

# BOUNDARY PEACE INITIATIVE

## Women legislators release appeal for common security and nuclear disarmament

By: The Basel Peace Office Team: Western Europe office for PNND]

Governments must make better use of diplomacy, international law and common security mechanisms in order to prevent war and adequately address climate change and nuclear threats, according an international appeal released in Geneva today by women parliamentarians from around the world.

The appeal, Common security for a sustainable and nuclear-weapon-free world, was released to commemorate Women's International Day for Peace and Disarmament (May 24) and to give support to Securing our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament, the new disarmament agenda released in Geneva today by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

*'We are deeply concerned about the existential threats to humanity and the environment from climate change, nuclear weapons and unresolved international conflicts, especially those between nuclear-reliant countries,'* said Dr Hedy Fry, MP (Canada), Co-Chair of the Canada Section of PNND and Special Representative on Gender Issues for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

*'The withdrawal by the United States from the Iran Nuclear deal and the cancellation of the US/North Korea Summit only adds to these concerns,'* says Dr Fry. *'As such, we welcome the peace and security initiative launched today by the United Nations Secretary-General – to "pursue disarmament to save humanity, disarmament that saves lives and disarmament for future generations."*

*'The increased threats of nuclear-weapons-use by accident, miscalculation or intent led the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists earlier this year to move the hands of the Doomsday Clock to 2 Minutes to Midnight,'* says Margret Kiener Nellen MP (Switzerland), President of the Swiss delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

*'Nuclear reliant governments must reverse these trends by taking all weapons systems off high alert, committing to never use nuclear weapons first, and commencing negotiations on the complete*

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(From last column) **Women legislators prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons, as urged by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.'**

The appeal calls on governments, parliaments and civil society to act together to implement these goals.

*'The first step is for all nuclear-reliant states to implement the call of the UN Secretary-General to "ensure that the 72-year practice of the non-use of nuclear weapons continues indefinitely and is universally understood to be an inviolable norm,"* says Alyn Ware, PNND Global Coordinator. *'The non-nuclear countries have made an important complementary action to this by negotiating last year a Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We look forward to ratification and entry into force of this treaty.'*

*'Those countries that still rely on nuclear weapons for their security should phase out nuclear deterrence, replacing it with international law, common security mechanisms and verified multilateral disarmament,'* says Baroness Sue Miller (UK), PNND Co-President.

*'The United Nations was established with an array of mechanisms through which nations can resolve conflicts, negotiate disarmament and achieve security through diplomacy not war,'* says Baroness Miller. *'These have been supplemented by additional common security mechanisms such as the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe. A better use of these mechanisms could help facilitate nuclear disarmament.'*

*'In addition, the nuclear arms race costs over \$100 billion annually,'* says Ute Finckh-Krämer (Germany), former Deputy-Chair of the Bundestag Subcommittee on Disarmament and Arms Control. *'These resources could be better used to reverse climate change, eliminate poverty and fulfill other social and economic needs,'* says Uta Zapf (Germany), PNND Past President and former Chair of the Bundestag Subcommittee on Disarmament and Arms Control.

*'The new peace and security initiative of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres arrives at the right moment. We have to end the dangerous arms race and we have to press states that rely on nuclear weapons and nuclear deterrence to put an end to these dangerous policies and strive instead for common security and peace.'*

*'I call on all countries in the world to support this initiative,'* says Ms Zapf. *'I ask all countries instead of financing arms races to use the money for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.'*

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(From page 1) **Women legislators**

Rama Mani, Member of the World Future Council, is positive that peace and disarmament will unfold as civil society and governments cooperate more. *'Soon... We shall hear the clattering, as their guns fall to the floor, As their missiles return to their hangars, As our resolve dissolves Their determination to destroy each other. ...Soon.'*

The statement [Common security for a sustainable and nuclear-weapon-free world](#) has been [endorsed by legislators](#) from Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, Germany, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lichtenstein, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Yours in peace

*The Basel Peace Office Team*

*Western Europe office for PNND*

**STATEMENT OF CONDEMNATION OF THE IMPERIALIST AGGRESSION AGAINST SYRIA**

By: World Peace Council Athens 14th April 2018

The World Peace Council (WPC) denounces vehemently today's morning criminal raid by the imperialists of the USA, Great Britain and France against Syria. The bombing of Syrian targets on the pretext of the use of chemical weapons by the Syrian Army in the east of the capital, which was once more never confirmed, took place only a few days after Syria prevailed over armed mercenaries in East Ghouta and the evacuation of the area which began to return to relative normality.

