contribuer au développement de leurs communautés en organisant pendant les vacances des cours de rattrapage à des enfants et jeunes encours de scolarisation.

Le projet va durer jusqu'en 2013. Si les moyens les permettraient, nous voulions toucher d'autres communes de la capitale. De plus, nous aimerions les aider pour accéder aux micro crédits afin qu'ils puissent être en mesure de financer eux-mêmes les projets qui les tiennent à cœur.

**Messages des enfants à l'intention des adultes au cours d'une journée culturelle en octobre 2009:** « ce ne sont pas les enfants qui préparent et font la guerre, mais les adultes. Mais c'est nous les enfants qui souffrent le plus. Car la guerre qui vous tue nous fait très mal : elle nous laisse sans parents et sans soutien ! Donnez nous la chance de garder nos parents et nous aurons la chance de grandir épanouis et la force de garder la paix, car nous sommes votre avenir ! »



Les jeunes membres du groupement Famille pour la Paix et le Développement de Mukungugu dansant le tambour avec des messages de promotion de la paix et de la réconciliation.



### **Teatro la Luna, Cordoba Argentina**

VISITAS Y ARTE: Visitamos muchas casas, algunas muy pobres que nos recibieron con hospitalidad y a donde intercambiamos historias

Elegimos las calles donde las familias son las mas pobres y nos desplazamos con el coro que son 35 personas del barrio y otros lugares. Hicimos un concierto cinco temas y luego entramos a cada casa con el grupo de niños que represento una obra de títeres creados por ellos. La historia si bien es un cuento de fantasía, cuenta de un mundo gris donde los colores se han perdido. Luego de preguntar a los mas sabios descubren que los colores estan en la naturaleza y que esta nos esta pidiendo que la cuidemos.

En cada casa nos contaron historias del barrio algunas son creencias populares de personajes míticos que aparecen o se decía aparecían en las calles. Por ejemplo, Ramonita Moreno, una santa popular que cumplía pedidos a los mas pobres.

Los niños con sus muñecos representaron espontaneamente algunas de las historias que contaron las familias y llevamos esas historias de una casa a otra encontrando asi posibilidades de vincularnos amorosamente entre los vecinos y entre todos los seres humanos.

Dejamos libros en prestamo y mientras tomabamos mates y chocolate que nosotros llevabamos, los invitamos a devolver la visita a La Luna. De todos esos encuentros dejamos en los frentes de las casa obras de fotografias y quedo un barrio intervenido por el arte y los encuentros.

También con los jovenes que se reunen en las esquinas, generalmente solitarios y poco amistosos. Nos reunimos y los sumamos a las canciones del coro y escuchamos con ellos un documental sonoro que habla sobre la violencia y las posibilidades que podemos encontrar para abrirnos caminos y crear mas idea de un futuro posible.





La devolución de las visitas ha sido positiva. Muchas familias llegaron a la luna y allí les ofrecimos danzas, música y compartimos alimentos y reflexiones. Los vecinos quieren que lo repitamos el 2010. Pintamos caminos con color blanco en las calles con la idea de seguir conectados.

**Reconciliar, fortalecer los vínculos y darnos oportunidad de construir juntos un mundo mejor, es el resultado de esta acción que valoramos como muy positiva y pensamos repetir y acrecentar.**

## 104. Alezeia Strategia

## ARGENTINA

A project for the modifications of International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. in virtue of the development of the Culture of Prevention, be adapted to the Pact on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in order to mitigate the consequences that will be brought by Climate Change and acting to make the contingency plan.

The same contemplate the new category of displaced, migrants and environmental refugees and in consequence introduce the protection of their UDHR in the mentioned Pact, in effects to avoid just predicted demands, as it is made in the foundation of the UN's creation, the protection of the preeminent Right to Life.

(We have a modification of the Project available in the supposition this theme result selected). We have more projects.

## **105. Animation des 4 conférences débats sur la paix et la Réconciliation**

### **BURUNDI**

Animation de 4 conférences débats sur la paix et la réconciliation avec les élèves du secondaires et la masse paysane

- le 25.01.09: Ecole Paramédicale de Gitega
- le 02.02.09: Ecole Sociale de Gitega
- le 09.02.09: Ecole Normale d'Economie Familiale de MWARO
- le 13.08.09: une conférence avec les étudiants et fonctionnaires dans la salle de Kezakimana à Gitega.

## **106. Reconciliation exhibition**

### **Austria**

The exhibition, called “Reconciliation” took place in the office of an accountant and tax consultant company. This title can also be found on the invitation cards forwarded to about 700 persons.

At the opening of the exhibition the subject of reconciliation was explained to the audience and it was referred to the available informative literature.

## **107. Romeo and Julia in the village**

### **Switzerland**

5 Arab and 5 Jewish young people from Israel, aged between 15 and 17 years will develop and dramatize the material of Gottfried Keller’s “Romeo and Juliet in the village” directed by a “neutral” person. A piece of Swiss Literature, performed by young Israelis.

The resulting dramatization of this material is compacted to a play and will primarily be performed in Israel, but later on as part of a tour possibly also in Switzerland.

The developing process of the theatre project will be recorded cinematically integral and compiled to an independent feature-length documentary film.

This is a theatre and film project, being launched by dedicated culture creating people from Switzerland in close co-operation with the “Arab-Hebrew Theatre” in Jaffa/Israel.

The play will be produced and premiered in Israel. Subsequently there is a possibility of performing it as part of a tour in Switzerland, too.

Protected moments of encounter, where communications and exchanges are emphasized, are important for a peaceful future, not only in Israel and Palestine but also throughout the entire world.

Dalit Bloch

## 108. Readiness for Dialogue – Unity in Diversity

Germany



On the occasion of the 80 year-anniversary of the city of Wuppertal there were many different booths and various musical and cultural performances. My booth offered information on the subject of reconciliation, on the UN-Millennium Development Goals and **Communities Act Now**. As incentive I put up hand-made cards for information on reconciliation (what does reconciliation mean to me, how can I contribute ...) People interested could get a card on site to design it according to their own ideas.

Bärbel Schmidt-Dudda





## 109. Elderly People – Children – going common ways – an intergenerational project in Graz

Austria

Intergenerational Movement between old and young

*„Partnership between Rest Home and a Kindergarten“*



Our kindergarten in Graz is located in the open. Our 17 children at the age between 3-6 years are supervised by 3 small children educators. Our main focus is on the active dealing with nature and our animals and our running project **“Elderly people – Children”**.

The partnership between the rest home Anna in Graz and our kindergarten has been existing for 10 years now and has in the meantime become an important part of our kindergarten-work.

During the kindergarten-year the elderly people's interests are taken into consideration concerning the common activities such as cooking in the kindergarten, arranging our various parties or vernissages.

Because of the small family situation, the extremely important interpersonal contact : small children – elderly people gets more and more lost which however is essential for the personality development of children.

Through their visits to the rest homes the children make friends with the elderly people and they can benefit from the life experiences of the elderly (telling stories from their childhood and youth etc.) and these in their turn forget their frailty for a while, because the dealing with the small children often means a mental and physical challenge to them.

**Through this interaction the mental state of the old and partly dependant people is improved in a very positive way.**



## 110. The Terminology of Reconciliation and Reconciliation Practice Germany

Summary of a seminar in the *International Year of Reconciliation*, which was held by the *Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung* in cooperation with the *Frauennetzwerk für Frieden* in Bonn on 6./7. June 2009.

### 6. June 2009

After a short introduction the participants started to work on the following topics:

#### The Terminology of Reconciliation

Rita Jakob is a lawyer and psychologist lic. phil., representative of the S.E.R foundation in Switzerland ([www.ser-foundation.ch](http://www.ser-foundation.ch)). She presented the results of a scientific research on the translation of the term *reconciliation* in 14 languages, as well as different concepts of reconciliation in different cultures.

#### Reconciliation in Practice

Bosilijka Schedlich (see photo) is CEO of *Südost Europa Kultur e.V.* ([www.suedost-ev.de](http://www.suedost-ev.de)), vice chair women of the foundation *ÜBERBRÜCKEN in Berlin* ([www.stiftung-ueberbruecken.de](http://www.stiftung-ueberbruecken.de)) and member of *Peace Women Across the Globe* ([www.1000peacewomen.org](http://www.1000peacewomen.org)). Bosilijkas cultural and educational work with migrants uses art as an instrument for reconciliation and healing of psychic traumas. Her aim is the integration of people in a peaceful environment, encouraging the feelings of social affiliation, common responsibility and the believe in a peaceful conflict resolution.



Shérif W. Korodowou is an interpreter and political scientist, Kerstin Bunte is a political scientist. They both are from the *Institut für Konstruktive Konfliktbearbeitung* ([www.impuls-marburg.de](http://www.impuls-marburg.de)) and presented the *Thérapie Sociale*, a systemic approach for peaceful conflict resolution after Charles Rojzman.

## 7. Juni 2009

The following questions have been put to discussion and worked on in smaller groups:

- What are the associations with the term *reconciliation* (e.g. dealing with ones past)?
- What is blocking reconciliation (e.g. fear, revenge, violation, arrogance)?
- What encourages reconciliation (e.g. empathy, thankfulness, trust)?
- What is reconciliation aiming at (e.g. sharing, tolerance, peace, harmony)?

In the final session the participants expressed their interest to continue the work in a follow-up seminar: *life in germany after the fall of the berlin wall*, a topic which has rarely been discussed in this context.

The moderators Ursula Clauditz from the *Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung* and Heide Schuetz from the *Frauen Netzwerk für Frieden* have been heartily thanked for the instructive semniar and the good organisation.



## 111. KANSA exhibition in the Government bunker documentation site Germany



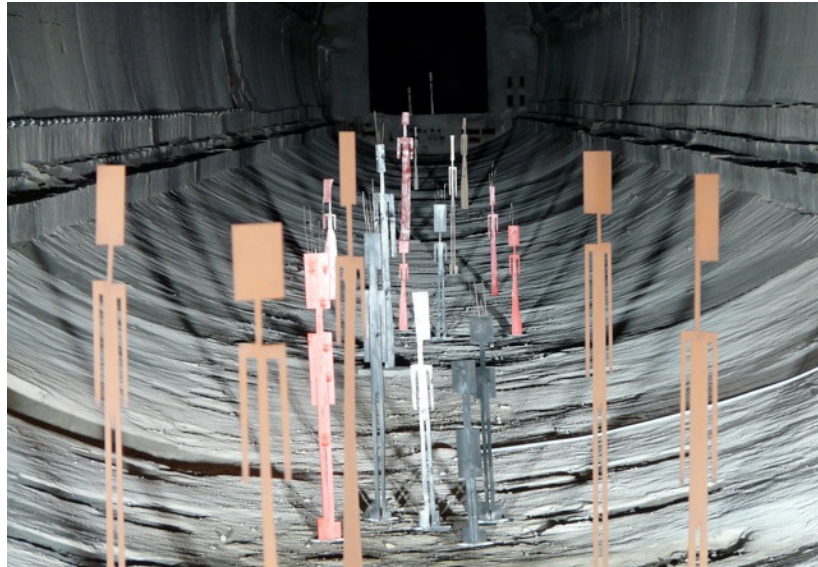
28.8-28.10.2009, Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler, Germany

In March 2008 the former nuclear government bunker of the Federal Republic of Germany opened to the public as a documentation site. It is only 20 km away from the former federal capital Bonn. In addition to the Berlin Wall it is the most gigantic building of the Cold War in Germany and was classified as top secret for decades. The Government bunker with the cover name „rosen garden“ should provide room for 3000 members of the government for 30 days in order they could continue to govern in case of a Third World war.



Since March 2008 one part of the Government bunker was opened to the public and there is a great deal of interest. Visitors come from all over the world and represent all age groups. 2008 the President of the Federal Republic Germany Mr. Horst Köhler visited the former Government bunker. He said afterwards how important it was to keep a part of the bunker as a Museum as an emphasised converted admonishing symbol preserved for posterity how insane a nuclear war would have been.

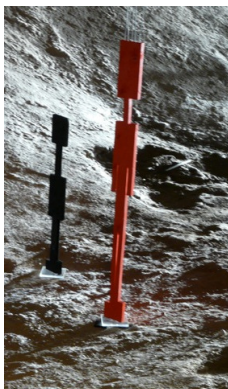
Exactly therefore the finnish-german artist couple Goller-Masalin felt it for important to bring this former Cold War location together with the peaceful sculptures of the KANSA project. The artist couple wanted to set an act of reconciliation between past and now a days. During the exhibition time 28.8-28.10.2009 round about 30 000 people visited the bunker and the KANSA exhibition. The KANSA exhibition was the very first exhibition hold in the Government bunker.



**The name of the exhibition KANSA is Finnish and means the people.**

The sculpture series Kansa consists of Sirpa Masalins human forms which are a reflection of us all: women, men, children. She designed them with wood, steel and rusty wire. The colours differ, to represent the variety of peoples in different continents.

They are about to begin their journey out into the world to bring people together. No matter what their language, origin, political beliefs, religion or skin colour. The artist couple wants to spread the Kansa people throughout the world in order to unite us all. They want to use art to draw attention to the most important aspects of our future: peace, freedom, awareness for the environment, pure foods, respect for human rights, freedom of speech and self-determination.



The sculptures are numbered and have their own name. They also carry an invisible RFID chip with a unique number in their bodies. This RFID number which is referenced at the individual Kansa's web page can be used to verify the individual sculpture as the original one. Individual traits of the people are listed there and their locations displayed in Google Maps. This will result in a living work of New Media Art by Hans-Ulrich Goller-Masalin, with the individual sculptures acting as symbols of peoples living in harmony with one another, their traces recorded on the Internet.

**„The earth unites humanity, not the borders of our countries.“**

Artist couple Goller-Masalin [www.goller-masalin.com](http://www.goller-masalin.com)



## 112. – 118. Animation des journées de prière pour la paix et la réconciliation Burundi

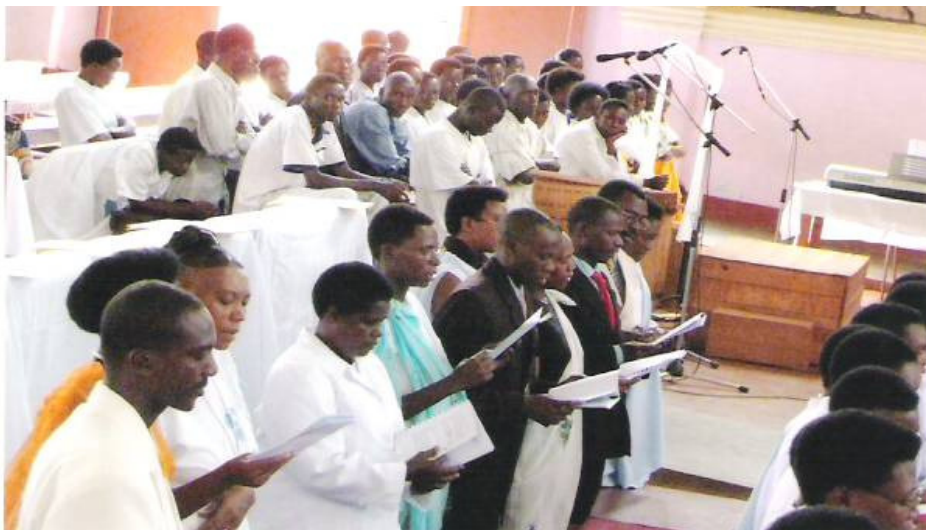
Nr. 112 – Nr. 118

COMPTE RENDU DES ACTIVITES DE RECONCILIATION ACCOMPLIES EN 2009 PAR  
L'ŒUVRE APOSTOLIQUE VIE NOUVELLE POUR LA RECONCILIATION (VNR)

### INTRODUCTION

Au cours de l'année 2009, par plusieurs activités concrètes et objectivement observables, l'Oeuvre Apostolique Vie Nouvelle pour la Réconciliation a poursuivi son apostolat d'aider la personne humaine à se réconcilier avec soi-même, avec son prochain et avec son milieu environnant pour pouvoir créer une nouvelle société issue du pardon et de la réconciliation partagée, une société appuyée sur la justice comme engagement et un nouveau comportement dicté par le pardon offert, et enfin une société dirigée vers la paix par le développement.

### **Projet Nr.112: Animation des journées de prières pour la paix et réconciliation**



**Projet Nr. 113 :** Encadrement des veuves/veufs à la paix et à la réconciliation. Après la messe à la cathédrale de Gitega, rencontre avec les veuves pour un message de paix et de réconciliation





### **Projet Nr. 115 : La Spiritualité de la Réconciliation**

Lors de la conférence sur la spiritualité de la réconciliation avec le public.



### **Projet Nr.117: Partage avec les démunis**

Saynète sur la réconciliation entre rapatriés et réfugiés pendant le forum des jeunes



## Sessions sur la paix et la réconciliation



Une école primaire « Notre Dame de la Réconciliation » à Mukenke pour préparer les jeunes à grandir avec cet esprit de réconciliation



### 1. Animation des journées de prières pour la Paix et la Réconciliation

Comme les années écoulées, 4 journées de prières pour la Paix et la Réconciliation ont été animées dans des différentes régions pour rapprochement des coeurs et ont vu la participation de 1200 personnes soit une moyenne de 300 personnes par journée de prière pour la paix et la réconciliation.

### 2. Encadrement des veuf/ veufs à la paix et la réconciliation

En plus de 500 femmes veuves déjà encadrées par l' 'Oeuvre Apostolique VNR, 200 autres Veuves/veufs se sont ajoutés au groupement des veuves «URWEZE = la joie » et sont aidés par une activité agropastorale afin de pouvoir tenir en main leur ménage, éduquer leurs enfants, les aider à accueillir des orphelins qui errent dans la rue, sans oublier de les promouvoir à l'apostolat de la réconciliation.

### **3. L'unité dans la diversité**

En union avec les autres chrétiens et surtout les jeunes des mouvements d'action catholique, comme toutes les années, les membres de l'Oeuvre Apostolique VNR ont participé activement à l'organisation et au déroulement d'une marche manifestation pour la paix et la réconciliation, au cours de cette marché, **les chansons et les danses de réconciliation attirées l'attention du public.**

### **4. La spiritualité de la réconciliation**

2 Conférences débat sur la spiritualité de la réconciliation à l'intention de tout le public du Centre ville de Gitega ont été animées par Monseigneur Simon NTAMWANA, Archevêque de Gitega et Père fondateur de l'œuvre Apostolique VNR. Au cours des ces conférences, Monseigneur a fait savoir que les situations conflictuelles que connaît notre pays pousse les hommes et les femmes de bonne foi à réfléchir l'avenir de notre société. Beaucoup de voies de sortie sont proposées mais le résultat n'est pas satisfaisant. En plus, la vie quotidienne en communauté comporte des déchirures plus ou moins grandes dont l'issue ne peut être recherchée que dans le pardon et la réconciliation. Ainsi, en fondant l'œuvre Apostolique VNR dont le charisme est la réconciliation dans toutes ses formes, il a pensé au remède efficace à tous les maux qui minent la société Partant des expériences vues et vécues, il a affirme que, seule la réconciliation est fondement d'une paix durable. La participation moyenne à chaque conférence était de 200 personnes

### **5. 3 Sessions avec les jeunes sur la paix et la réconciliation**

Cette année, 3 écoles secondaires à régime d'internat ont connu la tenue des sessions sur la paix et la réconciliation sous le thème principal « La Réconciliation à base de notre fois ». Envie par beaucoup de jeunes, plus 1200 élèves ont participé à ces sessions et beaucoup se sont confessés après la session, avant de clore la journée par une messe.

### **6. Partage avec les démunis**

Le partage avec plus 1500 démunis a eu lieu dans les 5 provinces du pays où l'Oeuvre Apostolique Vie Nouvelle pour la Réconciliation a des cellules.

### **7. Prière de réconciliation dans les forums des jeunes**

Les membres de l'Oeuvre Apostolique VNR ont participé et animé un forum de jeunes organisé à la prison centrale de Gitega regroupant plus 500 personnes et dans 2 autres organisés dans les différentes régions pastorales dont la participation était massive.

Rapporteur Ildephonse NZIRUBUSA, Secrétaire de VNR

## **119. IYF (International Youth Fellowship) World Youth Festival Burundi**

The IYF World Festival at the actual place of Fellowship and Union among IYF members sharing heart to heart under IYF mottoes; change challenge and cohesion.

This year, starting from Malaysia to Peru, Paraguay, Austria, South Korea, Togo, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Zambia and Burundi are going to hold this event.



## 120. Reconciliation, Peace and more

## Germany

**Herminia T. Littleton reads meditations, poems, and essays out of her recently published book "HERAKLEION BY THE SEA" A GREEK EXPERIENCE**

Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2009 in the Waldhof Center for Encounter

"Reconciliation, Peace and More" this was the headline of an invitation by the Centre for Encounter within the context of the International Year of Reconciliation and about 20 persons met in the Waldhof to listen to Herminia T. Littleton. Accompanied by Greek music and sensitive pictures of Crete taken by Uwe Brecht, Herminia T. Littleton read inspiring texts and poems of her book "Herakleion by the Sea".



Crete as a cradle of mankind and democracy has seen many attacks and wars during its history and so its inhabitants were forced to learn how to practice forgiveness, reconciliation and peace and to support a sustainable development. This peaceful energy is still living in Crete and has inspired Herminia T. Littleton to write her book. Her words – sensitively translated from English into German by Josefine Brecht – have encouraged us to reflect in a new way upon steps on the way to Reconciliation and Peace, to exchange experiences and to look into the possibilities of their realisation in our own lives, in our families, in communities, and in the global human family.



At the end of this event one of the participants said: "Waldhof is always a social meeting place where you can find new inspiration for mutual understanding, peace and reconciliation". And, as we want to add, a meeting place where we can work together to put our common vision into reality.

Marion Glaser, Josefine Brecht, Uwe Brecht (photos)

## **121. Symposium „Liberation through Reconciliation“ Switzerland**

The symposium took place at the training institute for physical and respiratory therapy LIKA on the subject of **“Liberation through Reconciliation”** on 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2009.

The first lecture was held by Dr. Andrea Jakobitsch, psychiatrist with main focus on trauma therapy about “reconciliation with the inner child”. It is only through understanding and subsequently through reconciliation with the inner child that injuries from our childhood do no longer disturb or afflict our lives.

The second lecture was held by Dr. Katharina Ley, psychoanalyst and author under the subject of “About a good ending”. She emphasized the importance of a respectful and dignified ending which is an eligible art of living, which refers to the Here and Now, thus leading to an inner freedom and reconciliation with ourselves and others.

In the afternoon 3 workshops took place, 2 of them on the lectures as mentioned above and the third one about “Breath of freedom(s)” with Beatrice Brandes, teacher at the LIKA.

At the end of the symposium a philosophical conversation with Willy Fillinger was on the programme. Many ideas, swirling around the room, were taken up by the philosopher and thrown back to the public in his very own way.

An intensive and exciting day ended in a good mood and the public went back home with many of their own thoughts about reconciliation.

Information: Lehrinstitut LIKA, Dorfstr. 1, CH-5233 Stilli AG, [www.lika.ch](http://www.lika.ch)

## **122. Where Justice and Peace meet – Challenge: Reconciliation Switzerland**

26<sup>th</sup> of September 2009, Romero House Lucerne, Switzerland

### **Seminar with Nobel Prize Winner (1980) Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, Argentina**

Lectures:     Peace and Justice and  
                  The past is not past  
                  East of Eden: Bibliodrama  
                  Dealing with the past: experiences of women from Chile and Uruguay  
                  The heart of reconciliation: Myself: meditative thinking and acting  
                  Victim/offender roles in reconciliation processes.

The right to reconciliation goes far beyond the end of a conflict: it includes the healing of relations and the restoration of the community. Reconciliation is a difficult challenge, it always is a tension between truth and peace, justice and goodness. It requires action from both sides: forgiveness through the victims and repentance or signs of reparation through the offenders. But in the first place a cessation of violence is necessary. A positive new start is not possible until the wrongs are stopped. Reconciliation implies that the injuries and the wrongs done are made transparent. When the injuries and wounds are deep, people need time to overcome hatred and traumata. Only the victims can grant forgiveness. The question is, how can we go this path and how can we assist victims (and offenders) on this way.



## 123. Walking Tour with about 100 orphans in Richmond South Africa



The walking tour lead us to a beautifully situated artificial lake near Richmond in South Africa. There we had all kinds of games with the orphans. Football, of course, could not be missed, as South Africa is getting ready for the "World Cup 2010"!

Then we had a picnic and the children had a good appetite. We had sausages fried over the charcoal fire, and they were delicious. More than 3 dozens of bread disappeared into the hungry mouths of more than 100 orphans and caretakers. It surely was a happy day for the children, which they certainly will not soon forget!



The volunteers prepared the meal  
These walking tour was organized by the „Usizo Voluntary Group“ and Mlungisi Madlala.  
Pater Dominic Muheim



The „Jumping Castle“ was great fun for all!







### Bericht über das erste Friedensfestival in Zürich 19. September 2009 im Gemeinschaftszentrum Heuried

Im Rahmen des weltweiten Marsches für Frieden und Gewaltfreiheit, welcher bis Ende 2009 durch die ganze Welt reiste um das Bewusstsein für Frieden und Gewaltfreiheit zu bilden und zu stärken, fand im Vorfeld das erste Friedensfestival statt. Organisiert wurde er vom Verein Welt ohne Kriege.

Es war ein wunderbarer, sehr kreativer und vielfältiger Anlass mit vielen Darbietungen, Workshops, Ständen, Konzerten, Friedenszeremonie, Kinderprogrammen und Leckereien. Insgesamt hatte das Festival ca 150 Besucher.

Das Programm war sehr kunterbunt und berührend:

- Mitglieder der Amrita Vereinigung sangen Mantralieder
- Trommel- Singgruppe "Earth-Drummers" verzauberte uns mit einer riesigen schamanischen Trommel
- 15 Jugendliche von der Friedenswerkstatt Basel trugen uns im Freien in Begleitung von Gitarren, Trommeln und Didgeridoos Friedenslieder vor
- es gab im Freien eine Friedenszeremonie bei dem wir 3 Tauben mit den besten Wünschen fliegen liessen.
- Claudia Christen machte mit den Kindern eine wunderschöne Peacedanceperformance
- Im Saal gab es Yatri - Mantras and Powersongs of the Earth
- Thomas "Hari" Würmli and Friends
- die kleine Friedenswerkstatt bastelte Kommunikationsstäbe
- beim Friedensdorf konnte man am Schicksalsrad drehen
- es wurde ein wunderbares Batikbild in Gemeinschaftsarbeit von gross und klein gemalt
- ausserdem konnte man sich an der Aufnahme des Friedensrap beteiligen
- Interviews mit der Videokamera zum Thema Frieden, Vertrauen und Vorbilder wurden gemacht
- am Abend gab es dann moderiert von Chris Bachmann, dem Moderator von Freestyle.ch 3 tolle Benefizkonzerte: Es spielten Enrique Harries, ein argentinischer Musiker mit Band, Naghma, eine schweizerisch-marrokanische Gruppe mit eindrucksvollen Rythmen und Klängen, und Cazualnoize, eine Band aus Wetzikon mit fetzigen Rocksound und super Texten
- dazu konnte schnabuliert, kommuniziert und getanzt werden

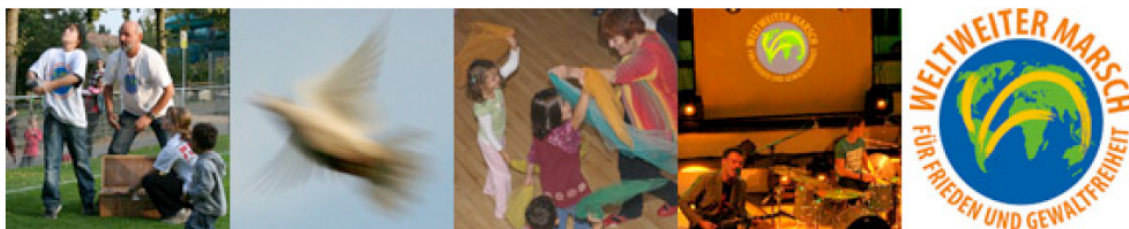
Natürlich gab es auch Infostände von Tamera, Amma, WeltohneKriege, Tierschutzverein, Friedensdorf, 1000frauenfürdenfrieden, kleine Friedenswerkstatt

Insgesamt hatte das Festival immer wieder tief berührende Momente und war von der Energie die es erzeugte, genau was wir uns vorgestellt hatten. Leider wurden die Konzerte am Abend nicht genug frequentiert, so dass wir das Festival mit einem enormen Motivationsplus aber auch mit einem finanziellen Minus abschliessen mussten. Wir wünschen uns für das nächste Mal sehr, dass viele Gruppen, Organisationen und Einzelpersonen dieses Festival mittragen und zu einem Rundumerfolg machen. Lasst es uns möglich machen, dass auf diese Weise der Funke zu möglichst vielen Menschen springt! Das nächste Festival wird am Internationalen Tag der Gewaltfreiheit und Geburtstag von Mahatma Gandhi stattfinden (2. Oktober 2010).

Eure Beiträge sind gewünscht und herzlich willkommen, meldet euch bei Sandra Kleiner  
078 919 60 94, Mail [sandrakleiner@hispeed.ch](mailto:sandrakleiner@hispeed.ch)



Es gibt keinen Weg in den Frieden, der Friede ist der Weg, herzlich Sandra, Welt ohne Kriege Schweiz



[www.weltohnekrieg.ch](http://www.weltohnekrieg.ch), [www.theworldmarch.org](http://www.theworldmarch.org), [Mehr Fotos](#)

**Peace Festival in Zürich on 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2009** In the run-up to the worldwide march for peace and non-violence, touring throughout the world in order to establish and strengthen the consciousness for peace and non-violence, the first peace festival was held in Zürich. It was organised by “World without Wars”. It was a wonderful, creative and manifold event with various performances, workshops, booths, concerts, a peace ceremony and programs for children.

During the festival we experienced deeply moving moments and the energy was exactly as we thought it would be. Unfortunately the festival was not frequented by as many people as we had hoped for. We would like to address groups, organisations and single persons to support the next festival, which will be held on Mahatma Gandhi's birthday on 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2010. **There is no way to peace, peace is the way!**

## 125. Universal Language – the Language of Hearts Switzerland

### **My Project is my Life!** :

From 1953 until 2009 - there was never anything more beautiful and rewarding to me, like bringing joy to my fellow human beings by means of my behaviour: Songs, talks, with real smiles, with attention, compassion, my fantasy, creativity, or playing the flute, with respect and my whole love for my fellow beings, to name a few. In my career of forty years' activity as Kindergarten-Teacher, I conveyed the children the spiritual gift of charity and peace, via made-up stories, or since twenty-five years in the field of supporting perception, meditation, breathing techniques and yoga-gymnastics. A sensible completion to develop personality, responsibility and social competence. The seed, I sowed thrives in the second generation already – of my former children – who have been waiting for my **Fairy-Tale-Books** for years.

In 2004 I could publish the first volume '**DON PEDRINO TUTTI COLORI – the birth of the little rainbow-magician.**

The second volume bears the title: **DON PEDRINO TUTTI COLORI AS PEACE-MAKER**'.



It is about: **LOVE-PEACE-HARMONY**

Sun children – determined of love and compassion from where they come from – the sun. They live together in peace and harmony with lots of humour. That's the reason why he can pass on this foundation to the children of the earth (third volume). His siblings send the rays of the sun to the earth dwellers, who crave them badly.

It is about: **RECONCILIATION – CHANGE.**

But for the foundation to becoming a peace-maker, he misses the experience disharmony yet. With king Cumulus he learns violence, fear, envy and jealousy.

As from the third volume,  
DON PEDRINO TUTTI COLORI is  
peace-maker on the earth, having  
as a motto: **HERE – NOW**

Susanne Lüthi-Tüfer

## **126. Kick for Your Future! Youth Programme in the Slums of Monrovia Liberia Switzerland**

**The Project “Kick for Your Future!” combines waste management with football and cultural activities.** 300 young people from the slums of Monrovia are given the chance to cope with their difficult past after a 14-year lasting civil war. They carry through waste collection actions in their neighbourhoods and the cultural teams will educate the population about environmental protection and sanitation programmes by means of theatre performances. The everyday life of the young people is structured by regular football trainings, teaching them fair play.

The success of the pilot-project has convinced cooperaxion to continue to invest in the social structures of these slums, in order to strengthen the community. For the continuation of this project from 2010 improvements of the infrastructure for the football trainings and the construction of a youth centre are planned. Furthermore the involvement in the occupational fields shall be strengthened by practical trainings and a job placement programme, thus a long-term contribution to reduce youth non-employment is made.

## **127. Babacu Women’s Project in North-Eastern Brazil Switzerland**

The Babacu Women’s Project is supporting 46 Afro-Brazilian families in Quilombo “Matoes dos Moreira” in North-Eastern Brazil through installation of a palm oil extraction plant.

Thus the women can continue processing the nuts of the Babacu palms to cooking oil and soap themselves and are no longer abused as cheap raw-material suppliers.

Thus their traditional craftsmanship is preserved and their negotiating position in land rights is strengthened.





**Future Leaders Forum  
Power of Leadership for Humanity  
May 21th - May 24th 2009**



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**In Cooperation with the University of Applied Sciences in Konstanz (HTWG  
Konstanz)  
Bad Schönbrunn, Edlibach, Switzerland**

## **1. Profile of the Future Leaders Forum**

### **1.1 Goal**

The Future Leaders Forum (FLF) is a research laboratory as well as a networking platform for young potential leaders of different origins who are interested in an international Leadership Program. During the FLF they reflect the supplementary potential of young men and women for leadership roles and explore new concepts, extract the characteristics of future leadership qualities and identify and expand their horizons for global challenges. Beyond that, participants from the «GEIST & Leadership»® course take part in the Future Leaders Forum.

### **1.2 Theoretical Approach**

The Lassalle Institute operates on the basis of the «Lassalle-Institut-Modell®». It is composed of three different intelligences (mental, emotional and spiritual), three forms of being (unity, diversity and uniqueness) and three levels of action (micro-, meso and macro-level). The model provides an important theoretical basis for the FLF. It is particularly suited to integrate the different talents of the participants; it encourages research and learning. Beyond that it promotes the ability for intuition and personal transformation.

The communication between young people from different cultures and religions is a permanent challenge. The evolvement of spiritual intelligence is an excellent premise for the success of intercultural encounters. It allows people to discover the unifying aspects and to experience diversity as an opportunity for completion. Both the modern psychology as well as

the ancient traditions from the East and the West know a variety of exercises to advance spiritual intelligence. One possibility is Zen meditation which is practiced every morning during the seminar. A different approach presents the exercise "Welcome 2020". It uses the creative power of thought and visualizes the future in the present. Therefore participants use their intuition, their spiritual potential. In the corporate world this method is known as "Presencing". Tools like the "Presencing" are easily implemented in everyday life, which in turn participants consider as being confirmative and encouraging.

### 1.3 Project Team

The FLF is organized and conducted by young people for young people between 20 and 35 years. This year, it was led by the Project Coordinator of the Lassalle-Institut, Ralf Steigüber. Within the project team, he received vigorous support from Denise Wiedemann, ELGO Electronic GmbH & Co.KG; Daria Baiandourova, student at the European Management School in Paris and Stephan-Samuel Gyger, Betlehem-Mission Immensee. The project team of the FLF is coached and advised by Dr. Anna Gamma, managing director of the Lassalle-Institut.

## 2 Future Leaders Forum Power of Leadership for Humanity

### 2.1 Issues

According to the title of this year's FLF – «Power of Leadership for Humanity» - three questions were raised: Which leadership qualities are necessary for humanity on a global level? How are the present global organizations structured and how could they look like in the future in order to master current challenges? How can humankind lose its fear for global governance and grow up to an organism highly synergized? In order to create a wide open space for that subject, these three questions will be acquired and experienced within the framework of the FLF on a mental, emotional and spiritual level.

### 2.2 Lectures and Workshops

Prof. Dr. Manuel Fröhlich, political scientist at the Friedrich Schiller University in Jena conducted a workshop on the topic «The Nature of Power and its Role within the United Nations». He showed the development of the history of ideas from Immanuel Kant and the League of Nations all the way to the present organization of the United Nations. Taking the example of the United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld and his handling of the Suez Crisis, participants discussed among the many points of interest, which leadership qualities are necessary for a successful world organization and which global structures should go hand in hand with it.

Beatrice Bernescut from the Global Fund to fight against Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria, imparted in her afternoon workshop «Practicing International Leadership» the approach of work of the organization based in Geneva, which was founded by the states of the G8 in 2002. In the following exercise she let the participants get into the shoes of the applicants with their various interests. Their collective mission was to hand in a balanced approach to the Global Fund, which is a pre-condition to receive funding.

The morning of the second day was opened by the founders of the Lassalle-Institute, Pia Gyger and Niklaus Brantschen. In their workshop with the subject „Self-Organization of Humankind“, Father Brantschen presented the expressions of «To-Have-Power»- and «To-Be-Power», while Pia Gyger introduced the main principles whose implementations allow a self- organization of humankind in terms of a democratic federal world order. In the following group work the participants exchanged ideas over a number of questions: What can I contribute that people in my professional and private environment experience themselves more and more as a world citizen?

The artist Kari Joller invited the participants of the FLF to go into the nature, «switch of their brains» and to learn from that experience. Under the title «Discovering Nature as a Part of us» everybody went to the Neue Lorze, a small river not far away from Bad Schönbrunn. The artist made the group aware of their environment through perception and mindfulness exercises with the aim of getting in touch with nature as close as possible. Later on, one part of the group created a land-artwork and the others searched for a suitable spot to express their present state of mind with the help of materials found in nature.

### 2.3 Social Program

Participants from various origins (Germany, China, France, Israel, Austria, Palestine, Poland, Russia, Switzerland and USA) visited the FLF 09. The closing highlight was the «evening of cultures», during which all participants presented something typical from their country or their region: the translation of the word «cosmopolitan» into Chinese, singing and dancing from India, a Jewish divine service, learning of the Arabic numbers from one to ten or the tasting of the Austrian «Sacher Torte».

## 3 Summary

### 3.1 Evaluation

In its third year the FLF has established itself and was with 23 participants very well attended. This underlines the attractiveness of the FLF among the many courses for young potential leaders. Last but not least the nature around the residence with its «Old Villa» as accommodation contributes to a relaxed atmosphere.

« The FLF helped me to think about things I wasn't aware of before, for example to identify my greatest gifts and use them in order to contribute to a better world. »  
(Participant of Switzerland)

« The atmosphere at the FLF was really inspiring. It helped me to realize where I am standing right now. I will keep all the good encounters, thoughts and feelings in my heart and my mind, when I travel back home to Jerusalem. »  
(Participating Palestinian from East Jerusalem)

### 3.2 Outlook

Initial preparations for a further FLF in 2010 have already begun. This event is entitled «Think Big – Trust in Global Leadership» and will take place from May 13th to 16th, 2010.

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Report written by  
Ralf Steigüber  
Lassalle-Institut  
Bad Schönbrunn



## 129. Promotion de la Sante et Education des Jeunes

### Marocco

Depuis sa creation, notre association s'est engagée dans des projets qui ciblent les jeunes , qui sont l'avenir de l'humanité, ces projets ont eu comme objectifs d'améliorer la situation sanitaire, sociale et économique des jeunes ...

Ce projet '**PSEJ**' est un fruit d'une reflexion sur la possibilité de brassage entre la santé , l'education , le civisme et les valeurs humaines sans distinction de sexe , d'age , d'ethnie ou d'appartenance religieuse ou politique , et cela va avec les principes de notre equipe qui est formé par des médecins de différentes ethnies dont le dénominateur commun est le serment d'hypocrate qui appelle au devoir envers toute l'humanité...

Notre projet est un projet **PARTICIPATIF** qui cible 2000 jeunes, et qui vise à éduquer un groupe de jeunes de 100 personnes et que ces jeunes aussi vont transmettre les messages aux autres, donc il s'agit d'une action active qui vise le partage et la tolérance et la transmission les messages du Bien être humain...

Les messages concernent la santé (maladies sexuellement transmissibles, drogue...) l'education (activités physique...) le civisme (respect de l'environnement) et les valeurs humaines(entraide, solidarité...)

Nous avons soumis notre projet à une évaluation internationale par des experts dans le domaine associatif qui ont beaucoup apprécié l'idée et nous ont présenté leurs encouragements.

Dr. Khalil HAMZI , MD  
Medical resident in Human Genetics  
Laboratory of Human Genetics  
Casablanca – Morocco  
Member of the BeSHG –Belguim  
Member of Rarechromo - United Kingdom

## 130. Reclaiming Dallas/Muthurwa Social Hall

Kenia

### BRIEF HISTORY

The above named Social Hall was constructed in around 1934 for recreational amenities to the workers and families of Kenya Railways Cooperation (KRC) fraternity. The facility has nurtured several key personalities in boxing prowess first and most distinguished were Robert Modesty Wangila Napunyi the first gold medalist (Africa) in Olympics 1986, several youthful pugilist have followed suit either in National or International tournaments be it Olympics, Common wealth Championships, World Championships(WBO), Kings Cup, All African Games Championships,(AAGC) and in-inter companies Championships. The current Africa Light weight champion-Suleiman Bilari Reside in Muthurwa and support this initiative being in the armed forces he is restricted by rules and regulation on advancing community issues.