The hasty imperialist attack with more than 100 missiles, and with the USA-Britain-France, claiming themselves role of "prosecutors, judges and punishers", is provoking the peace-loving feelings of the overwhelming majority of the peoples of the world, and underlines the real goal of the imperialists which is the realization of their plan for a "New Middle East", to control the sources and roads of energy, spheres of influence and markets, with the violent change of governments and the establishment of friendly regimes.

The WPC did never have the slightest doubt about the goals of the imperialists in the Middle East. We note in particular that the current missile attack against Syria has been tolerated and supported by NATO and the EU, organisms that before the attack and after it in their first statements agree with the context, spirit and substance of the barbaric imperialist assault.

The WPC expresses its firm solidarity and support with the Syrian people, who have been confronted with the imperialist plans for seven years, and calls on the members and friends of the WPC to mobilize and condemn the aggression against Syria and to be vigilant for possible future attacks.

*No in the imperialist aggression in Syria. No in the imperialist wars.*

*Long live the internationalist solidarity of the peoples!*

**April 14, 2018 B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition Conference Minutes**

(As compiled by Peter Kerr and Laura Savinkoff continued from June issue)

*\*Please contact Laura if you want the reports at [L4peace@telus.net](mailto:L4peace@telus.net) or (250) 444-0524.*

Laura reported that Sandra Hartline has resigned from the **Resolutions Committee and Don Currie agreed to replace Sandra, joining Laura and Peter Kerr**. The role of the committee is to review resolutions brought to the coalition and prepare any statements agreed upon by the BCSIPC. Laura encouraged all to share information through the regional reps among all regions and also encouraged participation across the regions. It was discussed that this committee should be renamed as the **Communications Committee** since its role is not only to deal with Resolutions but to serve as Regional Representatives. All agreed.

Bank Account- Laura reported that the treasurer for BCSIPC, Christine Thompson, was unable, due to health reasons, to provide a financial statement. According to the bank statement as of March 31, 2018 there is \$237.08 in the account. Since then, Laura spent about \$15 for printing conference materials. Regarding regional groups' contributions to the BCSIPC—the USCC (Union of Spiritual Communities of Christ) and KRUNA (Kootenay Region of the United Nations Association) both owe payments to BCSIPC. J.J. said he'd ensure the payments are made promptly.

Laura will need to travel to the Canadian Peace Congress (CPCCon) AGM in the fall and will need financial support. She is not sure what the structure for financial support from the CPCCon will be so the BCSIPC needs to be prepared to off-set at least a portion of the cost.

Laura presented a request to coordinate the screening of "Flin Flon Flim Flam". But a showing is already set for September 26th in Salmon Arm and September 27<sup>th</sup> in Nelson. The film maker will be travelling with the film which is about Hudbay Minerals operations in Flin Flon, Manitoba as well as in Arizona, Guatemala and Peru. These dates have developed since the email came to Laura, so it will be up to the BPI if they show it in Grand Forks or not.

Laura asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the Canadian Peace Congress report **{Attachment #8}**. Don Currie reported on demonstrations in Winnipeg at the U.S. consulate and in Regina at the office of Ralph Goodale, Liberal Member of Parliament for Regina-Wascana and Public Safety Minister regarding the attack by

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(From page 2) **B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition** the USA on Syria on the morning of this conference.

Laura was asked to inquire of the CPCOn if they are associated with any other International or National organizations, besides the World Peace Council. Laura apologized for being remiss in passing on greetings from Ed Lehman of the Regina Peace Council to the BCSIPC **{Attachment #9}**.

#### **Resolutions:**

Amber from the Kelowna Peace Group *{this will not be attached to the minutes because the work is not completed}* submitted a resolution on the U.S. and Canada's military exploits. It is a complex resolution which some feel needs to be gone over more thoroughly, possibly to break it down into separate resolutions or have it re-worded to be more clear and concise. But all agreed in principle to its content with the suggestion that the stats be Canadian rather than USA. It was agreed to send it to the resolutions committee to look at. *{Once the reworked resolution is approved by the Communication Committee it will be circulated among the members before being sent to MPs}*.