### BACKGROUND

In 2005-06 the government was faced with the ever increasing problem of relocating the Hawkers (small Scale traders) from Central Business District of Nairobi (CBD) so the only alternative site was muthurwa estate a (KRC) the government through the Ministry of Local Government bought the 15 acre from the (KRC) at a cost of 650 million ksh, the government then allocated 800 million ksh for the construction of the said multi- market through the 2006/05 budget. On September 2006 during the ground breaking ceremony the community petitioned the president through the then Minister for Local Government Hon Musikari Kombo, His worship mayor of Nairobi-Hon Dick Wathika currently the Member of Parliament for Makadara Constituency. The President after realizing the sentimental value the facility had on youths directed it be spared demolition and be upgraded once the market is completed.

The market was completed last year March 08 but the community after trying all avenues has been unable to get it back, on the other hand the City Council through the Ministry of local Government has been frustrating the community repossessing this facility on the grounds

that the By laws of City Council does not allow for recreation facility within commercial precincts, although the facility is an enclosed area this argument does not arise.

## PROGRESS

Through letters writing to several Government officers, petitions to the Office of the President, the Office of the Attorney General-Hon Amos Wako intervened by requesting we liaise with the office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Minister for Local Government Hon Musalia Mudavadi letter dated August 31<sup>st</sup>-2009 reference No.AG/CONF/15/2.Thus the Minister directed we liaise with the Town Clerk of Nairobi letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> –sep-2009 Ref: C/1142-01/(3) we have on several occasions tried to talk to the Town Clerk with no success on the above matter we wrote a letter dated 4<sup>th</sup>-Nov-2009 requesting for an appointment till to date we have not received any communication nor progress.

In the meanwhile we drafted and submitted proposals to Kamukunji Constituency Community Development Fund (CDF) on 12<sup>th</sup>-Dec 2009, Ministry of Nairobi Metropolitan 21<sup>st</sup>-Dec-2009 and the Local Authority Transfer Fund (LATF) on 28<sup>th</sup>-nov-2009 requesting for 8800 000 million for renovation and equipping the facility into State of the Art Recreational Facility that will cater for the needs of over100,000 residents of Eastland (4constituencies, Makadara.Starehe,Kamukunji and Emabakassi) who access the market daily. We organized a community meeting on 6<sup>th</sup>-Dec-2009 to highlight to residents the progress we have made on reclaiming the above.





## 131. Dealing with the Past in Conflict Areas

Switzerland

### Discussion Evening as part of the series *Forum Debate*

**Is reconciliation an absolute precondition for peace?** One thing is certain: The success of peace processes is related to the dealing with the past. Shelley Berlowith, Historian, Thomas Burkhalter, Ethnomusicologist and Jonathan Sisson, Expert of Dealing with the Past discussed on opportunities and limitations of different approaches of the dealing with the past, using examples from the Middle East and the Balkans.

The event was a success. The speakers complemented each other beautifully and the audience was very interested which led to exciting discussions in plenary and after the event



## 132. Immigration as an Opportunity – The Role of Diaspora Communities in Peace and Reconciliation Processes Switzerland

Immigration as an Opportunity: "We can learn a lot from Switzerland!"



Leyla Kanyare  
Gunaseelan



Bedri Krasniqi



Alagipody

On September 30, the *CAUX-Initiatives of Change* event "**Immigration as an Opportunity: The Role of Diaspora Communities in Peace Processes**" underlined the often overlooked contributions of immigrants from crisis regions to peace building in their countries of origin. Among the more than 70 attendees were Mayor Urs W. Studer and Cantonal Council President Adrian Borgula.

Mayor Studer's welcome address focused on local Lucerne issues and the positive role immigrants play with respect to their integration: "In regard to integration we would not be as far as we are today without the support from immigrants, who are mostly volunteers." One milestone was last year's founding of an umbrella organization for Africans in Lucerne, an important step toward their integration.

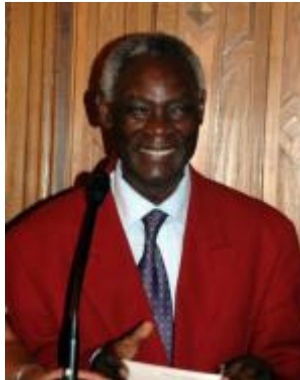
### UN - International Year of Reconciliation

*CAUX-Initiatives of Change's* Angela Mattli pointed out that the event was a contribution to the 2009 UN - International Year of Reconciliation. Together with 10 other organizations, *CAUX-Initiatives of Change* founded the campaign "Time for Reconciliation," which lasted from September 21 (International Day of Peace) until October 2 (International Day of Non-Violence) and organized numerous events all over Switzerland discussing reconciliation.

The *Forum for Peace Education* was part of the campaign as well. In his brief address, its representative Ueli Wildberger mainly talked about the term reconciliation: "**Reconciliation is more than conflict resolution. It is about healing relationships.**" Reconciliation could not be reached by pushing a button, but was a long process including reparations, and searching for truth.

## Many Obstacles

Christine Hubacher moderated a panel with four immigrants from conflict areas who have lived in Switzerland for years. They are all involved in promoting reconciliation in their countries of origin and are facing many obstacles. Alagipody Gunaseelan from Sri Lanka: "I was discriminated against and pressured by both sides at war in Sri Lanka. My life is easier here in Switzerland - I am only pressured by one side." He referred to numerous threats from the Tamil Tigers he has received because of his dedication to reconciliation between Tamils and Sinhalese. Kosovan Bedri Krasniqi has not faced anything this serious but has to deal with disapproving looks: "My work is not dangerous, but it's not easy, either."



Angelo Barampama

## Overcoming Fear

Leyla Kanyare, originally from Somalia, talked about other problems that have to be dealt with: "Somalians who have come here often do not even want to talk about Somalia's conflict." This hurdle had to be cleared before they could be convinced that coping with their experiences was an essential part of reconciliation. Angelo Barampama from Burundi made a similar statement: "My biggest obstacle was overcoming fear. Many Burundians are afraid of other ethnic groups. This was true for me, as well - even today I am still scared sometimes. It is important to bring oneself to rise above this and approach others."

All panel members agreed that immigrants can contribute to peace building and reconciliation in their countries of origin. **"We can learn a lot from Switzerland. She shows us how different ethnic groups can live together. We can all benefit from this,"** said Leyla Kanyare.



## 133. „The Light of the East“

## Switzerland

**The concert of the Ensemble Stella Maris\*Basilea with the title „Eastern Light“, on the 11th September 2009 in Zinzendorfhaus in Basel, presented medieval chants and choral from Catholic and the Orthodox Church of Eastern Europe. We heard a one to three-voice colourful A-capella-choral from Poland, Czechia, Russia and the Ukraine.**



Keeping together the multifarious styles in our programme, we followed the different stages of development in the Christian religion:

- Creation is good and lovely
- The Fall of Man – Mans Salvation
- God's incarnation
- Prevalence of Light
- Betrayal – Darkness and Rigidity
- Easter Light
- Enlightenment through the spirit
- “Benedicamus Domino”

We three female singers from Czechia, Ukraine and Switzerland founded the Ensemble “Stella Maris\*Basilea in 2001. We got to know each other during our student time in Basel. Our main interest was A-capella- song and Folksongs from our homelands, also of course the music of the Orthodox Church tradition with medieval chants from Greece, Ukraine, Georgia and Russia.

In our concerts and in the preparation for a concert, we ourselves witness Reconciliation too, for example between artistic standards, different personalities and mentalities, different Christian and Spiritual opinions. All of which need a lot of work and patience and in the end grants us all great mutual Joy, when we can express ourselves together with our voices through the music.

Witte Maria Weber  
Basel, 18.12.2009

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| <b>134. Workshop in Moscou - Medieval vocal and instrument Practices</b> | <b>Switzerland</b> |
| <b>135. Concert „AVE MARIA“</b>  | <b>Switzerland</b> |



Foto: First Day – first impression with medieval songs and music.

It was a wonderful experience to realise this workshop and the concert AVE MARIA in Moscou. I would like to thank the organizer, Mikahil Cherniak and the foundation De Boni Arte, Moscou, the Swiss Embassy in Moscou, the Ensemble Universalia in Re, Nizhnyj Novgorod and in particular its director Danil Ryabchikow, the musicians and the singers, some of whom came from afar, who participated in the workshop with great interest and musical enthusiasm. All of them contributed to the realisation of this project in their own way.

While rehearsing the hymn “Ave maris stella”, the Gregorian Antiphon “Alma redemptoris mater” and the Pilgrim songs of the Libre Vermell de Montserrat (Spain, 14<sup>th</sup> century), the participants of the workshop got a first impression of the specific demands for the interpretation of Western European medieval music. Every day we have been working very hard – up to 10 hours – and the result was a moving concert.



Witte Maria Weber, 21.12.2009

## 136. Kosmos – the story of a tea bowl

Switzerland

### A Tea Bowl on a Peace Mission around the World

**“The way of tea, the way of peace.”** Jack Convery-Soko, who was born in Canada and is now living in Japan and married to a Japanese woman, is a tea teacher in Kyoto. He is travelling around the world, giving his audience an understanding of the traditional Japanese tea preparation.



(from left)  
Jack Convery-Soko, Evi Kienast, Hiromi Masui, Christoph Anderes, Ruth Bischofberger

For many years friends of this centuries-old tradition have been meeting at “the Werkstatt-Laden” in Winterthur. Evi Kienast, a ceramicist and living in Winterthur, once gave a Raku-tea bowl to Jack years ago, which is now accompanying him on his travels. This tea bowl – Kosmos- has in the meantime been everywhere in the world and with it tea is prepared and drunk – a tea bowl on peace mission in the world.

Whether in New York, Tibet, Nepal, Canada, Denmark, France, Spain or in Switzerland, people gather everywhere in order to meet, exchanging thoughts and to work for peace in the world.

As a sign of reconciliation the tea bowl also visited places, where so many inhuman things have happened: Hiroshima or the Spanish Guernica and the memorial Mimizuka in Kyoto, remembering the 7 year lasting war between Japan and Korea in the 16<sup>th</sup> century – Soon it will visit Sant’ Anna die Stazzema in Toscana, where the German SS erased a whole village. Another visit is intended to Auschwitz.



'Kosmos' in New York; USA





'Kosmos' in Tibet

On 16<sup>th</sup> of September 2009 an interested public met in the “Werkstatt-Laden”, to have a look at the tea bowl and to visit the stations of its peace journey. It was an impressive photo show which was musically framed by Ruth Bischofberger, who was able to catch the different moods on her flutes beautifully.

At the end of the evening we had a bowl of tea together. And the tea bowl, as symbol for peace and reconciliation was given many good thoughts for its forthcoming journeys.-

***“The way of tea, the way of peace”***

Christoph Anderes

**Werkstatt-Laden**, CH-8400 Winterthur

## **139. SERPAJ-Tournee with Nobel Peace Prize Winner Adolfo Pérez Esquivel Switzerland**

### **Nonviolent resistance – not an outdated Concept – Experience from Latin America and its Relevance in Switzerland**

Podium Discussion in Basel on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> of September, 2009

- With Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, Argentina, Nobel Peace Prize winner, founder of the Latin American SERPAJ – servicio de paz y justicia
- Two SEPAJ Coordinators from Latin America
- Marianne Spiller
- Ueli Wildberger
- Sarah Schillinger
- Benedict Schubert, moderation,

The recent history of Latin America is marked by changes, giving cause for hope. In many countries the authoritarian governments belong to the past, they have been substituted by democratic governments. But the problems of the continent have by no means been solved: wide parts of the population are still living in inhuman conditions, are exploited economically, incapacitated politically. The reasons are not only to be found in Latin America. Global conditions too, determine what happens to the farmers in Bolivia, the workers in Argentina, the migrants in Costa Rica or Chile.

Since its formation, the SERPAJ, founded by Nobel Peace Prize winner Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, has been searching for ways to improve the living conditions of these people by working for a change of the underlying conditions. Esquivel and other representatives of the SERPAJ report on their experiences, revealing where they have been successful, but also, where and how they encountered too hard a resistance.

Their experiences are encouraging not to call it an illusionary dream if it is proclaimed:

**” Otro mundo es posible – a different world is possible”**

## 140. Landless Indigenas and Campesinos in Latin America Switzerland

Oecumenical occasion on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> September in the St. Gallus Church, Zürich-Schwamendingen within the framework of the campaign “Time for Reconciliation” in the UNO-Year of Reconciliation.

Organizer: the **Catholic and Protestant church community of Zurich-Schwamendingen**

Participants:

- **Adolfo Pérez Esquivel** (Argentina)
- **Marianne Spiller** (Brasil)
- **Yolanda Araya and Gustavo Cabrera** (Costa Rica)
- **Tildy Hanhart** (translation, ex-HEKS, Zurich)

The evening began with a well-attended **oecumenical church** service led by the Catholic priest and the Protestant Pastor of the parish. The sermon was preached by A. P. Esquivel based on the **Beatitudes from the gospel according to Matthew**, the same text which he read out on the occasion of his receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in 1980 in Oslo. His speech was a very personal and engaged call for worldwide solidarity in view of the commercial and ecological crisis which recognized no borders and affected every continent. Esquivel described himself as someone who sees the roots of his engagement for peace and justice in the biblical message of Jesus Christ.

The following **discussion in the parish hall**, in which there were between 80 and 90 participants, was conducted by A. Esquivel, G. Cabrera and M. Spiller. T. Hanhart was the interpreter.



As long-standing ally and biographer of Esquivel, M. Spiller put targeted questions to him concerning his life and his activities. As well as many briefly-mentioned activities concerned with human rights at various levels, the creation of an international environment tribunal as central future project was emphasised.



G.Cabrera, co-ordinator of SERPAJ-Latin America, then introduced in more detail the continental network of SERPAJ past and present. He sketched, as concrete SERPAJ-project, the employment of contaminated workers on banana plantations in Costa Rica in recognition of the poisonings and in compensation. He also reported on the sharpening fight of the indigenous population of the country for the taking into effect of minority rights, already promised by the Arias government. These are examples of activities carried out or supported, in this or similar forms, by SERPAJ in various Latin American countries.

A lively discussion, which included the audience and in which the current problem of the change of government in Honduras was brought up, rounded off the event.

Wolfgang Krobath, "Solidarity group with SERPAJ"

## **141. Global thinking – non-violent acting      Switzerland**

In the context of "Time for reconciliation" an event with lectures and discussions took place on the occasion of a tour of the SERPAJ (nonviolent network in Latin America) in St. Gall on 20<sup>th</sup> of September 2009.

The representatives of the SERPAJ, among them Nobel Peace Prize winner Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, reported on the West's dominance in Latin America, its strategic developing plans of infrastructure and military bases to secure and loot the resources as well as on the attempts to destabilize Chavez and Honduras. Against it a nonviolent strategy is necessary, where the common people take their destiny into their own hands (landless movement, dealing with the past), to defend their environment non-violently and to use their resources fairly and according to their needs.

Another big problem is the dominance of the Western media (mental pollution), who impose their priorities mostly unnoticed to all peoples.

Ueli Wildberger

## **142. Fragments of Palestine – The Freedom Theatre from Jenin (West Bank) a Guest in Bonn      Germany**

**Fragments of Palestine** is a collage of scenes, in which drama students from the Freedom Theatre focus on the means of body language.

The Performance draws its extraordinary power and dynamic from the everyday experiences of the actresses, who are living in the midst of the Jenin refugee camp. The performance is telling of the appalling brutality of the occupation, but also of the creativity of the resistance and the irrepressible desire to live, to dream and to love.

## 143. Labyrinth of Reconciliation

Germany

### International UN Peace Day

#### The Bonn Alliance of Action, implementing the International Reconciliation Year 2009

On September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009  
- **World Peace Day** –  
the Bonn Alliance of Action  
had the occasion to present  
itself and its engagement  
for peace with its numerous  
actions and to invite people to  
take part in this engagement.



Together with the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation, the Don Bosco Mission, the Frauennetzwerk für Frieden e.V. (Women's Network for Peace) and the City of Bonn the S.E.R.-Foundation draw the public attention to the actual reasons for this event as well as to the International Reconciliation Year 2009 and brought its tasks and aims and its engagement at the UN home to those who were interested. The visitors were offered different possibilities to deal in an active and creative way with the matter of peace and reconciliation, with their questions and doubts and also with their own possibilities of engagement and realisation. Beside many personal conversations about the subject quoted above they could find for example international rituals of reconciliation that could be taken home and tested, there was a Mandala drawing action for children or the so called **“written conversation”, “an invitation to a silent dialogue”**.



**“Reconciliation is the highest form of dialogue”**, this statement of Kofi Annan offered an impetus for an invitation to the written dialogue, and persons of different races, nationalities and religions, of different age and sex were glad to take advantage of the possibility of writing down their ideas about peace and reconciliation, of drawing and exchanging points of view in a new and creative way.

**“So I am able to leave a small trace of peace behind me”** (A writer from Pakistan)

The optical centre of the action was a round labyrinth of approximately 100 square metres laid of coloured ropes by Christa Wendling. Again and again people were invited by music to step into it and to dance together.



The labyrinth as a symbol for the changing paths of life represents a way leading to oneself, to our own middle – an invitation to self-knowledge, of going into the centre of our own being and coming out as a new, a changed person. The labyrinth of Bonn had not only one but four entrances situated at the four points of the compass. There was a life-sized “Kansa” statue of the Finnish artist Sirpa Masalin in the centre of it as an expression of our human unity. (The wooden statue was donated to the Waldhof Center for Encounter later, and has found a new home there). All these paths don’t only lead to meet ourselves but to meet our fellow-beings, too – a development from I to YOU to US, a symbol of peace and reconciliation by meeting in our common centre.

The essential aim of the Bonn Alliance of Action is to give food for thought, to draw attention to the necessity of global engagement for peace and reconciliation, to inform about existing activities and the possibilities of taking part (and to support them) and to motivate on local levels: **Take part, act now!**

Agnes Barmettler, Labyrinth International, Zürich

Christa Wendling, Kastellaun

Bonner Aktionsbündnis UN-Jahr der Aussöhnung 2009

c/o Frauennetzwerk für Frieden e.V., Bonn

Photos: Uwe Brecht



## 144. Children paint in Ligerz

Switzerland

### Holiday course for children from 6-11 years

for the year of reconciliation 2009\*

an artistic encounter with other countries and cultures

28th / 29th September 2009



The holiday course lasting two days took place in Ligerz with a little group of 6 children from the surroundings. The children were between 7 and 11 years old. A five year old girl was also integrated. We had three couples of sisters.

### Theme was the encounter with different cultures and countries.

The children were asked to which countries they had already travelled. They told the others about it and painted pictures.

After vivacious dances we talked about the various complexions of the people on earth. Here pictures were painted too. It was determined that the colour of the skin does not express anything about the place of birth and that human beings of different complexion live everywhere on earth. The children realized that when you speak about „complexion“ in painting, it needn't automatically be beige/white, as there are many different “complexions”.

We coloured a big map of the world, that I had prepared before, that showed only the outlines of the countries and continents, with various colours. Thus the size of the world should be shown to the children. Switzerland was presented as a little yellow spot. We encountered the diversity of the sea, in which many different inhabitants of the sea were painted.



Turning the bottle on the world map: A glass bottle that was lying on the world map was turned by the children. The country which the head of the bottle pointed at was chosen and information about it was gathered. A lot of children's books about the earth were at disposal. The older children read to the younger ones. Information about the corresponding countries was taken from the books and afterwards transferred into paintings.

Thus a painting with the Transsiberian railway, a picture of a girl from Hawaii and one with people from the First Nation (Northern America) were produced. Two girls have already been to Australia and could relate about it. In order to relax we listened to stories about the Aborigenes from Australia from a CD from a children's book about Australia.

We also learned something about the „lost generation“. These were the children who were taken away from their parents, who had to grow up in “white” boarding schools and who had to deny their parents. For me the most important goal was that the children could spend a good time. We experienced two beautiful harmonious days. What they have seen is that our world is big and manifold. We agreed that we wished for that all human beings kept good company with everybody.



Birigit Burri

## 145. Church Service

## Germany

Thanksgiving Service under the subject of **„Peace, Justice, Integrity of Creation“**, on 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2009 in the Protestant *„Dreifaltigkeitskirche“* in Cologne.

The Service had 2 focal points:

- a) Child-oriented teaching of the value of creation
- b) addressing the issue regarding responsibility to preserve the creation

The theological concept of “Creation” includes human beings, nature and environment thus implying the political question for peace and justice. During the service the history of creation was told in an elementarized form and visualized by means of different materials. The children could participate in the shaping of the picture. Thus the comprehensive work of God should be clearly conveyed to the children and at the same time be indicated that we are still involved in this work. The focus was on the recurring formula: “And behold, all was good”.

Afterwards, the harvest table was laid together with the children, in order to perceive our own wealth and to thank God for it. In the following short sermon, directed at the adults, the transfer of the formula “And behold, all was good” was made and it was pointed out, that the salvation, promised to us by God, only can occur in a balanced world. The responsibility of mankind for peace, justice, nature and environment is part of the Jewish/Christian mission as it is found in the Holy Scripture.

Strength for this mission people can find in the community with one other and with God – this aspect became apparent in the Holy Communion.

Reverend S. Noack-Mündemann

## 146. Africa in Motion film festival and symposium United Kingdom



Africa in Motion (AiM) is an African film festival taking place annually in Edinburgh, Scotland. 2009 was the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the festival, currently the biggest African film festival in the UK. Every year, the festival screens dozens of African films from all over the continent, accompanied by a range of complementary events such as directors masterclasses, workshops for children and African music performances. The main aim of the festival is to bring the best of African cinema to UK audiences.

The challenge we set ourselves in 2009 was to bring our audiences films that might be difficult in topic and style, but that ultimately show the true independence of African politics and African arts. **As 2009 is the UN International Year of Reconciliation, we focused on films representing trauma and reconciliation in a pan-African context.** Of all the truth commissions in the world, almost half were established in African countries. This not only says something about the consequences of colonialism and the devastating nature of conflicts in Africa, but also points towards the possibilities of contextualised and effective ways of coming to terms with these events, overcoming traumas attached to war and oppression and building a future with confidence and certainty.

Dealing with and overcoming traumas is about filling the gaps where devastating events have left blank spaces in memory. Storytelling and filmmaking can do the same: where historiography has fallen short or deliberately left gaps in our collective memories, art and film can contribute to fill these gaps by turning to individual stories. The truth commissions all over Africa have been a reinforcement of that. Films about individual traumas, personal stories and subjective experiences have managed to successfully re-evaluate the national and international collective memory by providing answers and asking the right questions where history could not.

At Africa in Motion 2009 we included a number of screenings and events that confront issues of trauma, conflict and reconciliation. On Saturday 24th October 2009 we hosted an interdisciplinary Symposium on the Realities and Representations of Reconciliation in Africa.





The symposium aimed to foster discussion and understanding of new research dealing with the various realities and representations of reconciliation in Africa. A number of recent films, novels and other forms of art have sought to represent in varying ways the traumas of conflict and war of the postcolonial African states and the attempts of reconciliation commissions towards peace, truth, justice and forgiveness.

At the symposium, we touched on the problems and challenges facing artistic representations of these complex topics as well as the different contexts and consequences of it in Africa and in its diasporas. A number of high-profile international scholars presented their work on these topics while Jacqueline Maingard, a senior lecturer at Bristol University specialising in South African cinema, presented in her keynote address a lucid overview of TRC films and representations of atrocities in Africa.



Piotr Cieplak's paper on Rwandan films dealing with the genocide posed difficult questions: can film represent trauma; is it effective; does it reach the right people? is it too early to start using artistic ways to overcome the atrocities in Rwanda? John Masterson continued the focus with his presentation on Rwandan literature. Cara Moyer discussed South African films dealing with the TRC like *Homecoming* and *Ubuntu's Wounds*, while Sarah Longair elaborated on cultural institutions such as the Number Four Prison museum in South Africa as ways of documenting, commemorating and dealing with the past. Albert Oikelome's paper looked at Nigerian hiphop as an art form promoting peace in the Niger Delta region. We also found out from Tobias Robert Klein about themes of reconciliation in Ghanaian literature, and Amy Schwatzott expanded on her research of Mozambican art made from recycled weapons. The combination of the festival and symposium, the artistic and the theoretical, enabled us to think through representations of atrocities and war, and of brave artistic ways of dealing with these events and their representations.

The screening of *Between Joyce and Remembrance* on the evening of the symposium continued the theme, and informed all the symposium speakers and attendees very directly of the consequences of the apartheid regime and the effects of the TRC on a family severely traumatised by the murder of their son by the secret police. As *Between Joyce and Remembrance* is such a harrowing film, it was followed by a discussion between Jacqueline Maingard, a film theorist who knows the director Mark Kaplan very well, and Gill Moreton, a trauma therapist. The discussion created a space for reflection and combined these two experts' opinions to also "counsel" the audience to a certain extent.

Fiction as well as documentary films, animation as much as storytelling and testimonies, are all means for African artists to shoot back at Europe and the media who have tended to portray Africa as a suffering continent in a fatalistic spiral. African filmmakers are reinstating their authority on their own history, and shooting back confidently and ever more successfully from the periphery towards the centre. So in spite of what we all know has been a harrowing colonial and postcolonial history, Africa is shooting back – reclaiming the truth and advocating reconciliation in an exemplary way. Even if gaps are not completely filled, if traumas are impossible to overcome, Africa's attempts at peacemaking and reconciliation remain an inspiration.

Lizelle Bisschoff and Stefanie Van de Peer

Co-directors of Africa in Motion film festival Organisers of the AiM Symposium on the Realities and Representations of Reconciliation in Africa

## **147. 3rd Pilgrimage of Reconciliation to Kevelaer**

**Germany**

### **S.E.R. Pilgrimage to Kevelaer, on 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2009**

Kevelaer is a pilgrimage site, where Blessed Virgin Mary is worshipped as consoler of the distressed and people in grief. As Mother of God she has been supporting people in reconciling with their own destiny and from there with their fellow men from the very beginning.

The main commitment of Christian religion is reconciliation and peace as Jesus brought peace into the world. He showed us the way into peace within oneself and with the whole Creation.

People live different religious beliefs and bringing them into dialogue is reconciliation.

As Christians people have a special responsibility for reconciliation and peace and this is what the pilgrimage was about that day.

Josefine Brecht

## 148. The guardian of the light

Germany

### Story:

This is the story of Mona. She is searching for the meaning of life which brings her to a light house. There she meets Yve, the guardian of the light. Her job is it to send out love, light, warmth und peace to the world and to help other people to find their light. Mona stays with Yve for a while. During this time she learns new things and meets new people, helping her to find her way.

### Abstract of the book:

There was only a table with the fire bowl standing on it and two stools, even the walls were bare. When I looked at the walls, it seemed as if I could see the moon and the stars. Then I realized that those weren't walls, we were surrounded by glass. We were in the vitreous territory, the heart of the light house.

I was filled over and over with questions: Why did Yve light the fire? There were nor more light houses. Why is she doing this? Did the wine we had for dinner get to Yve's head? Or did I end up with a madwoman?

But Yve did not seem as if she was insane. Devoutly she put some more wood into the fire until it burned evenly. She did not speak the whole time, but once in a while a mysterious smile slipped her face. Finally she sat next to me and glanced into the darkness.

After a while she said: "When you arrived I told you that I am the guardian of the light. It is my responsibility to keep the burning in the light house so it never goes out. Thanks to modern navigation systems ships nowadays do not need help, but with the fire I am sending out **LIGHT, LOVE, WARMTH and PEACE** and I hope that I can help people to orientate themselves. The fire is my contribution to make the world a better place.

### What is the cause of my story?

With this story I am trying to reach out and touch the hearts of a la lot of people. This is my contribution to make the world a better and peaceful place.

Elke Bauhof

## 149. Reconciliation with one's own sexuality

Germany

In June 2009 the Spiritual Meetings of the Komaja-society will be dedicated to man's reconciliation with his sexuality, this year specifically with focus on his male and female identity. Last year we have already reminded of the God-given power and beauty of sexuality by means of mediation and in discussions. Sexuality, when properly understood and lived – already comprises reconciliation of heaven and earth, of the divine and the human.

Due to the disintegration of the classical men's and women's roles and the resulting new confrontations, this time we want to look into the true manhood or womanhood, in order to find out the basis for a reconciled relationship between the sexes.

16.06.2009 – Is there an UN-mission for the battle between the sexes?

23.06.2009 – Peace with the man within myself – the male archetypal

30.06.2009 – Peace with the woman within myself – the female archetypal

07.07.2009 – Real Men and Women: Peacemakers for the world



## 150. World March for Peace and Nonviolence in Bethlehem PNA/ Palestine Natl. Auth.

In the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2009, the world march for peace and nonviolence reached Palestine and in particular Bethlehem. Hundreds of people gathered at Bethlehem's Manger Square from Palestinians and internationals in order to march for Peace and Nonviolence.

The atmosphere was full of great energy with people believing in the aim of the march, officials took part of this march as well such as Bethlehem governor Mr. Hamael , Mayer of Bethlehem municipality Dr. Batarseh and Ms. Luisa Morganitini. In addition to activist , scouts and HLT team took part of the march .

The march started from manger square with participants cheering for ending the occupation, putting down the apartheid wall and calling for nonviolence resistance. Reaching to the main gate of the wall which is blocking the main historical entrance of Bethlehem city, cheering continued till the march reached Aida camp.



At the camp on the Awdeh theater the celebration started with an opening speech by Sami Awad followed by the Mayer of Bethlehem , Arch bishop Attalah Hanna ,Luisa morgantini and Giorgio Schultze the EU spokesperson of the World March.

The team of the world march were coming from different parts of the world ( Italy, France, Kosovo, Spain, Argentine and Chile ) whom will continue participating with the march in different parts of the world.





It is important to note that the march is a massive global initiative that began in New Zealand earlier this month, the second of October being the birthday of Gandhi. That date was also declared by the United Nations as the "International Day of Nonviolence."

In addition to the march, which will conclude in the Andes Mountains, Punta de Vacas, Aconcagua, Argentina on 2 January, in each city the march visits local individuals and groups will organize forums, meetings, festivals, conferences and events, including sports, cultural, social, musical, artistic and educational.

The larger message of the March aims to achieve the eradication of nuclear weapons, the reduction of non-nuclear arms, and the renunciation by governments of war as a way to resolve conflicts. It also aims to expose the many other forms of violence, including economic, racial, sexual, religious, and all types of violations of human rights that are currently hidden or disguised by their perpetrators; and to provide a way for all who suffer such violence to be heard.

In Palestine, it is strongly believed that this March is an enormous opportunity for Palestinians to draw international supporters to the situation in Palestine, to raise awareness about the human rights situation in our part of the world and to spread the message of nonviolent resistance.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/pnnhlt#p/a/u/0/O7zPmQYmOzI>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sNKfTROZwWg>

## **151. Reconciliation with Nature – Benefit organ recital in the Cathedrale in Chur for a well in Mukenke**

### **Switzerland**

**Benefit organ recital with Olivier Eisenmann**

**A dynamic interplay for a well as a place of reconciliation**

**The internationally renowned Swiss organist Olivier Eisenmann gave a benefit recital for the construction of a community well, to be built in Burundi. The audience lauded his brilliancy with enthusiastic acclamation and generous donations. Project initiator Simon Ntamwana, Archbishop of Gitega, and concert organizer Erika Brändle of the S.E.R. Foundation CH are very thankful for this success.**

CK. The benefit organ recital in September 2009 for the well project in Mukenke, Burundi was one of the actions in context of the International Year of Reconciliation, as proclaimed by the UN. To underline it, the S.E.R. Foundation CH and 11 other organisations declared the period from 21.9.– 2.10.2009 as a time for reconciliation.

Reconciliation as an essential step towards peace and justice. Erika Brändle, board member of the S.E.R Foundation CH and concert organizer, hopes that the well in Mukene will become a place for reconciliation. The community well will provide 90 sick orphans at the Kezakimana Center with precious and wholesome drinking water, as well as the 400 school children of Mukenke and the local residents living in large poverty. „To experience reconciliation every day at the well as a place of encounter could lead to a new awareness of responsible coexistence“, says Erika Brändle. For many years she has supported the charity „Vie Nouvelle pour la Réconciliation (VNR)“, also supported by the S.E.R. Foundation CH.

Project leader Archbishop Simon Ntamwana, founder of VNR, was present at the organ recital. His opening words expressed the urgency and the seriousness of the project. A convincing venture, as it includes work procurement and knowledge transfer: people in Mukenke shall be trained to help build the community well.







Picture from left:

- 1) Archbishop Simon Ntamwana, Erika Brändle, organist Dr. Olivier Eisenmann,
- 2) Dr. Olivier Eisenmann
- 3) Heike Böhi, Angela Lusoni and Archbishop Simon Ntamwana

**152. Physically and mentally disenabled children**  
**Light a Candle for Reconciliation** **Germany**

**153. Microbiology of Reductive Dechlorination and Metal  
Reduction for Bioremediation of Contaminated  
Environmental Systems** **Germany**

The main purpose is to seek the optimization of molecular tools for field application, researching all available sequences properly – the true diversity etc. At first, it will start with venturing all current databases and evaluate them properly – and based on this, update and improve current biomarkers for different key organisms (dechlorinators, metal reducers and relevant associates). Once that is done, it will test them in the lab – and then finally, go out to the field and do bigger studies (in collaboration with other research labs).

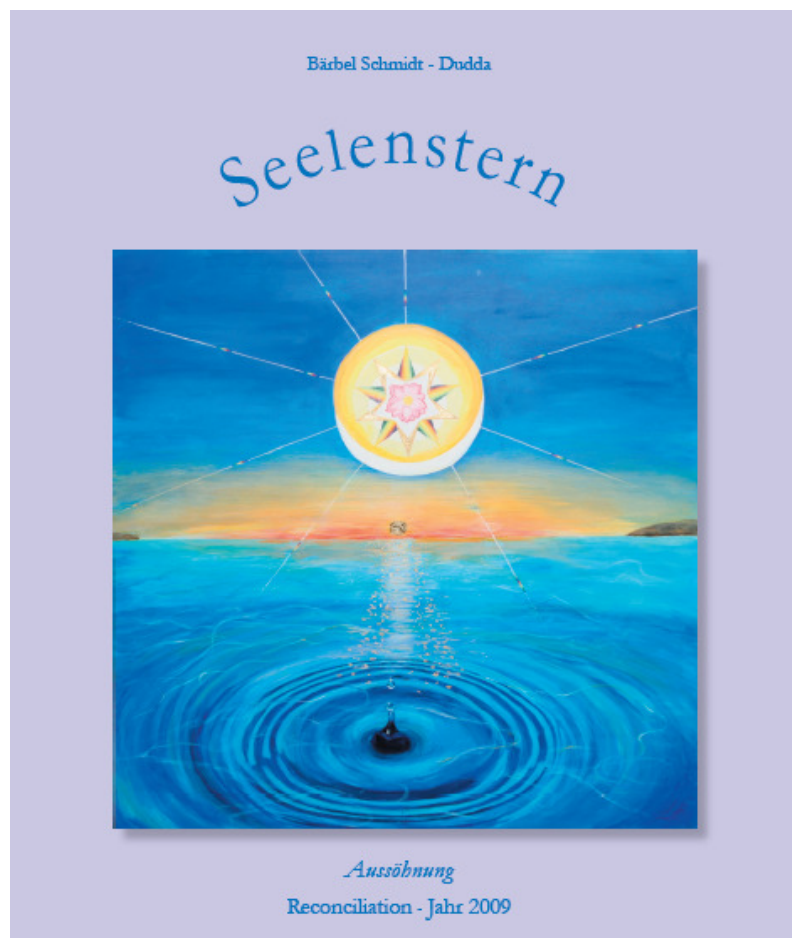
In addition to this, she will participate in lectures and laboratory practices in our international course on molecular tools for in situ detection of microbial structure and function. While this all is good, several practical things first have to be available: (1) availability to environmental field system or pure cultures; (2) tools to study the chemical degradation kinetics; and (3) tools to study the bacteria (including cultivation, molecular tools etc.) .

## 154. The Book „Seelenstern“ – Reconciliation Year 2009 Germany

This book “star of the soul” is about reconciliation with ourselves, nature and all creatures, human beings and with God.

We can only live and promote peace, if we have experienced peace.

What is a peaceful attitude? The word reconciliation is also associated with to forgive, excuse. But it involves more than to be at odds with somebody and to reconcile afterwards. One can also speak of an internal and external peace.



Internally – in relation to the organic system of the human body or a psycho-spiritual quality and externally – in relation to the surroundings in which we live. How do we think and feel if in the interior peace is spreading and if only for a moment? Can there really be contentment considering all the injustices, crises, hardships, fears and sorrows? Do resignation, indifference, profit orientation supersede ideals, visions and humanity? If we feel a desire for this inner peace, which is always a gift, then there will be a way to find it. If we are open to self-knowledge, love for life and unity with God, our soul will feel the peace, which is beyond all comprehension.

This book is referring to nature, flower and animal, and also to the creative power that

is hidden in man. I am talking about a place of silence, where reconciliation has its beginning and about the power of the heart and the clear mind, which, when in balance and harmony, spreads equanimity and inner peace. Life is movement. A different focus on values, an increase of awareness are necessary; new perspectives may result, when thoughts, words and actions have a new focus.

The pictures as well as the photos indicate the desire for a change, extension, to an ideal. I tried to put the uniting elements at the centre of attention: i.e. beauty, life and the healthy core of the human being.

Bärbel Schmidt-Dudda

## **155. "Überzähliges Dasein entspringt mir im Herzen"**

### **Switzerland**

#### **An hour of musical and lyrical contemplation**

Eva Nievergelt Soprano  
Elisabeth Bachmann Piano

Saturday 12th December 2009, 5 pm  
Hermann Goetz Str. 11 in Winterthur

Sonntag 13th December 2009, 5 pm  
Raum MehrKlang, Merkerareal, Bruggerstrasse 37 in Baden

Both happenings took place in an intimate setting, in Winterthur as a house-concert and in Baden in the group-room MehrKlang. At each concert were about 25 visitors. In both concerts grew an atmosphere of great attention, and the music and the texts moved many of the listeners.

From the sheer endless possibilities of experiencing and living reconciliation we have chosen one field which is very important to us and is becoming so even more with the years: reconciling with nature, the earth as a place of rest, of healing and inspiration. Thereby we have chosen the songs and the texts intuitively, thus as they came to our minds, or have been accompanying us for many years.

Thus the first part of the concert contained different songs by Johannes Brahms expressing the sojourn in nature experiencing self-knowledge or self-solution. The songs were combined with fragments from the poem-cycle "Das Gewicht eines Vogels" by Erika Burkart, from the tale "Engel in der Nacht" by Ilse Aichinger, as well as from "When Lilacs last in the Dooryard Bloom'd" by Walt Whitman.

In the second part then the songgroup "Ellen's Gesänge" by Franz Schubert, supplemented with excerpts from "Duineserelegien" and "Marienleben" by Rainer Maria Rilke.

22nd December 2009  
Eva Nievergelt

## **156. Seminars for children and young people**

### **Germany**

Children and young people aged between 5 -16 years meet regularly, reflecting together over their life situation. They have in common that there are one or several children with disabilities living in their families "Earlier I talked about the troubles with my doll, today I'm in a self-help group" (girl, 8 years old).

Important is that everybody can participate, regardless of the nature of the disease, the disability of the siblings, the affiliation to a social class (low-threshold offer). Nobody is excluded, if he wants to come to terms with his life situation.

The Bremen siblings group is attended by children and young people from different cultures. So in addition there is an exchange on different ways of life, too. The staff team is constantly working on themselves and is therefore also in supervision, in order to be able to withstand the questions of the children and the young people.



## 158. Conference “Challenge Islam“

Switzerland

**Rohrschach: 27<sup>th</sup> October 2009,  
Experience of a large sky at the Conference on Islam**



Rorschach. Arne Engeli says that at the Conference “Challenge Islam” he has experienced some insight on “the sky above Switzerland is large enough for every confession”.

We talked to him about this one-day event, to which Amnesty International, the umbrella organization of Islamic parishes, the Forum sosos and the Swiss Council of Peace had invited. More than 200 people had looked for and found orientation and encounter with the Islam at the teacher training college at Mariaberg. Arnold Hottinger, 82 years of age, offered a detailed orientation on the great diversity of the Islam.

The well-known expert of the Arabic world recommended not to imagine the Islam as a clearly defined formation, but rather as a flexible net that is able to encompass life in many different nationalities and traditions. Hisham Maizar, president of the Federation of the Islamic umbrella organizations in Switzerland, showed ways to a peaceful coexistence from the Islamic point of view, to which Moslems as well as the population and the authorities would have to contribute.