Peter wrote a resolution regarding the need for the Canadian government to sign on to the first international treaty banning nuclear weapons. Mark suggested taking out the last paragraph. This resolution was approved. **{Attachment #10}**

Peter also wrote a letter of solidarity to the students and teachers and all affected by the shooting at Stoneman Douglas School in Florida. Mark suggested changing "millions of innocent people" to "millions of innocent students" in the last sentence. Madelyn suggested it also be sent to the B.C. Ministry of Education as a reminder that this can happen here; this is not only a USA problem. All agreed. **{Attachment #11}**

A resolution on liquefied natural gas (LNG) was submitted by the BPI. Carol recommended taking out "bitumen" since the issue in this particular resolution was LNG. All agreed. **{Attachment #12}**

#### **Afternoon:**

Discussion facilitated by Mark Haley: The 17<sup>th</sup> and 38<sup>th</sup> Parallels: Viet Nam, Korea and the threats to Peace.

Mark referred to the book by Stephen Gowans- Patriots, Traitors and Empire- The Story of Korea's Struggle for Freedom. The Voice of Women for Peace sent a delegation to North Korea- Women Cross the DMZ that was held a year or so ago, explained Madelyn. Don gave an overview of what he lived through during the years of the Korean War and stated there has not yet been a peace treaty. There is hope, though, given that the North and South were able to come together during the Olympics. From that have come the upcoming talks between these two entities and the possibility of a summit with the USA. J.J. and Madelyn spoke about a resolution on Korea. J.J. made the point that international law was an anchor that backed up efforts to bring about disarmament in the region  
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(From last column)**B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition**

and throughout the world, wherever and whenever conflicts arose. We must be more diligent on citing UN and International Law in our statements and resolutions, JJ suggested and all agreed. The International Food Grains Bank is matching donations from Castlegar to North Korea. The point was made that we can use international means /laws to solve problems but must be aware of the possibilities of manipulation by the 'powers that be' of those laws. A parallel was given with the protests against Kinder Morgan whereby the economic costs are raised above the need to protect our environment so we can all live. Don asked how international law can be more effectively used and a discussion ensued. It was decided that a Resolution or statement needs to be put forward. In discussing the resolution on Korea, the point was made that there should be support for negotiation without resorting to war and violence. Denuclearization should be on the table- anything that will bring both sides to that point. From current reports we hear South Korea is willing to negotiate therefore, North Korea is prepared to discuss denuclearization of the peninsula. And as of a few days ago the USA is also willing to sit down for talks. This is hopeful. Don was asked to write a draft of the resolution/statement on Korea. **{Attachment #13}**

#### **Palestine:**

Debbie Hubbard spoke on behalf of Susan Ghattas of the Vernon Palestine Study Group about the situation in Gaza, including the Canadian Boat to Gaza Committee. The Great March for Return started on March 30<sup>th</sup>, a six-week march near Gaza's southern border with Israel to protest Israel's blockade of Palestinian territory as well as the right of Palestinians to return to their ancestral lands. Various groups were mentioned: Jewish Voices for Peace (US), We Are Not Numbers, and Another Voice- Jews in Support of Gaza people. Thirty-three Palestinians have been killed since the beginning of the protests Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority and President of the State of Palestine is seen as being complicit with Israel. Hamas is the government in Gaza. Medical help is needed for casualties. There are demands for a national embargo on Israel. Fifteen Canadian Members of Parliament have recently returned from a trip to Israel and the West Bank where they met with Palestinians. There is a request from the Canadian Boat to Gaza to write to Prime Minister Trudeau about violations of international law. **{Attachments # 14 & #15}**

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#### **Our Mission**

The Boundary Peace Initiative represents people of diverse backgrounds officially brought together in 2002 because of our mutual concern for the rise in world conflict. Our mandate is to participate in multilateral non-violent conflict resolution in support of global human rights, ecological and environmental sustainability and international law through education, sharing of information, dialogue and activism locally and globally. We encourage and seek your participation in our mutual work for true peace based on social justice, equality, accountability, integrity, honour, respect, etc in order to build a better world today and future generations.