### **Encounters in “Workshops”**

Workshops on “education”, “position of women”, “human rights”, “integration and segregation”, “interreligious dialogue”, “tolerance and democracy” were accompanied by Islamists, sociologists, theologians and commissioners for equality.

The need is for peaceful coexistence, with integration, mutual trust, respect and justice and a higher tolerance of difference. Meeting places are important, which enable the intercultural dialogue, but also spaces of freedom where Moslems can be among themselves.

### **Cultural enrichment**

The presence of many young Moslems at the conference, together with poetry and singing, were an example how the approximately 400 000 Moslems from 56 countries make a rich cultural contribution to Switzerland.

The conference venue, originally conceived as a monastery, was also praised for the warm reception and good boarding. (pb.)

## 159. Belgrade Summit 2009

## Serbia/Montenegro

### Belgrade Youth Summit 2009



The Belgrade Summit, that took place in the Serbian capital from the 4th to the 6th of December 2009, gathered 300 participants from around the world – young political leaders and civil society activists from the Western Balkans, Eurasia and the EU, representatives of institutions, member states and Presidency of the EU, USA officials, as well as human rights activists from around the world. The Summit, organized by the Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR), aimed at

establishing lasting dialogue and cooperation among young human rights activists and civil society representatives in Western Balkan countries, as well as sustained communication between young, future leaders from this region with the European Union officials. Young people were thus able to directly introduce EU decision-makers to problems and challenges present in the region.

Young, future leaders from the Western Balkans presented at the Summit key challenges in their respective countries and ideas toward solving them. An important element of this Summit was their critical review of governmental and state policies in the region. They analyzed the existing anti-discrimination laws and policies, the freedom of movement issue, youth policy in the EU and the Western Balkans, as well as fight against impunity of war crimes and dealing with the past in the region. Debates also pertained to how important it is to be an active citizen in local community, future regional cooperation in the domain of the freedom of information, promotion of democratic values through culture, as well as inclusion of young people in political and social processes. The Summit promoted the existing regional initiative for establishment of the Regional Commission for Truth-Seeking and Truth-Telling about War Crimes, with particular focus on youth involvement and role.

In global context, the Summit provided a forum for information exchange on work of young activists in post-conflict societies, societies in transition and those in which democracy is under threat, with a view to establishing sustainable dialogue and global activist network – global youth initiative for human rights.

The Summit relied on work to date of the Democratic Youth Network (which is currently comprised of young leaders from Eurasia), providing an opportunity for its expansion and enhancement of cooperation and cohesion within the network. The Summit will be taking place annually in different centres of the Western Balkans, thus enabling the EU Presidency to hear young people from the periphery or outside the EU. Concrete plans for continuation of bilateral and multilateral cooperation among participants shall be developed, providing concrete steps toward joint activities in between the Summits.

The Summit resulted in a Declaration that was unanimously adopted by 300 participants. The declaration demands from the Governments of the region to implement all the mechanisms of transitional justice, to implement adopted laws and enable a more active participation of the young in public life. The network of the Youth Initiative for Human Rights in Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Kosovo sent the Belgrade Declaration to all the institutions of the Western Balkan states and the European Union on 10 December 2009, the International Human Rights Day. The Declaration especially asks for the recognition of Kosovo documents in the whole region, as well as support for forming the Regional War Crimes Facts Commission (RECOM). The Youth Initiative for Human Rights network has invited all the institutions to support the Belgrade Declaration, to implement the reached conclusions of the Summit and in that way open the path for dialogue of the officials and future leaders on the reform of the Western Balkan society and the process of joining the European Union.

## 160. Integration project „Chor der Nationen“

Switzerland

### Excerpt: Solothurner Jahrbuch 2010

A choir with singers from more than 25 nations is not an every day affair! The intention of its initiator Albert Weibel is to bring people from different cultures closer together.



Every Thursday 40 to 50 singers meet in Solothurn for a rehearsal. During 2 hours they practise songs from their countries of origin.

After the first performances of the choir had been a great success it was important to secure a long-term continuance and success of the choir. A patronage committee with prominent people should provide for public acceptance and credibility. Ruth Dreifuss, the former Federal Minister, Emil Steinberger, a famous Comedian and other celebrities from public life agreed to a patronage. In order to give a clear structure and a goal to the choir and to ensure the sustainability of this project, an association was built, called “Chor der Nationen”.

Today the Chor der Nationen is well-known in Switzerland. Members may be migrants with permits B or C, furthermore double citizens, Swiss people as well as refugees and exceptionally asylum seekers.

**“The cultural diversity of the choir is our strength”**, Albert Weibel says. This does not only refer to the origin of the members, but also to the age composition of the choir. This ranges from age 18 to 65 years. Differences are a cause for learning and a precondition for understanding. As Emil Steinberger said: “Here integration is lived and not only talked about.” This learning process requires to be open to the other and to see what unites rather than what divides. Important is also, that the members of the choir maintain their autonomy, that their origin continues to remain recognizable and that it does not lead to a false uniformity.





According to Weibel the success of the choir is based on its diversity. He thinks that the choir is a catalyst for the idea of integration, a possibility to promote understanding for migrants in Switzerland and at the same time give pleasure to the audience.

**“Music is the mother tongue of mankind”** the world famous violinist Yehudi Menuhin said and by this idea the conductor of the “Chor der Nationen” is guided in his work.

Heinz Rudolf von Rohr



## 162. Call and Song - suing for Peace

Germany

### Song: “Peace is over the Land”

Voices of those on earth, suffering by violence, threatened, pressed hard, deprived of their rights, are to be heard, when the Silent Call for Peace is being sung – by small groups of singers’ voices, singing only that one word: Peace.

Song and Silent Call have been sung till now within the course of workshops of the S.E.R. Foundation D. Therefore there is no other material to be presented than the Song and the Call themselves, in melodies and words.

They will be sung further on and will thus be known by more and more people. If Song and Call will be passed on to others, many hearts may be touched so that these people in their turn may be willing to give a helping hand on the path to peace.

Marianne Göhlke



## 163. Choir of Nations – Concerts for Peace

Switzerland

### Interreligious Concerts for Peace

Opening concerts for the week of religions

Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> of October, 2009 Olten

Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> of November, 2009 Lucerne

Direction: Bernhard Furchner

Chorus of Nations, Solothurn

Project Choir Lucerne, Chorus of Nations

Synagogue Choir, Zurich

Lucerne Men's Choir

Men's Choir, Sursee,

Orchestra, Soloists, dancers (India) and Percussion (Burkina Faso, Maroc, India)

Music from Christian tradition

Jewish Liturgical Music

Music from the Islamic countries

Musical practice from Hindu und Asian traditions



**250 contributors, choirs, soloists, dancers and musicians from 30 nations were performing diversity and commonalities of their musical languages as a path of peace between the religions. Which applied to all of them: be it folk music, temple dance from South India, Asia imprinted singing from China or the Philippines as well as Swiss folk music: they had to listen, participate and to co-perform**



Concert Hall Lucerne



## 164. Forest and peace camp and more topics Switzerland

### Forest and peace camp “Together outside“ with the Little Peace Workshop Basel

With great joy we remember the Forest and Peace Camp “together outside” from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> July 2009.



The weather was rather cool and during the night the temperature was below 10° C. The rain was moderate, but one night it was so heavy that it knocked constantly on our tent roofs, kept some of the youngsters awake, while the others were “murmured” into deep sleep. In our “Together forward” camp we stayed in the forest, where we built up a camp site. That enables an intense contact with nature. Main topics were plants (edible and medicinal herbs) and our earth (from the clay from the pit to the own little clay pot burnt in the large fire).

Together with the children Yvonne gathered edible and medicinal plants. As appetizer we had chips of stinging nettle, and as main course rolls with herbs baked in embers. Gabriela also made us Chili senza carne. After lunch the medicinal herbs were made into an ointment and all could take home their own ointment.

On the day of the earth Andreas came to visit us and brought clay from his own pit. Firstly we heard the story of Frau Holle and recognized Frau Holle as mother earth. It also became clear that we must take care of our earth, so that we will receive good wages and will not be thrown with pitch.

We also played a lot, laughed, ate heartily, stayed up late, built our own huts, played music, sang, and also this year we had a festive meal together with our parents – and this year even with our own forest band.



## 165. We look closely – Help for our Neighbours Austria

Despite the great wealth, there is also great distress and poverty in our country. We did not want to look away anymore but wanted to help

Therefore we arranged a fundraising campaign for food in our company (AUVA Graz). During the pre-Christmas period, of course, this action was well received and the colleagues brought a lot of things. As we could not distribute the goods to the receivers ourselves, we took them to Sister Marillac of the *Barmherzige Schwestern*

Although our action was only advertised up to the end of the year, we made it our goal not to ignore all kinds of grievances anymore but to help within our means

Josef Höfler



Photo: Sr. Marillac



## 166. Worldwide March for Peace and Non-Violence Switzerland

Worldwide Peace-March in Geneva on 9th Nov. 2009



### Open Letter from a Citizen to the Mighty of this World

On the entire planet violence has found its way into human life and there seems to be no way to put an end to it. No government, no army, no religion, no political party, no economic group seems to be able to stop violence.

Can we change the direction of these occurrences that only bring human misery?

We are talking about a vast arsenal of deadly weapons, that have the power to wipe out all life on our planet. This year, the year of the largest economic crises, in which we have all felt the consequences of it, the record on defense spending was surpassed once again.

We are all responsible for what happens and we have to make a decision in our interior. Either we continue to support our governments with their weapon policy, a policy which is justified by fear and revenge, or we unite our voices and feelings with millions of people in the whole world, people with different languages, races, beliefs and cultures, in order to kindle the light of non-violence in the human consciousness.

Nuclear weapons are available in many countries and are also accessible to groups that are no longer controlled by the states. Today their justification as a deterrent and means of defense has become completely absurd and we therefore believe that the only way is a total global nuclear disarmament.

We shall march ahead, we shall travel the whole planet in order to strengthen the voice calling for a more humane world. We want to see no more suffering in our fellow human beings. We want no more war. In our consciousness a change has occurred and there is no

way back. The means of mass extermination have to be eliminated and the economic system that brings poverty, discrimination and death, has to be changed. Life has to be preserved in order to build a world of equal rights and possibilities for all.

We call on the mighty in the world to include in their defense and foreign policy the following issues as a priority

- Immediate withdrawal of invading troops from the occupied territories
- A progressive and proportional disarmament of conventional weapons
- The signatures of non-aggression pacts between the countries
- The Renouncement of the use of war as a means for conflict resolving by the governments

Let us make grow this impulse, connecting us with the best in ourselves, with each individual and the best in all people!



**We are thousands now on our worldwide march for peace and non-violence, but we will be millions and the world will change!**

### Peaceceremony and the worldwide March for Peace and Non-Violence

**Zürich, on 3rd October 2009**

In these days on all continents stand with us:

... thousands, who no longer tolerate violence  
... thousands, who detest exploitation, oppression and extortion  
... thousands, who give no credence to the lies anymore  
... thousands, who no longer believe, that there should be legitimate wars  
... thousands, who want to break away from the spiral of vengeance and retribution



Why are you here tonight? Why are you standing here with a torch in your hand? Why don't you do the things that you usually do on Saturday evenings? They say that this will not end wars and violence... They say that we are too few... that we do not have enough force to create peace... but you are here nevertheless? Why?

Whatever your answer may be, it seems that there is something, which does not leave us alone. There is something, that does not flinch, no matter which force there may be.

They say, since man exists, there was violence... we say, since violence exists, there also is another force, a deep desire, an ideal which has been trying to overcome violence. Since there are wars, there have always been people, raising their voices for peace and not accepting violence as natural.

Imagine, that one day man will no longer believe in violence, no longer impose his faith on others and no longer exploit his brothers and sisters... Imagine, that man realises one day that every man is important and that no man is more important than another... that there is no nation, no culture and no belief more important than another.

... and when this happens, it was also made possible thanks to us, us, who today are standing here and thanks to all the others who did not bow against violence and against the powerful of history...

Do not think that your actions are not important to the world. Through the overcoming of violence within myself and in others I can make a difference!

For this reason I hereby commit myself to non-violence:

- in the first place, to treat others as I would like to be treated
- to renounce the different forms of violence and instead seek the dialogue to resolve problems
- to no longer tolerate expressions of violence and devaluations
- to look for what we have in common and not what separates us
- to communicate openly and to strive, to understand opinions and comments of the other
- to appreciate the diversity of traditions, cultures and opinions
- to reconcile with myself and the other
- to co-operate with others in my surroundings and to proceed actively against the different forms of violence.

#### **And so we today send a sign**

... as a support to all, who are today with us all over the world  
... as a hope to all those, currently living in a war, so they know that they are not alone  
... as an encouragement to all, who want peace, but are not yet among us today  
... as a reinforcement to us, lest we forget how important it is, what we do.





Peaceceremony in Zurich



## Reports of non registered projects

### Reconciliation starts with oneself

Germany

#### **A contribution of the S.E.R. Kinderhilfe e.V., Wesel (S.E.R. Children's Aid Society) to the 2009 UN Year of Reconciliation.**

The S.E.R. Kinderhilfe e.V., Wesel (S.E.R. Children's Aid Society) achieves reconciliation every day as it guides children of different cultures and religions into tolerance and attentive cooperation by its self-conception and statutes.

You can see it most clearly by a reconciliation event at the end of August 2009: A group of 13- to 17-year-old boys and girls, who have been coming to the S.E.R. Kinderhilfe e.V., Wesel for several years, dealt with the subject by writing down what they spontaneously thought about reconciliation after a long discussion – everyone on his own.

Then they had a lively dialogue about their ideas and they started to design a poster about reconciliation.

On a horizontal level they put attitudes and actions that lead into peace, such as to be helpful, to console, to forgive, to trust, to talk to each other.

Then, above that, they developed ideas about the implementation and enrichment of life of being reconciled within oneself, like love, happiness, joy, peace.



This reconciliation –dialogue of youngsters has led into sustainable peaceful group-meetings and they carry this attitude into their families and circle of friends, as group members report from time to time.

Josefine Brecht

**UN-Public-Forum: the first meeting of the Baltic Sea Forum as an NGO -**

## **“An Ecological Economy instead of an Exploitative Economy” Germany**

**At a panel discussion The International Seegerichtshof in Hamburg celebrated the acceptance of the Baltic Sea Forum as a Non-Governmental-Organization of the United Nations. Over one-hundred guests shared a host of ideas for a better world. The honorary guest was Liberato Bautista, President of the CoNGO which practices consultative status at the United Nations.**

**It is not a question of a lack of resources but of political goals.**

The Philippino reported that there are currently over 600 NGOs world-wide. Aside from the BSF, Mr. Bautista welcomed Hamburg's S.E.R.-Foundation, an NGO supporting the Forum for the first time. Concentrating its efforts on the needs of children, the S.E.R. Foundation promotes understanding between cultures and religions. As the principle theme of his speech, Bautista warned, that it is not a question of a lack of resources but of political goals needed to bring about global change. The NGOs have been trying for sixty years to achieve the UN goals of peace, harmony, and tolerance. In regard to the economic crises, he called for an “ecological economy instead of an exploitative economy.”.

### **The link between Politics and the People**

The NGOs introduced the link between politics and the people. They strived to achieve civil society and solidarity. War should be proscribed as a “denial of representation.” It should not be accepted as a “continuation of diplomacy with other means”, as in the Clausewitz Principle. For this reason, it is absolutely imperative to speed up the process of disarmament.

### **The Hanseatic City as a Member of the BSF**

In the name of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, the Judicial Privy Councillor Carola von Paczensky greeted the S.E.R.-Foundation and the new NGO, the BSF. Its acceptance as a UN special-status advisor is not only an honor for Hamburg; it incorporates the Hanseatic City as the City-Member of the BSF, since the Forum is engaged in the protection of the seas.

### **Cultural Cooperation- Key to Interconnectedness**

The State-Secretary in the Federal Administration for Economic Co-operation, Erich Stather, emphasized that it is necessary for Third-World countries to be allowed to participate in international trade. The NGOs had consistently contributed to resisting and bringing to public attention undesirable developments. Moreover, cultural cooperation is the key to interconnectedness between countries. Some of Stater's achievements include: the number of deaths due to measles was reduced by 50 percent by inoculating regionwide; with the aid of international organizations, 4 Million more children in Ghana, Uganda and Tansania could be sent to school. Nevertheless, the work is endless. For example, only 2 of the 7 million Africans infected with aids are presently being treated. Stather expressed his joy in becoming acquainted with the S.E.R. foundation and the possibility of cooperating with the project in Burundi.

## A Decade of Reconciliation

The Chairman of the S.E.R.-Foundation, Prof. Stanislaus von Korn, outlined the scope of functions and assignments the Foundation carries out. He presented the steps of development from its establishment in 1996 up to its acceptance as an NGO at the UN and explained how Reconciliation arose from an impulse and developed into a world-wide project- from a week extended to years. He recommended extending the UN-Reconciliation Year to an entire decade. This would quote the former UN-Secretary Kofi Annan saying “**Reconciliation is the highest form of dialogue**”. For the young guests from the University of Hamburg, the lecture proved to be fascinating, especially when one sees, as a member of the community, how ideas affecting the entire world can be set into motion.

## Building bridges between people overcomes boundaries

Chairman of the BSF, the retired former Chancellor Kurt Bodewig, described once again the development of the Forum: the beginnings after the fall of the IronCurtain as a German-Finnish initiative to the integration of the Baltic States still carrying the name “Pro Baltica” up to the present structure of a partnership connecting the entire Baltic. Always remaining equal, the motto would be “Building bridges between people overcomes boundaries.” In the same way it was unavoidably proved as Russia was removed from the East Bloc-concept and introduced into the Baltic Community. Then, dialogue is always superior to confrontation. Bodewigs special gratitude applied to the joint-founder of the Forum, the winner of the Nobel Peace-Prize Martti Ahtisaari.

Markus Köhl



## The United Religions Initiative at the United Nations

The United Religions Initiative at the United Nations (URI-UN) is a Cooperation Circle of the United Religions Initiative (URI) comprised of members of the UN community. URI-UN has chosen to focus on the 2009 UN International Year of Reconciliation, highlighting this important year for both the UN NGOs and people of faith worldwide through a series of events on the general theme of “***The Journey to Reconciliation.***”

### Thursday, Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> ***Interfaith Service for Reconciliation and Peace***

Church Center of the United Nations, Chapel, 9:15-10:15am

Organizers: Deborah Moldow, World Peace Prayer Society UN Representative and Monica Willard, URI UN Representative

Partners: The Office of the Chaplain, the Committee of Religious NGOs and the NGO Committee on Human Rights

Program: URI-UN welcomes members of the Trail of Dreams World Peace Walk, a Cooperation Circle of the URI, and blesses the last leg of their 3-1/2 year journey with a World Peace Prayer Ceremony.

### Thursday, Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> ***Journey to Peace: Nonviolence • Reconciliation • Human Rights***

Church Center of the United Nations, Hardin Room, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor, 12-3pm

Organizer: Audrey Kitagawa, Chair, Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns-NY



Partners: The CONGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns-NY (monthly meeting), the Committee of Religious NGOs and the NGO Committee on Human Rights

Program: Launching the 2009 International Year of Reconciliation, the Gandhi-King Season for Nonviolence, and the 2009 International Year of Human Rights Learning

Guest Speakers: Mr. Rolf Carriere and Mr. Mel Duncan, Senior Advisor and Founder and Executive Director of the Nonviolent Peaceforce: An Alternative to Military Intervention, and Ms. Audri Scott Williams and members of the Trail of Dreams World Peace Walk. Final group meditation with the flags of the world.

**Thursday, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>     *Sustainable Peace: The 2009 Year of Reconciliation***

DPI NGO Briefing

Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium, United Nations, 10am-12noon

Organizer: Monica Willard, URI UN Representative

Program: Stories of reconciliation around the world, with Native American music by Jackie Wolf Tice

Guest Speakers: H.E. Amb. Maria Rubiales de Chamorro of the Mission of Nicaragua; Judge Felicitas Hoffmann of Germany, SER; Ms. Jacqueline Murekatete of Rwanda, Miracle Corners of the World; Ms. Claudia Abate, Foundation for Post Conflict Development (FPCD); Moderator, Maria Luisa Chavez, UN Department of Public Information.

**Thursday, Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>     *The Journey to Reconciliation: Social Integration as a Step on the Journey***

Commission on Social Development Side Event

Conference Room B, 1:15-2:45pm

Organizers: Carol Zinn, Sisters of St. Joseph and Monica Willard, URI UN Representative

Program: Deep reflection on achieving reconciliation through the Appreciative Inquiry process

**Wednesday, Mar. 4<sup>th</sup>     *Equal Sharing of Responsibilities Between Women and Men, Including Caregiving in the Context of HIV/AIDS and the Blessings of Forgiveness and Reconciliation***

Commission on the Status of Women Side Event

ICO Center, 323 E. 47<sup>th</sup> Street, 1:00-3:00pm

Organizer: Sr. Anele Heiges, International Public Policy Institute

Partner: International Public Policy Institute (IPPI)

Guest Speakers: Panel works with colleagues in Kenya and the Kenya immigrant community in New Jersey

**Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>     *Journey to Reconciliation: Reconciliation as a Key to Sustainability***

Commission on Sustainable Development Side Event

UN Conference Room 6, 1:15-2:45pm

Organizer: Martha Gallahue of the National Service Conference of the American Ethical Union and Michelle Kim of Franciscans International

Partners: International Public Policy Institute, CSVGC-NY Eco-Spirituality Working Group, CSVGC-NY Universal Ethics Working Group, and the Earth Values Caucus

Guest Speaker: Mr. Sami Areikat, of the UN Division for Sustainable Development of the Dept. of Economic and Social Affairs, plus Appreciative Inquiry process.

**Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>     *The Journey Toward Reconciliation***

Indigenous Forum Side Event:

UNEP-NY Conference Room, 11:00am-1:00pm

Organizer: Betsy Stang, the Wittenberg Center for Alternative Resources

Partners: The CONGO Committee on International Decade for the World's Indigenous People, the Wittenberg Center for Alternatives Resources, Earthkeepers Working Group  
Guest Speakers: Grace Smith Yellow Hammer, Dineh Elder; Ethelyn Secakuku, Hopi Elder; Lorena Banyacya, Hopi Elder; Yoland Trevino, Indigenous Maya (and chair of URI Global Council); and Sara James, Qwichen Elder (by phone)

**Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>    *Reconciliation: Healing the Wounds with Naomi Tutu***

UNICEF – Danny Kaye Visitors Center, 2:00-4:00pm

Organizer: Monica Willard, URI UN Representative

Partners: The Values Caucus and the NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns, NY

Guest Speakers: Mr. Stephen Hanmer, Partnerships Manager for Civil Society Partnerships Outreach at UNICEF, and Ms. Naomi Tutu, Peace Jam International

**Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>    *Reconciliation with Our Earth: Wisdom from Faith Traditions***

UN Week of Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns Event

Church Center for the United Nations, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 1:00-4:00pm

Organizer: Michelle Kim, Franciscans International

Partners: CSVGC-NY Eco-Spirituality Working Group, CSVGC-NY Spiritual History of the United Nations Working Group, CSVGC-NY Women Rising Working Group

Guest Speakers: Giovanna Czander (Italy), Ph.D., Dominican College, Swami Parameshananda (India), Bharat Sevashram Sangha, Sunera Rahman, Upper Westchester Muslim Society, Rabbi Roger Ross, The New Seminary, Chung Hyun Kyung, Ph.D. (Korea), Union Theological Seminary, Rev. Tim Miner, OUnI, of the Council of Interfaith Congregations of the U.S.

URI-UN Council: Bernice B. Cousins, Martha Gallahue, Anele Heiges, Audrey Kitagawa, Swamini Sri Lalitambika Devi, Deborah Moldow, Roger Ross, Betsy Stang, Monica Willard, Carol Zinn

*May Peace Prevail on Earth*



## **The United Religions Initiative at the United Nations**

***Journey to Peace: Nonviolence • Reconciliation • Human Rights***

**URI-UN United Nations Launch of  
The 2009 UN International Year of Reconciliation, The Gandhi-King Season for  
Nonviolence and The 2009 UN International Year of Human Rights Learning**

29 January 2009

The United Religions Initiative at the United Nations (URI-UN), a Cooperation Circle of the United Religions Initiative, has chosen the International Year of Reconciliation as the overarching theme for its 2009 events. We will host side events during the various UN Commissions meeting this spring on Social Development, the Status of Women, and

Sustainable Development, as well as the Indigenous Forum this summer, the International Day of Peace in September, and the Week of Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns around UN Day in October.

Kicking off this series was a double event held on Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> to launch the Year of Reconciliation, along with the annual 64-day Season for Nonviolence honoring the legacies of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr., from January 30<sup>th</sup> to April 4<sup>th</sup>. The Committee of Religious NGOs at the United Nations co-sponsored the morning service. We gained another co-sponsor when the NGO Committee on Human Rights informed us that 2009 was also designated as the International Year of Human Rights Learning, yet another vital component of a culture of peace.

URI-UN chose January 29<sup>th</sup> when we learned that the Trail of Dreams, led by Audri Scott Williams, which is also a Cooperation Circle of the URI Multi-Region, would be in New York at the time on the last leg of its journey around the world. The members wanted to walk from the United Nations to “ground zero,” the former site of the World Trade Center towers, before proceeding on the home stretch to Atlanta, where they would end their travels at the Martin Luther King Center during a ceremony respecting the day of Dr. King’s assassination.



The day’s events began in the lovely chapel of the Church Center across the street from the United Nations, where the Office of the Chaplain invited URI-UN to organize the weekly prayer service. All who entered were charmed by the music of Jackie Tice, who brings forth the spirit of her Native American heritage. After a warm welcome by Chaplain Kathleen Stone, Bobbi Nasser of the NGO Committee on Human Rights explained the significance of the Year.



The Trail of Dreams World Peace Walkers arrived, including Audri’s mother Natalie in a wheelchair and participants from Nigeria, Australia and Costa Rica. Monica Willard, URI’s Representative to the United Nations, introduced them and Audri spoke briefly about their inspiring journey.





Monica and Jackie then introduced the World Peace Prayer Ceremony with the flags of all nations that all would take part in to bless the Trail of Dreams walkers and pray for peace and reconciliation in all the countries of the world. They had planned a special version of the ceremony where the flags were presented in groups representing the Four Directions, according to Cherokee tradition, with a special extra grouping of flags for the countries of the Middle East.



Deborah Moldow, facilitator of URI-UN and UN Representative for the World Peace Prayer Society, led the ceremony. Chaplain Stone had mentioned that the flags represented nations born in blood, so Deborah explained that the purpose of the flags in the ceremony was to purify the history of each nation and pray for the highest shared ideal of peace, justice and harmony for all equally. As the flags for the countries of the North were distributed to about 25-30 people who had gathered to pray, she asked everyone to announce the name of the country whose flag they were holding, after which all said together, "May Peace be in [that country]." Anyone who had a special relationship with the country was free to mention what touched them, and Monica placed flags of countries needed extra prayers in a container on the altar – which filled up very quickly!

While the flags were being collected and handed out in between regions, Jackie led everyone in an original "May Peace Prevail on Earth" chant that she had written for the International Day of Peace

*"For all of our brothers, May Peace Prevail on Earth,  
For all of our sisters, May Peace Prevail on Earth.  
For all of our elders, May Peace Prevail on Earth,  
For all of our children, May Peace Prevail on Earth."*



After the prayers for the four regions, all participants came forward into a tight circle to pray together for the countries of the Middle East. The ceremony ended with prayers for the indigenous nations, all the other regions of the world, and, of course, “May Peace Prevail on Earth.”



Brenda, who had joined the Peace Walkers in Australia, closed the event by sharing a beautiful message from an Aboriginal elder.

Deborah and Monica were delighted to receive Trail of Dreams tee shirts. Deborah offered Audri a mini-Peace Pole, and Audri said the group was invited the next day to Newark, New Jersey, where they would plant two Peace Poles! Everyone paused for a joyful photo of the Trail of Dreams walkers, along with URI-UN members who had been so helpful during the ceremony, Rabbi Roger Ross and Swamini Sri Lalitambika Devi.



After a brief break for lunch, it was time for the second part of the day's events, a monthly meeting of the NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns-NY (CSVGC-NY), which was founded by URI-UN member Diane Williams and is currently chaired by URI-UN co-facilitator Audrey Kitagawa. The first guests were leaders Rolf Carriere and Mel Duncan of the Nonviolent Peaceforce, an innovative strategy to replace military interventions with a citizen force armed only with love.

Next, the Trail of Dreams walkers were introduced, and Audri Scott Williams had a full opportunity to describe the deep philosophy underlying her journey, connecting from heart to heart with people of widely divergent cultures, religions and languages across the globe. Everyone was moved by her description of what it was like to come into a community as strangers halfway around the world and to be welcomed as family. Audri had been particularly touched by how tenderly people treated her elderly mother in parts of the world where people rarely live that long. She said that language was never a barrier when everyone spoke the same language of the heart. Other members of the group, including Brenda, Karen, Tony and Alita, also spoke, and, after questions from the audience, Sam Lackey closed with a song of peace.





Bernice Cousins of URI-UN then led a beautiful white light meditation to gather and distribute the energy. Deborah continued the meditation as the flags of all nations were distributed among the 50 people in the room. She asked everyone to hold the flags tenderly, envisioning six billion people held in our hands, while Jackie Tice played her native flute.



All held the flags out as the Peace Walkers went down the aisle, followed by the representatives of the Nonviolent Peace Force, and Jun Yasuda, a longtime peace walker from the Grafton Peace Pagoda in upper New York State, receiving the blessings of the CSVGC-NY members in the spirit of nonviolence, reconciliation and a world at peace. All raised their voices in a joyful, "May Peace Prevail on Earth!"



URI-UN will continue to highlight the 2009 International Year of Reconciliation. URI-UN members are assisting the UN Department of Public Information in organizing the next Thursday's DPI/NGO weekly briefing on the Year in the Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium. The following week, on February 12<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Commission on Social Development Side Event on "The Journey to Reconciliation: Social Integration as a Step on the Journey," organized by URI-UN alternate UN representative, Sr. Carol Zinn. Future events are being planned by URI-UN members for the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Sustainable Development (in partnership with the Eco-Spirituality Working Group of CSVGC and the Earth Values Caucus), the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the International Day of Peace and the Week of Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns in October.

**URI-UN Council:** Bernice B. Cousins, Martha Gallahue, Anele Heiges, Audrey Kitagawa, Swamini Sri Lalitambika Devi, Deborah Moldow, Roger Ross, Betsy Stang, Monica Willard, Carol Zinn

**May Peace Prevail on Earth**

### **Report on CSD-17 Side Event, 4 May 2009**

URI-UN hosted a side event to the meeting of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-17) entitled "**Journey to Reconciliation: Reconciliation as a Key to Sustainability**" on Monday, 4 May 2009 from 1:15 to 2:45pm in UN Conference Room 6. This was part of the URI-UN series highlighting the 2009 UN International Year of Reconciliation with events at all UN Commissions and other working sessions.

This event, organized and moderated by Martha Gallahue of the National Service Conference of the American Ethical Union and URI-UN council member, was sponsored by the United Religions Initiative at the UN with the International Public Policy Institute and was co-sponsored by the CSVGC-NY Eco-Spirituality Working Group, the CSVGC-NY Universal Ethics Working Group, and the Earth Values Caucus. About 50 people attended, coming from widely varied countries, organizations and religions, as well as from several UN departments.

Martha led off with an introduction of the topic and the guests, and a brief moment of silence. The first speaker was Mr. Sami Areikat, of the UN Division for Sustainable Development of the Dept. of Economic and Social Affairs. He offered to speak from his personal perspective, rather than the position of his department. Mr. Areikat talked movingly about his family in Palestine and how their lands and livelihoods had been taken from them, as well as their access to hospitals and other social services. The need for reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians is great.

Michelle Kim of Franciscans International and the URI-UN council then offered beautiful remarks in a different vein, on the meaning of reconciliation with the Earth. She called on people of all religions to share "eco-spirituality" by honoring our Father and our Mother, the Earth as a way to love.

Monica Willard, URI Representative to the United Nations, spoke about the way the URI is built on personal relationships that bridge differences of belief. She led the entire group in an experience of the process of Appreciative Inquiry upon which the structure of the United Religions Initiative was founded. A lively discussion ensued, bringing those attending into another level of aliveness that tends to bubble up through the stories shared in Appreciative Inquiry.

Monica then facilitated a discussion of some of the experiences in the room. Sami Areikat had been paired with an Israeli woman and reported that she represented the good will of most of the Israeli people. Bill Yotive of the UN Dept. of Public Information introduced with admiration his "AI" partner, Sr. Philo Morris, who created a working group on Climate Change. Various stories of reconciliation were shared, as the URI spirit of warmth and community filled the room.



For a special closing, Dr. J.J. Hurtak of the Academy for Future Science led an exquisite meditation, while Michelle Kim played recorded music mixed with the sounds of ocean waves. Dr. Hurtak spoke about hearing the music of the Earth as we build together God's new creation. He closed by asking everyone to say together four times, "May Peace Prevail on Earth!"

Notes from Guest Speaker, Mr. Sami Areikat:

I am very honored to speak to your program "Reconciliation as a Key to Sustainability" after the speech by our Director, Mr. Banuri, to URI Climate Change Working Group addressing the problems ahead because of the growing inequity in the world today. I also enjoyed and appreciated meeting all the nice and kind people who spoke and attended the Side Event.

The program has provided us as UN Sustainable Development with the opportunity to discuss the different dimensions of sustainability "social justice and equality, economic growth and environmental protection" and how lack of sustainability is a cause and consequence of violent conflicts within countries and societies. I am also humbled that the personal experiences "living with un-sustainability and lack of reconciliation" I shared with the audience have been received very well.

On behalf of Mr Banuri, my immediate supervisor "Ms. Abdalla", Kanthi and our Division for Sustainable Development, I would like to thank you again for the opportunity to speak to your program, and hope that your Groups and the International Year of Reconciliation will succeed in pursuing and achieving reconciliation in all societies that are affected and/or divided by conflicts

Regards

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Sami Areikat  
Sustainable Development Officer  
Division for Sustainable Development  
Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)  
United Nations, DC2-2238  
New York, NY 10017

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**Naomi Tutu Addresses URI-UN on "Reconciliation: Healing the Wounds"**

May 28, 2009 • Danny Kaye Visitors Center, UNICEF

Naomi Tutu, daughter of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu, came to UNICEF on May 28<sup>th</sup> at the invitation of the United Religions Initiative at the UN to speak about "Reconciliation: Healing the Wounds."

The meeting, held in the lovely Danny Kaye Visitors Center, opened with a warm welcome from Stephen Hanmer, Partnerships Manager for Civil Society Partnerships Outreach at UNICEF. Deborah Moldow, facilitator of URI-UN, led a meditation on opening to the heart of Africa, followed by a moment of silence and a shared prayer: "May Peace Prevail in Africa. May Peace Prevail on Earth."

Monica Willard, UN Representative for the United Religions Initiative, gave a brief introduction to the mission of the URI, and also the URI-UN's focus on the 2009 International Year of Reconciliation. She then introduced a clip from a moving video about reconciliation in Rwanda entitled, "As We Forgive," which featured Rwandan President Kigali explaining the release of

thousands of prisoners who had confessed to taking part in the 1994 genocide. For more information, please see [www.asweforgivemovie.com](http://www.asweforgivemovie.com).

Monica then welcomed the guest of honor, Ms. Tutu, whom she met while working together as representatives of Nobel Peace Laureates on the board of the educational organization, Peace Jam.

Naomi began by talking with humor about her role in creating the Truth and Reconciliation Commission during the meetings that took place in her father's house while she served the tea. She spoke about how truth was an essential component for reconciliation – whether dealing with a national shame or the misbehavior of teenagers like her own. And yet truth did not come easily, even when it was the only condition for perpetrators to be given amnesty from any further civil or criminal proceedings. Still, lies were often heard from those who could not face their own complicity in an evil system.

For a divided people to heal from tragedy, they needed to own their own country's story, including both its pride and its sorrow. She spoke movingly about what it was like to grow up in a place where her experience was so different from that of her white neighbors that she actually rooted for any sports team that opposed her own.

She made it clear that truth and reconciliation were important steps toward peace, but should never be considered an end result. Reparations are still being sorted out in South Africa, where countless victims are still waiting to receive the remains of loved ones to give them a proper burial. But at least South Africans have united in facing their past together, a powerful beginning to breaking the cycle of violence and vengeance that can play out for generations, or even centuries.

Naomi took questions from the audience about a wide variety of concerns. A young man interning at the UN asked about programs for youth, and Naomi introduced Dawn Engle to speak about Peace Jam's campaign to gather One Billion Acts for Peace (see [www.peacejam.org](http://www.peacejam.org)). Stephen Hanmer responded to a question regarding the rehabilitation of child soldiers, a challenge that UNICEF has been addressing in numerous countries. One questioner was Malak Shabazz, daughter of American civil rights leader Malcolm X, who greeted Naomi as a sister with a hug.

Naomi was asked the role that faith communities took in the reconciliation process in South Africa. She replied that – even as an Archbishop's daughter – she could only give a mixed answer because while some of the churches had been very supportive, others bore much complicity during the apartheid years.

Deborah closed the event by asking everyone to take one of the flags of Africa that decorated the room. There were just about the same number of people as African countries (55), and all spread out into a big circle. Focusing on sending peace to each nation, the participants announced the name of the country whose flag they were holding, one by one across the continent. Then all repeated the words of the opening prayer, "May Peace Prevail in Africa. May Peace Prevail on Earth!"

Everyone enjoyed some light refreshments (provided by a small grant from the URI Multiregion) and a chance to visit personally with Naomi. We were all so grateful for the opportunity to hear this wise and warm woman offer her unique perspective on the deeper aspects of reconciliation.

This event was co-sponsored by the Values Caucus and the NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns, NY.

The Eco-Spirituality Working Group; Spiritual History of the United Nations Working Group;  
Women Rising Working Group present:



## **RECONCILIATION WITH OUR EARTH: WISDOM FROM SPIRITUAL TRADITIONS**

Co-Sponsored by URI-UN

October 27, 2009 • 1:00-4:00 pm  
Church Center for the United Nations, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

This beautiful event was organized by Dr. Michelle Kim, SFO, Ph.D. of Franciscans International with several working groups of the UN NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns. The purpose was to discover and celebrate through an interfaith dialog ecological wisdom that can be shared by all, transcending all cultural, religious boundaries. More than 100 people attended.

Rev. Dr. Thomas Downes opened the event and introduced Angelica Cubides of Women Rising for a blessing to the four directions, assisted by Martha Gallahue, Anele Heiges, and Swamini Sri Lalitambika Devi, all council members of URI-UN. Angelica spoke of her childhood experiences with the indigenous mamas of Ecuador, the guardians of nature who understood the pulsations of the Earth.

After an inspiring keynote address on the concept and urgency of reconciliation with the Earth by Dr. Kim, all were treated to a beautiful Hindu-style dance performed by Radha Devi Dasi.

Then came the heart of the event, an “Interfaith Inquiry” on how various faith traditions relate to and honor the Earth. Deborah Moldow, facilitator of URI-UN, moderated a wonderfully varied panel of international experts of a wide variety of faith traditions:

Christianity: Giovanna Czander (Italy), Ph.D., Dominican College  
Hinduism: Swami Parameshananda (India), Bharat Sevashram Sangha  
Islam: Sunera Rahman, Upper Westchester Muslim Society  
Judaism: Rabbi Roger Ross, The New Seminary  
Buddhism: Chung Hyun Kyung, Ph.D. (Korea), Union Theological Seminary

Dr. Czander characterized the Christian relationship with nature as being one of “communion and contemplation,” an attempt to look at nature through the eyes of God. Swami Parameshananda spoke of the Vedic vision of unity, and our direct connection to infinite source.

Sunera Rahman explained that Islam proclaims the fundamental oneness of God sustaining the universe. Nature is known as the “unwritten Koran,” so knowing nature is knowing God. In Judaism, according to Rabbi Ross, nature is a gift of the Divine that must be revered and protected.

In Buddhism, there is no separation between humans and nature; we are all interconnected. Dr. Chung showed us how to see an orange as “an ambassador from the Universe.”

At the conclusion of the fascinating panel discussion, Rev. Tim Miner, OUnI, of the Council of Interfaith Congregations of the U.S., delivered an interfaith response, comparing the religious traditions to the colored lights produced when sunlight moves through a crystal.

Two magnificent dancers, Chung Ja Kwon and Suk Jae Yoon, performed an exquisite dance from Korea. Then storyteller Therese Plair kept us spellbound until it was time for the final Blessing Into the World, led by Angelica Cubides. The Women Rising working group distributed little packets containing a rock with a message, and dried corn and beans, so that everyone could appreciate holding these messengers from nature in our hands for the blessing.

“Reconciliation with Our Earth: Wisdom from Faith Traditions” was part of the Week of Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns, 26–30 October 2009, with the theme, *The Spirit of the United Nations: Global Peace Through Reconciliation*. This program on was the beginning of an inquiry that will be continued in the spring of 2010.