**BPI web site: [www.boundarypeaceinitiative.org](http://www.boundarypeaceinitiative.org)**

***BPI meetings are suspended until at least 3 people commit to meet monthly. For information call (250) 444-0524 or email [L4peace@telus.net](mailto:L4peace@telus.net).***

## What's Up?

The BPI has no events planned for July but do take in Canada Day if you can.

August brings the commemoration of the victims of nuclear weapons so watch for announcements of venues for August 6<sup>th</sup> Hiroshima Day and August 9<sup>th</sup> Nagasaki Day.

**Video** of the Sept. 21, 2017 Walk the Drum and Peace Concert are available for \$10 a set. To order call Laura at 250-444-0524 or email at [L4peace@telus.net](mailto:L4peace@telus.net)

*Those who love peace must learn to organize as effectively as those who love war.*

*Martin Luther King Jr.*

The BPI welcomes your input. Articles are the author's responsibility and may not be common consensus of members. To submit articles contact Laura at **250-444-0524** or email **L4peace@telus.net**. The BPI is a member of: BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition, Canadian Peace Congress, Abolition 2000, Lawyers Against the War and an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. We work with a wide range of local and global peace, social justice and environmental groups.

Voice your opinion to the Prime Minister and all MPs. Free postage: {Name of MP}, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6  
Go to the Government of Canada website for MP contact information at <http://www.canada.gc.ca>

## (From page 3) **B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition Syria:**

Regarding the attack on Syria after an intense discussion it was agreed that a Press Release must go out as soon as possible. Don was asked to draft a statement to be approved by the Communications Committee and then sent to all MPs and local media. The statement must include the condemnation of the U.S. attack on Syria that worsens the struggle for peace in the region when there is a diplomatic path to be taken, accepting the will of the people and their choice for governance—respecting the sovereignty of Syria. The attack by the U.S.-U.K.-France is illegal and a violation of international norms and laws. This is an aggressive attack that in some consider suspect; an inspection team was on its way to check if nerve gas/chemical weapons were used but was pre-empted by the bombing. We agreed that the presence of Russia in Syria is at the invitation of President Assad and his government and is in line with the policy of the U.S. and international law. The USA states it is concerned about the presence of terrorists in the region and that it is there to stop terrorism. We need to state unequivocally that we do not accept that more violence will end the war, stop the flood of refugees and the destruction of yet another country. It was noted that there are many organizations in the U.S. pushing back against the bombing attacks. Richard Cannings, MP, read the NDP statement **{Attachment #20}** regarding the attack on Syria **{Attachment #14}** and did agree with the basic content of our discussion. All agreed to trust the Communications Committee to encapsulate the discussion and get the press release out by the end of the following week. **{Attachment #16}** Attached here is also the statement from the VOW **{Attachment #17}** and the CPCon **{Attachment #18}** on Syria, received after the conference.

Richard Cannings was asked what he thought would be the result of the Kinder Morgan Pipeline protests and the B.C. government stance. He stated that the Federal NDP is against the pipeline and suggests the B.C. Government proceed with Court actions. He stated that the 'power/voice of the people', who will ultimately resolve the issue, just like with the Clayoquot Sound protests. He encouraged us to continue to stand up to those who are short sighted in assessing the detrimental effects of a bitumen spill. As a biologist he is aware of the dangers posed by this product and that we must be more diligent in transitioning from fossil fuel. All thanked Richard for taking time out of a very busy day to drop in and share his thoughts with us.

### **Announcements:**

In May in Naramata there will be a Truth and Reconciliation Commission meeting.

Two Peace Awards were presented by Mark; one to a long time peace activist and long time active member of the BCSIPC Dora Stewart. She was moved and surprised to receive this small token of our appreciation. The other award was granted to a man known by the Kelowna group and in need of endorsements to help get funding for a very worthy project to help youth get out or avoid gang affiliation **{Attachment #19}**

We did have a very short discussion regarding this award put forward by the Kelowna Peace Group. There was consideration for this becoming an annual event at the spring conference where the hosting group chooses the recipients from their community. The recipients need not be members of the BCSIPC but people who have contribute to peace in some way. No firm decision was reached but we can put this on the agenda for the fall conference, along with a discussion on format and structure of our conferences that would include a section for current events and business arising from the minutes.

The Fall conference will be hosted by the Boundary Peace Initiative in Grand Forks.