## Event Report 2/12/09

Congratulations! Our team efforts to highlight the 2009 International Year of Reconciliation have already been a great success. The launch events on January 29th were beautiful, as already reported. Warm thanks to the CSVGC-NY for a terrific part 2!

Last week was the DPI NGO briefing introducing the Year of Reconciliation, which Carol Zinn suggested months ago. Monica Willard was responsible for securing most of the guests, who were all excellent. The program was so well received that a petition was drafted on the spot for an entire Decade of Reconciliation, which Jeff Huffines of the DPI NGO Executive Committee promised to circulate widely.

Today, Carol and Monica hosted “***The Journey to Reconciliation: Social Integration as a Step on the Journey***,” a side event of the Commission on Social Development Side Event held in UN Conference Room B. In spite of stiff competition from a large UNA-USA event on climate change, we had a lovely gathering of 14 representatives of peace, indigenous, and religious NGOs, plus a young woman from the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua.

After Monica outlined the GA Resolution A/61/L.22 (attached), Carol offered a few general remarks. She compared the concepts of reconciliation and resolution, explaining that reconciliation was about relationships, while resolution dealt with issues. She then led the group in an Appreciative Inquiry on both reconciliation and social integration, which is the theme of this year’s Commission on Social Development. The questions we had prepared were:

1. Share an example of a situation where you have experienced or witnesses a need for social integration.
2. Was this situation reconciled? If so, what made that possible? If it was not reconciled, what steps would be needed to begin the reconciliation process?

Having people experience AI (the process used to birth the United Religions Initiative over a period of five years) worked its magic, as it so often does. Participants engaged in a rich, thoughtful sharing, and one woman remarked that she was accustomed to listening at UN events and was delighted to be asked to actively engage.

*So on to the next!* Anele Heiges is planning our next event, for the Commission on the Status of Women, scheduled for Tuesday, March 4th and entitled, “***Equal Sharing of Responsibilities Between Women and Men, Including Caregiving in the Context of HIV/AIDS and the Blessings of Forgiveness and Reconciliation***.” It will be held at the ICO Center, 323 E. 47th Street, 1:00-3:00pm and partnered with the International Public Policy Institute (IPPI). The panel works with colleagues in Kenya and the Kenya immigrant community in New Jersey. (By the



way, Anele's little surgery is healing nicely, so she's back at the UN and looking very well indeed. Good news!)

Monica and I also met with Ambassador Castellon of the Mission of Nicaragua regarding the possibility of a larger event on reconciliation at the end of May. We'll let you know how this develops!

Perhaps we can have another conference call in the next week or two. In the meantime, thanks so much to everyone for making the Year of Reconciliation show up at the United Nations.

May Peace Prevail on Earth!

Love,

Deborah

## 2.2 Activities of others

- On January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the inauguration of Mr. Barack Obama as President of the United States of America took place. On this occasion he signed a **Proclamation for a „National Day of Renewal and Reconciliation 2009“**  
[http://www.whitehouse.gov/the\\_press\\_office/NationalDayofRenewalandReconciliation2009](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/NationalDayofRenewalandReconciliation2009)
- Following its long-term reconciliation endeavours, the **Government of Australia** issued a Reconciliation Action Plan 2009 – 10 in partnership with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and community partners.  
[http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/64136/RAP\\_plan.pdf](http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/64136/RAP_plan.pdf)
- On May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 a reception with UN-Evening Forum in the International Seegerichtshof Hamburg, took place, [www.itlos.org](http://www.itlos.org), about "**Challenges by implementing the Millennium Development Goals**". Presenters were the Baltic Sea Forum - Pro Baltica, [www.Baltic-Sea-Forum.org](http://www.Baltic-Sea-Forum.org) and S.E.R. Foundation.
- The World Future Council is a global forum of 50 respected personalities who give voice to the shared ethical values of citizens worldwide. The Council works closely with policy-makers, civil societies and business to identify and implement best policies to protect the rights of future generations. On October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 was given the first "**Future Policy Award 2009**" in Hamburg. The winner was the City of Belo Horizonte (Brazil) for its program about food security; [www.worldfuturecouncil.org](http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org)
- During the 3<sup>rd</sup> Peace and Sport International Forum, under the presidency of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace and the United Nations Office for Partnerships signed a partnership with "Peace and Sport, L'Organisation pour la Paix par le Sport" in front of an audience of over 400 delegates from 85 countries, including many African nations. Sport as a tool to attain the Millennium Development Goals, with a special focus on sport's contribution to poverty reduction, universal education, gender equality, prevention of HIV and AIDS and other diseases, environmental sustainability as well as peace building and conflict resolution. On November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009 **the Peace and Sport Awards Reward the Best Initiatives for Reconciliation through Sport**. The Prizes recompense initiatives and individuals in sport to have made a particular contribution to social stability in the world in 2009; [www.peace-sport.org](http://www.peace-sport.org)

- **The United Religions Initiative at the United Nations (URI-UN)**, chose the International Year of Reconciliation as the overarching theme for its 2009 events. It hosted a variety of side events during various UN conferences, the International Day of Peace etc., for more information see: [www.uri-un.org](http://www.uri-un.org) , [www.trunity.net/uriun/topics/view/17921](http://www.trunity.net/uriun/topics/view/17921)  
[www.trunity.net/uriun/galleries/view/139660/](http://www.trunity.net/uriun/galleries/view/139660/)
- In pursuance of the International Year of Reconciliation, **Radio Afrika TV** ([www.radioafrika.net/de/2009/03/30/reconciliation-and-the-role-of-global-peace-festivals](http://www.radioafrika.net/de/2009/03/30/reconciliation-and-the-role-of-global-peace-festivals)) announced an invitation to the conference on "Reconciliation and the role of Global Peace Festivals", held on April, 8<sup>th</sup>, by the **Universal Peace Federation (UPF)**. UPF launched the Global Peace Tour 2009 with events in about 190 countries under the overall Theme " A New Vision for Peace in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century".
- The **World Council of Churches (WCC)** welcomed the call of the UN to observe 2009 as the International Year of Reconciliation and encouraged its member churches and partners to actively participate in this global campaign.
- Community leader Orland Bishop explains that a cultural worldview that fails to recognize earth's primal qualities can only produce violence. Evoking transformative ideas such as foundation, stability, abundance, accessibility, reconciliation and peace, says Orland, allows a human being to move beyond limitation and conflict into one's true nonviolent nature. The **global oneness project** is exploring how the radically simple notion of interconnectedness can be lived in our increasingly complex world; [www.globaloneness.org](http://www.globaloneness.org)
- As an associated institution of United Nations University, the **University of Ulster/UK**, sought to raise awareness and disseminate information about reconciliation and the International Reconciliation Year and promote the importance of this topic in Northern Ireland and in other societies coming out of conflict through its special 2009 programme. The lessons from Northern Ireland were a specific focus. The programme also critically reflected on the concept of reconciliation considering how it relates to key issues such as gender and political transition (<http://www.incore.ulst.ac.uk/unrec/> ).
- **International Fellowship of Reconciliation**, IFOR, [www.IFOR.org](http://www.IFOR.org) has member organisations in 48 countries. IFOR supports worldwide programs for non-violence, women and youngsters, who work for peace in conflict situations.
- **Friends of India** fights poverty and creates opportunities for women and children in Tamil Nadu, India, by supporting basic education for underserved children and investing in vocational training and life-skills development for women; [www.friends-of-india.org](http://www.friends-of-india.org)
- **The S.E.R. Kinderhilfe e.V., Wesel** (S.E.R. Children's Aid Society) achieves reconciliation every day as it guides children of different cultures and religions into tolerance and attentive cooperation by its self-conception and statutes; [www.ser-kinderhilfe.de](http://www.ser-kinderhilfe.de)
- Supporting the International Reconciliation Year, the **German Adult Education Association (Deutscher Volkshochschul-Verband e.V. (DVV))**, issued a report on the Adult Education and Oral History Contributing to the Armenian-Turkish Reconciliation Student Camp in Dilijan, Armenia from 8 to 14 October 2009.
- The **Mizero Children Foundation** from Rwanda was invited by the UN to share the message of forgiveness as a step to reconciliation during the International Reconciliation Year ([www.mizerochildren.org/index.php/rwanda/blog/join-us-in-rwanda-at-the-gathering-of-forgiveness-in-2009](http://www.mizerochildren.org/index.php/rwanda/blog/join-us-in-rwanda-at-the-gathering-of-forgiveness-in-2009)). The Mizero Children Foundation understands forgiveness as the most powerful, yet unpopular weapon against terrorism and atrocity; it now plans to embark to a USA tour on the subject.

- With broad activities, the **German Worldwide Broadcasting Service (Deutsche Welle)** contributed to the International Reconciliation Year, see:  
[www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,4262215,00.html](http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,4262215,00.html), [www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,4250150,00.html](http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,4250150,00.html)  
<http://www.dwelle.de/dw/0,,12535,00.html> , [www.dwelle.de/dw/article/0,,4232790,00.html](http://www.dwelle.de/dw/article/0,,4232790,00.html)

### 3. Evaluation of the International Reconciliation Year 2009

#### 3.1 Positive experience and lessons gained

Reconciliation processes led to a better understanding, change within the engaged people and sometimes, as well, of structures involved.

In the following are outstanding registered projects at [www.global-balance.org](http://www.global-balance.org) from five continents briefly presented. For the prize award the projects will be put into four groups:

- a) Political, Socio-Economic Projects
- b) Creative Projects
- c) Educational, Indigenous, Athletic Projects
- d) Spiritual/Health Care Projects

#### a) Political-, Socio-Economic Projects

**Make a date with Peace at World Peace Hologram**, United States of America (Nr. 24). The project consisted of forty-nine sessions with one session per week throughout the year of 2009. The site offered free sessions to anyone in the world who wished to receive support. The first six months were dedicated to personal related problems, family, relationship, finances, life purpose and health. The second half of the year focussed on World Peace topics related to economy, leadership, environmental issues, human rights and tolerance. The aim during the year was to create a wider peace on the planet.

In Pakistan, students regularly support 145 orphans, street children and handicapped children with the project: **"The Voice"** (Nr. 28). Their motto is: "Help for those, who can't help themselves".

On the **"Memorial Pilgrim Way courageously – then and today – with Ruth Dreyfuss"** (former Member of the Swiss Federal Counsel), Switzerland (Nr. 76). On Easter-Monday all those people, who were turned back at the Swiss boarder during the years 1938/39 and who were sent into certain death, were remembered. Especially remembered was the dismissal of the police-commandant Paul Grüninger 70 years ago. The question of asylum still prevails, because fears are stoked and a tighter asylum law is demanded in Switzerland. It was obvious, that through reconciliation emotional wounds were healed as for example the one created by the atrocities of the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war. Only through such processes clearances are created, which are bigger and extend beyond the rational dimension. More than 350 people participated.

The S.E.R. Foundation Switzerland initiated an agenda named **"Time for Reconciliation"** with the Forum for Peace Education, the Swiss-German branch of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, IFOR-CH, and nine others institutions from September 21<sup>st</sup>. (International Day of Peace) to October 2<sup>nd</sup>. 2009 (International Day of non-violence). During this period 17 events took place in Switzerland. The network **"Servicio Paz y Justicia"** SERPAJ from Latin America, a Christian Human Rights organisation, whose president is Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, Argentina, who

got the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1980 supported this agenda with various, interesting speeches (Nr. 139, Nr. 140, Nr. 141). His motto: "Otro mundo es posible/Another world is possible". Another world is possible through non-violence, prevention, education and reintegration to break the circle of violence: Argentina has to deal with the past of the military dictatorship.

## **b) Creative Projects**

The project "**Africa in motion film festival and symposium**", United Kingdom (Nr. 146), will raise awareness about the meaning of movies for dealing with the past. "Dealing with and overcoming traumas is about filling the gaps where devastating events have left blank spaces in memory. Storytelling and filmmaking can do the same: where historiography has fallen short or where gaps have deliberately been left in our collective memories, art and film can contribute to fill these gaps by turning to individual stories."

The project „**Peace and Reconciliation, Burundi** (Nr. 68), presented concerts with various songs and dances, to disseminate the message of peace and reconciliation. The background was: the last rebellion signed a ceasefire agreement with the government of Burundi. The country lived through a fifteen years war situation and is longing for peace. The songs about reconciliation were recorded on CD and DVD and sold, in order to be played in different Radio Stations, shopping-markets and Institutions. More than 10 groups and approximatively 500 persons (children, youngsters and adults) were involved.

At least 60'000 people got in touch with the ideas. At the same time it was a preparation for the elections of the President, Parliament and Communal Council 2010.

### **Reconciliation Choir Concert, Burundi-Cologne (Nr. 91)**

The Dome Choir of Cologne played music with the „Chorale Sainte Famille - Fondation Mariya Arafasha“ from Bujumbura and the choir of the Foundation „Vie Nouvelle pour la Réconciliation“ from Gitega, Burundi. 50 persons from Burundi were invited by the Dome Choir to visit Cologne. The solemn Choir Concert took place in the Cathedral of Cologne on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The event was broadcasted on schoenstatt.tv and could be seen by thousands of viewers around the world. The mass and the concert got a wonderful echo. The weekly paper of the archdiocese dedicated special pages to the event in the following editions.

On an initiative of the S.E.R. Foundation Germany with other eight institutions in the UN town Bonn/Germany, various events were organised by the "**Bonner Action Alliance for the International Reconciliation Year 2009**", such as the "**KANSA-Exhibition**" (Nr. 111) in the Dokumentationsstätte in Regierungsbunker, where a New-Media-Artwork of the Finnish-German couple Goller-Masalin was shown, which is aimed to connect people – independent of their language, provenance, political view, religion or skin. Kansa shall be distributed all over the world. The aim is that art points out the most important challenges of our future: peace, freedom, consciousness for the environment, respect for human rights, freedom of opinion and self-determination.

The Fringe-Ensemble, Germany, was a part of the Action Alliance and dealt with the play "**I said the things you told me not to say**" (Nr. 87) and looked into the subject of reconciliation in South-Africa. It is based on the protocols of the Truth- and Reconciliation-Commission, which had been fathered by Nelson Mandela and Bishop Desmond Tutu, to create, within the regime of apartheid, a dialogue among victims and perpetrators.

On September 21<sup>st</sup> 2009 (International Day of Peace) members of the Bonner Action Alliance created a walk-in "**Reconciliation Labyrinth**" (Nr. 143) on the Muensterplatz in Bonn, as a symbol for the way to the center and as a condition for Reconciliation.



### c) Educational, Indigenous, Athletic Projects

The Youth-project **RadioChico Switzerland** (Nr. 31) shows how the media can contribute, in an important way, to reconciliation. Youngsters asked several people about atonement and forgiveness and the interesting answers were recorded on CD-Rom. One contribution was: "It is not possible to jump over one's own shadow. However it is definitely possible to jump over the shadow of an enemy. Is it possible that the shadow of our enemy has something to do with ourselves? And that jumping over it will allow us to forgive and take the path of reconciliation, hand in hand with our former enemy". Those responsible at RadioChico initiated and implemented many projects in 2009 – but didn't accomplish everything, which is why they decided unanimously to deepen the theme during the following years.

**3019 – on the radar**, Australia (Nr. 74), dealt with a conflict that has developed between the police and young people in one of the most disadvantaged areas of Melbourne. This area has a long history of housing migrant populations and has recently had a large influx of refugees and new migrant communities from Horn of African backgrounds. Through skillfully facilitated training programs and community dialogue, it creates safe spaces for young people to explore and articulate their thoughts and feelings, then expands to support all sectors of the community to understand each others' perspectives, achieve recognition for their own challenges, and have agency in creating a safer more open community.

Crucial to the community dialogue methods are Playback and Forum Theatre. Playback invites audiences to share real events from their lives, which performers enact on the spot. This gives unbiased visibility to all, while airing community issues fully and honestly. Forum Theatre incorporates these stories into fictional scenes that depict inherent problems. Audiences suggest alternative behaviours to improve each situation.

### d) Spiritual/Health Care Projects

**Foster Health Care and Education of Youngsters**, Morocco (Nr. 129). Children are the future of humanity, which is why they have to be taught about good health, drug abuse, sexually transmissible disease, educated about athletic activities, civic sense of duty (respect for environment) as well as human values (solidarity, mutual support and assistance) and this independent of sex, age, race, religious or political affiliation. A group of 100 skilled young people shall give the information to 2'000 youngsters (participative approach).

The **S.E.R. Elijah-Project**, Germany (Nr. 79), organizes seminars for personality development, for higher consciousness and health care in the area of Bethlehem/PNA and Israel, where people in the locality can learn ways and methods to be attuned with oneself, with nature and with their fellow beings. The program leads to healthful experiences and the unity of being. The result is a desire for reconciliation and peace work in their own surroundings localities. In group projects they are considered or the originality of ideas about Reconciliation and Peace projects and for the well-being of civil society. The aim is primarily to create a network whereby „Unity in Diversity“ shall be experienced.

It is worth noting that despite the absence of linkage on the UN Website with [www.global-balance.org](http://www.global-balance.org)<sup>157</sup> accomplished events or projects were submitted by many NGOs and properly documented showing the willingness and enthusiasm of civil society to support peaceful reconciliation. It is desirable, that also bigger organisations, governments and media will support reconciliation explicitly, in order to gain deeper meaning in society.

A single International Reconciliation Year celebrating for transforming century-old conflicts, is too short a time. On February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in a podium-discussion for the International Reconciliation Year, organized by the Department of Public Information, DPI, New York, the S.E.R. Foundation proposed to prolong the UN Reconciliation Proclamation into Ten (10) Years:

**International Reconciliation Decade.** The proposal met with the approval of the audience. In summer 2009 S.E.R. Foundation requested all sovereign Member States through their Permanent Representatives to the United Nations to submit or support a **Petition for a Reconciliation Decade (annex 9)**. The petition for a Reconciliation Decade wasn't considered.

Further reconciliation projects or events can be registered on the website of [www.global-balance.org](http://www.global-balance.org) as well in 2010.

### **3.2 Prospect: Recommendation for a "Decade of Sustainable Peace, Human Rights and Development through Reconciliation"**

Reconciliation is a concept with cross-section character and touches every area of human relationships. Reconciliation, as explicitly expressed in the resolutions of the UN-Security Council, concerning **ending impunity and recovering from conflicts to come to terms with past abuses committed against civilians**. Mechanisms of reconciliation are, as accentuated in the UN Resolution 1888, important means on the way to justice (S/RES/1888 (2009), page 2).

Crucial is always how reconciliation is implemented. In Switzerland for example take place in court conciliatory (before the main process), cases can be tried in non-formal ways to reconcile the parties. Therefore the defendant has the opportunity for example to accredit his injuries, to repent, apologize and promise not to repeat the injustice. Important are also efforts of compensation to restore damage as far as possible. The aim of these reconciliation proceedings are to heal emotional wounds so that expensive main processes can be avoided.

In another Resolution of the UN-Security Council, (S/RES/1820/(2008), page 2), is pointed out the **importance of women's participation and full involvement in the prevention and resolution of conflicts** as a result of violence, intimidation and discrimination, which erode women's capacity and legitimacy to participate in post-conflict public life, and acknowledging the negative impact this has on durable peace, security and reconciliation including post-conflict peace-building.

Reconciliation is an efficient tool, and its strategy should be explicitly allied with other UN-themes, such as health, peace-education, intercultural and interfaith dialog, sport for development and peace, environment, indigenous cultures and practices, democratization, human rights, human security and development.

For the Reconciliation decade a global Action Plan should be developed, with many stakeholders (governments, UN-Departments, international organisations and NGOs, media, universities and colleges, trade unions etc.), where all participants can bring their network, knowledge and ongoing subjects.

The S.E.R. global Action Plan was dedicated to support the Millennium Development Goals, MDGs. According to a representative survey ([www.cmdg.ch](http://www.cmdg.ch)) 88% of the Swiss population didn't know the MDGs in 2008. These results were even worse in 2009 in workshops, in colleges and universities in Switzerland and Germany. This shows, in public information and in the media lies a considerable potential to be realised.

### **Dialogue is a key for reconciliation and peace.**

Without dialogue, neither reconciliation nor peace is possible. Without respect, understanding and esteem of others there is no dialogue and no cooperation. This shows how important

experienced values are. The website of [www.global-balance.org](http://www.global-balance.org) wasn't available in all countries (censorship), which is why human rights play an important role for information.

It should be examined how the concept of Reconciliation can find a place within the UN-board as, for example, in the recommendations of the Human Rights Bodies, how it can be integrated and implemented in the UN-Codifications like the Charta for Human Rights. First of all the **awareness for preventive aspects of Reconciliation before violent conflicts** escalate shall be encouraged as for example through the UN-Peace-building Commission. In particular the Geneva Convention and its additional protocols, as the core of international humanitarian law, must be completed, so that during violent conflicts already means for reconciliation through the International Red Cross will be taken as for example psychological treatment of traumatised men, women and children, establishing Truth- and Reconciliation Commissions and mediation at the end of violence. In addition, reconciliation and sport can successfully be combined for peace building and conflict resolution.

During the International Reconciliation Year stood out, that in Europe different concepts of reconciliation were hardly known or not known at all. In addition, there exists no generally accepted definition of reconciliation.

Reconciliation-methods with the human body (health care), other people (social) and the environment are welcomed in the areas of education. The coordination through a UN Department like United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP) and/or the United Nations for Partnerships (UNOP) would be meaningful. Furthermore, reconciliation centers should be established on all continents with the knowledge about Reconciliation and supporting the Decade with the organization of workshops or conferences about the topic, and adapted to the different cultures. For example: Sulha in the Arab World, "Dealing with the past" in the Western hemisphere, Ho o'ponopono (Hawaii), Palaver (Africa), experiences with the Sorry Day and Reconciliation (Australia), mediation etc. The documentation, evaluation and collation of the most efficient methods and best practice will be useful.

## Acknowledgement

The S.E.R. Foundation would like to express its thanks and gratitude to all volunteers and to everyone who contributed to the success of the International Reconciliation Year 2009. Firstly, to all the representatives of Government UN Permanent Missions, who brought or supported the International Year Draft into the UN-General Assembly.

A special thanks to Mr. R.V. Tajon, Chairman and Head, S.E.R. Foundation International and UN Affairs, for his dedication and for creating and supporting the global S.E.R. Action Plan. We thank all translators for their valuable, voluntary work and all people, who announced a project on the homepage of [www.global-balance.org](http://www.global-balance.org) and implemented it.

A very Special Thanks to the S.E.R. UN-Team: Ms. Erika Braendle (coordination Switzerland), Ms. Josefine Brecht (coordination Germany), Ms. Jennifer Kuhle and Mr. Frank Moehle (Admin-charge of the global-balance website), Ms. Heike Boehi (compilation of the reports), Mr. Christopher Maehl (S.E.R. Certificate of Appreciation), Ms. Rebecca Hagmann (documentation) and Ms. Rita Jakob (evaluation).

## 9 Addenda

1. Resolution for Peace in the Holy Land, S.E.R. Foundation, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2000

**“ A resolution for peace in the Holy Land by calling the United Nations to declare holy shrines in Jerusalem under the spiritual heritage of humanity.”**

## **RESOLUTION FOR PEACE**

Whereas, through the millennia the evil cause of wars and destruction in the Holy Land is the question of ownership, control and possession of holy shrines.

Whereas, these holy shrines are places of worship by Moslems, Jews and Christians, numbering billions of people.

Whereas, these places will continue to be holy to these billions of people as part of the spiritual heritage of the whole humanity.


Now, therefore, for the above reasons, the Foundations hereunder as well as other peacemakers hereby urge the United Nations through Secretary General Kofi Annan to declare these holy shrines under the spiritual heritage of the whole humanity and to be administrated and supervised by said international body.

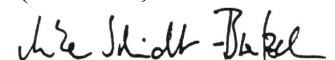
Jerusalem, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2000

S.E.R. Stiftung CH  
Foundation for subjective  
experiments and research

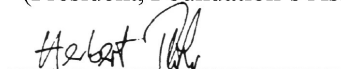
  
Romulo Valera Tajon  
(Member, Board of Directors)

S.E.R.-Gemeinschaftsstiftung  
Foundation for Subjective  
Experiments and Research  
(Germany)

  
Prof. Dr. Klaus Kniffki  
(Chairman, Board of Directors)

  
Anke Schmidt-Bratzel  
(President, Foundation's Assembly)

Begegnungsstätte Stiftung Waldhof  
GmbH (Germany)

  
Herbert Peifer  
(Managing Director)

S.E.R.-Kinderhilfe e.V., Wesel  
(Germany)

  
Helga Röhling  
(Chairman, Board of Directors)



2. Resolution for a UN-World-Reconciliation Day, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2003

**Resolution for UN World Reconciliation Day**

"A RESOLUTION TO IMPORE THE UNITED NATIONS THRU SEC. GEN. KOFI ANNAN TO  
DECLARE THE LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH OF APRIL OF EACH YEAR AS UN  
WORLD RECONCILIATION DAY."

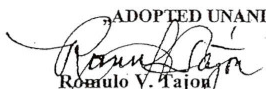
WHEREAS, the major task of the United Nations is to promote world peace and order, security and  
equality, human right and dignity.

WHEREAS, to fulfill this vision demands refocusing world consciousness in seeking means and  
ways of mitigating confrontations and conflicts in sensitive areas such as economic, political, social,  
culture and religion.

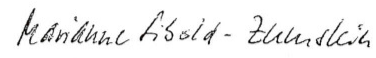
WHEREAS, RECONCILIATION uplift the human mind to reach out and build structures that foster  
mutual interaction and responsorial dialogue as shown by various inter-religious rites and traditions  
practiced around the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the undersigned officers of the hereafter named organizations, do hereby,  
and by virtue of this Resolution, implore the United Nations thru the Secretary General, the  
Honorable Kofi Annan, to designate the last Saturday of the month of April of each year as  
UN World Reconciliation Day.

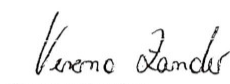
ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY, this 14th of DECEMBER, 2003, AT, WALDHOF PLACE, BAD EILSEN, GERMANY

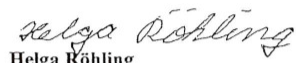
  
Romulo V. Tajon  
Vorstand, SER Stiftung D (UN NGO Consultant)

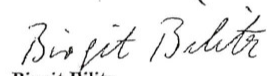
  
Prof. Dr. Stanislaus von Kohn  
Vorstandsvorsitzender, SER Stiftung D (UN NGO Consultant)

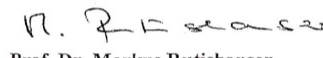
  
Marianne Zumstein  
Präsidentin, SER Stiftung CH (UN NGO Consultant)

  
Gisela Kuhle  
Vorstand, Global Family e.V.

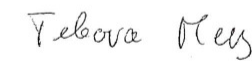
  
Verena Zander  
Vorstand, SER Stiftung NL

  
Helga Röhling  
Vorstand, SER Kinder Verein Wesel

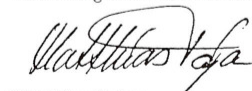
  
Birgit Bilitz  
Vorstand, ERGOSOM Verein D

  
Prof. Dr. Markus Rutishauser  
Vorstand, ERGOSOM Verein CH

  
Rektor Herbert Peifer  
Geschäftsführer, Begegnungsstätte Waldhof gGmbH

  
Tebora Merz  
Verwaltung Präsidentin Trustworld AG

  
Prof. Dr. Klaus Kniffki  
Vorstand, International Reconciliation Forum (i.g.)

  
Matthias Tajon  
Geschäftsführer, Global Balance (i.g.)

3. Draft for an International Year of Reconciliation 2009, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006,  
A/61/L.22

United Nations

A/61/L.22



## General Assembly

Distr.: Limited  
13 November 2006

Original: English

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**Sixty-first session**

Agenda item 150

**International Year of Reconciliation, 2009**

**Argentina, Brazil, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua:  
draft resolution**

**International Year of Reconciliation, 2009**

*The General Assembly,*

*Bearing in mind* the Charter of the United Nations, including the purposes and principles contained therein, and in particular those of saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war, bringing about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace, and practising tolerance and living together in peace with one another as good neighbours, thus developing friendly relations among nations and promoting international cooperation to resolve international economic, social, cultural and humanitarian issues,

*Recognizing* that reconciliation processes are particularly necessary and urgent in countries and regions of the world which have suffered or are suffering situations of conflict that have affected and divided societies in their various internal, national and international facets,

*Recognizing also* that many of the activities of the United Nations system in general and the international community as a whole to support peacekeeping and peacebuilding, conflict prevention, disarmament, sustainable development, the promotion and protection of human rights and dignity, democracy, the rule of law and governance, inter alia, lead to the initiation and development of reconciliation processes,

*Aware* that dialogue among opponents from positions of respect and tolerance is an essential element of peace and reconciliation,

*Aware also* that truth and justice are indispensable elements for the attainment of reconciliation and lasting peace,

*Bearing in mind* the role of the media in reporting on reconciliation processes,

*Convinced* that the declaration of an International Year of Reconciliation at the end of the first decade of the new Millennium will provide the international community with the opportunity to pursue, with the active involvement of all stakeholders, efforts to develop reconciliation processes, which are necessary to and a condition for the establishment of firm and lasting peace,

1. *Expresses* its steadfast determination to pursue reconciliation processes in those societies that are affected and/or divided by conflicts;

2. *Decides* to proclaim 2009 the International Year of Reconciliation;

3. *Invites* concerned Governments and international and non-governmental organizations to support reconciliation processes among affected and/or divided societies and to plan and implement adequate cultural, educational and social programmes to promote the concept of reconciliation, including holding conferences and seminars and disseminating information about the issue.

4. UN Resolution for an International Year of Reconciliation 2009,  
November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006, A/61/L.22/Add.1

United Nations

A/61/L.22/Add.1



**General Assembly**

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20 November 2006

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**Sixty-first session**

Agenda item 150

**International Year of Reconciliation, 2009**

**Argentina, Brazil, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua:  
draft resolution**

**International Year of Reconciliation, 2009**

**Addendum**

Add the following countries to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution:

**Chile, Costa Rica, Mauritius, Panama, Philippines and Rwanda**

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06-62301 (E) 211106



5.Excerpt by S.E.R. Foundation of the 61<sup>st</sup> session, agenda item 150,  
November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006



FOUNDATION FOR SUBJECTIVE EXPERIENCE AND RESEARCH S.E.R.

S.E.R. Foundation  
Germany

S.E.R. Foundation  
Netherlands

S.E.R. Foundation  
Switzerland

Global Balance Foundation  
Germany

Sixty-first General Assembly  
Plenary  
56<sup>th</sup> Meeting (AM)

**Excerpt** by S.E.R. – Foundation D

### **International Year of Reconciliation**

A draft resolution on the International Year of Reconciliation, 2009 (document A/61/L.22) would have the Assembly, recognizing that reconciliation processes are particularly necessary and urgent in countries and regions of the world having suffered, or which are suffering, from situations of conflict that have affected and divided societies in their various internal, national and international facets, decide to proclaim 2009 the International Year of Reconciliation.

It would also invite concerned Governments and international and non-governmental organizations to support reconciliation processes among affected and/or divided societies and to plan and implement adequate cultural, educational and social programmes to promote the concept of reconciliation, including holding conferences and seminars and disseminating information about the issue.

Introducing the text, Nicaragua's representative said that the Year was a vehicle for creating a fraternal human society, based on values such as truth and justice, and for restoring the unity of mankind now separated by ethnic, religious and other kinds of conflicts. Reconciliation between those estranged by conflicts was the only way to confront today's challenges and the process and practice of reconciliation must be promoted by States; between men and women, nature and humanity, and wherever fraternity and justice were absent from human relations. It provided new paradigms for the concept that it was impossible to live without others, but that it was possible to live in peace with them. The initiative had the support of Governments, institutions of higher learning, civil society groups, the alliance of civilizations and the culture of peace.

He said that there was no true human culture as long as war was considered an acceptable way of dealing with problems. Reconciliation was a way of embedding into culture the high ideals beyond petty concerns, a process that made humanity and the common good the cornerstone of development. Reconciliation between those estranged by conflicts was the only way to confront today's challenges and the process and practice of reconciliation must be promoted by States; between men and women, nature and humanity, and wherever fraternity and justice were absent from human relations. The initiative had the support of governments, institutions of higher learning, civil society groups, the alliance of civilizations and the culture of peace.

Next, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote.

\* \* \* \* \*



## 6. S.E.R. Action Plan for the International Reconciliation Year 2009



**Foundation for Subjective Experience and Research S.E.R.**

S.E.R. Foundation D S.E.R. Foundation NL S.E.R. Foundation CH

www.ser-stiftung.de www.ser-foundation.nl www.ser-foundation.ch www.global-balance.org

### 2009 International Reconciliation Year

#### **The Action Plan 2009**

#### **To support Implement UN Eight (8) MDGs**

Press Relation Activities ( P.R.O.): S.O.P

Course of Action - Collective Task Force

1. UN Member States and NGOs will be collectively mobilized.
2. UN-DPI, Print Media, TV & other medium will be harnessed.
3. Schools, Colleges and Universities world wide involvement.
4. National & International clubs, Associations, and Unions participation.
5. Churches and Religious Orders and Lay Leaders involvement.

THEME:

### The Millennium Challenge - "Human Reconciliation"

#### **A. Monthly Activities**

There shall be programmes conducted in different forms portraying "reconciliation" as bridge in all levels of human differences with the **"Motto - Unity in Diversity"** either seminars, congresses, or forums which may be organized publicly or privately.

#### **B. Debates or Essay Writing Contests**

It shall be conducted in all Colleges and Universities worldwide with the winners to be awarded with prizes or Trophies. Topic:  
**"Resolve that Reconciliation is necessary for Peace, Order and Justice."**

### **C. Creative Work**

Music Composition Contest or Song Festival for Choir, Duet, Quartet, or other mix voices contests with the winners receiving money awards or gift certificates which will be awarded by award-winning personalities.

### **D. Documentary Films Award**

Film-making contest depicting historical events or human experiences with reconciliation message which will be handed by award-winning personalities.

### **E. Musical Presentation**

KIMUKU musical presentation and the awarding of Plaque of Appreciation to be handed out by High Government personality/ties.

### **F. Sport and Development:**

A network of organisations using sports for peacebuilding and reconciliation will be created. Best Practise will be documented and later published. An award for an outstanding project will be given at the end of the year.

### **G. Award Ceremonies**

Awards will be handed over either in New York (or elsewhere) with UN Sec. Gen. Ban Ki-moon & The President, UN General Assembly, to culminate **the Reconciliation Year 2009.**

**-oOo-**

### **UN PROCLAMATION: 2009 International Reconciliation Year GA/10536, 61st GA, Plenary Session, 56th Meeting (AM)**

" The Assembly, recognizing that reconciliation processes are particularly necessary and urgent in countries and regions of the world which had suffered, or were suffering, situations of conflict that had affected and divided societies in their various internal, national and international facets, proclaimed **2009 the International Year of Reconciliation.**"

## 7. S.E.R. Invitation for the International Reconciliation Year 2009



**FOUNDATION FOR SUBJECTIVE EXPERIENCE AND RESEARCH S.E.R.**

S.E.R. Foundation  
Germany

S.E.R. Foundation  
Netherlands

S.E.R. Foundation  
Switzerland

Global Balance Foundation  
Germany

### **Invitation to the International Year of Reconciliation 2009**

Dear Colleagues,  
Dear Friends

***Reconciliation is high-minded diplomatic leadership and statesmanship in action.***

The United Nations (UN) have recognized this potential and have declared **2009 as International Year of Reconciliation**.

The S.E.R. Foundation, an NGO with advisory status at the UN ECOSOC, also associated with the UN DPI, which has called for a world-wide Reconciliation Week every year since 2005, cordially invites you to play an active part in the International Year of Reconciliation 2009, so coming closer to the joint vision of peace, order and justice.

**For the International Year of Reconciliation 2009 the S.E.R. Foundation has worked out an Action Plan to support the eight (8) MDGs** ([www.global-balance.org](http://www.global-balance.org)), which has found the support and approval of the UN-General Secretariate, ECOSOC, and DPI. Within the framework of this Action Plan and within the bounds of possibility, you are invited to realise concrete projects and activities in your country.

The project should portray Reconciliation as a bridge between all levels of human difference under the motto: **"Unity in Diversity"**.

Activities can take the form of debates, projects and competitions in the field of literature, music, film, formative arts, sport and science, as well as every other kind of engagement with reconciliation as its aim. If you would further like to convert your own ideas to this theme, then you are cordially invited to do so. If you would like to carry out a competition, then the judgement and prize-giving lie in your hands.

All further information can be found under [www.global-balance.org](http://www.global-balance.org) in various languages.

The S.E.R. Foundation cannot give financial support, but instead does its share in the networking, organization and documentation of the project.

### **Take Action! ACT NOW!**

We would be pleased to receive notification of your activities under [www.global-balance.org](http://www.global-balance.org), and would ask you, on completion of your project, for a short report, if possible in English, for the purpose of setting up a documentation. If a competition is organized, we would ask you to let us know which contributions were awarded a prize. The registration details can be obtained from the same Homepage.

We thank you very much for your interest and look forward to your participation.

With kind regards  
S.E.R. Foundation

[www.ser-stiftung.de](http://www.ser-stiftung.de)

[www.ser-foundation.nl](http://www.ser-foundation.nl)

[www.ser-foundation.ch](http://www.ser-foundation.ch)

[www.global-balance.org](http://www.global-balance.org)

8. S.E.R. Certificate of Appreciation

## S. E. R. Foundation

FOUNDATION FOR SUBJECTIVE EXPERIENCE AND RESEARCH  
CONSULTATIVE STATUS ECOSOC UNITED NATIONS, ASSOCIATED WITH UNDPI

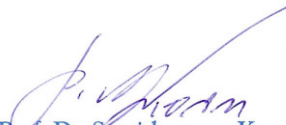


THIS  
*Certificate of Appreciation*  
IS HEREBY AWARDED TO

WITH GRATITUDE FOR THE PARTICIPATION IN THE  
**S. E. R. ACTIONPLAN**  
WITH THE EXEMPLARY RECONCILIATION PROJECT:

DURING THE  
**2009 UNITED NATIONS  
INTERNATIONAL YEAR  
OF RECONCILIATION**

*Witnesses:*

  
Prof. Dr. Stanislaus von Korn  
Presiding Chairman  
S.E.R. Foundation, Germany  
Board of Directors

  
Romulo V. Tajon  
Chairman  
Head, S.E.R. UN Affairs  
UN Main Representative

  
Marianne Sibold-Zumstein  
President  
S.E.R. Foundation Switzerland  
Board of Management



9. Petition for a Reconciliation Decade to all Sovereign Member States through their Permanent Representatives to the United Nations NY HQ



## **Sustainable Peace Through Reconciliation**

Petition Imploring the United Nations' (UN) General Assembly to  
declare 2011-2020

As

**Global Reconciliation Decade**

**2011-2020**



**Foundation for Subjective Experience and Research, S.E.R.**

[www.ser-foundation.de](http://www.ser-foundation.de) [www.ser-foundation.ch](http://www.ser-foundation.ch) [www.ser-foundation.nl](http://www.ser-foundation.nl)  
[www.global-balance.org](http://www.global-balance.org)

## I. The Vision

In 2006 the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) proclaimed the Year **2009 as International Year of Reconciliation** (A/Res/61/22).

The vision behind it is to foster a humanistic world community where **peace, order and justice govern**.

To deal with the injuries of the past dialogue and reconciliation are needed. People of all cultures throughout history have successfully used this method and have shown that every success in the reconciliation processes opened up the way to new hopeful beginning.

**The International Reconciliation Year 2009 is a valuable first step. It is however necessary to prolong it, for the processes of building sustainable peace and understanding need time to unfold.**

## II. Purpose

Meaningful conversations require the readiness and willingness of conflicting parties involved to resolve their differences. Only by their preparedness to dialogue enables a **peaceful community** to translate the axiom: "Unity in Diversity" into a living reality. Stable governmental structures and assured Human Rights are other prerequisites. They open a space where people can communicate and listen to each other, convince each other to assume civil responsibility. Reconciliation practices can be found in various tradition-rich religions and cultures. Worldwide, Truth- and Reconciliation Commissions can be organized.

**A Global Reconciliation Decade will enhance magnanimous awareness geared towards sustainable peace and humanistic civil society.**

## III. Topics

- Education, Social and Cultural Affairs, Values and Ethics
- Financial and Economic fields
- Disarmament, Human Rights and humanitarian principles of law, e.g. amendment of the Geneva Conventions to include Reconciliation in solving conflicts
- Healthcare (Human beings and animals), Environmental- and Climate fields, fair sharing of resources
- Foster respect and development of indigenous cultures and practices
- Athletics as conflict prevention or as reconciliation medium.

## IV. Procedure

**All Sovereign Member States through their Permanent Representatives in the United Nations are requested to submit a PETITION for a Reconciliation Decade or support submitted ones.**

## V. Petitioner

The **Foundation for Subjective Experience and Research, S.E.R.**, proposed an action plan for the International Reconciliation Year 2009, where projects are collected and installed at: **HYPERLINK [http:// www.global-balance.org](http://www.global-balance.org)**