

## **Declaration from the International Conference in Saint Petersburg, Russia**

### **PEACE, NATURE, COOPERATION IN THE BALTIC AND ARCTIC REGIONS**

**September 21 – 22, 2024**

To:

- The governments and members of parliaments in the Baltic and Arctic regions
- The United Nations (UN)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
- The Arctic Council
- The Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC)
- Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (also known as the Helsinki Commission HELCOM)
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- the Legislative Assemblies of St. Petersburg and the Leningrad Region

To mark the United Nations International Day of Peace, approximately 100 participants from Russia, European countries, the United States and Canada met in Saint Petersburg off- and online to discuss the current situation of the militarization of the Baltic and Arctic regions, the increasing risks of global military confrontation and the links to the worsening climate and other environmental crises.

The participants called for an immediate halt to the escalation of the war in Ukraine and urge the Western Powers to stop weapons deliveries to Ukraine as well as all parties sincerely to work for a permanent peaceful solution of the conflict.

Furthermore, the participants call for the following:

- Instead of the militarized concept of security put emphasis on human and common security, prioritize peace, climate cooperation, environmental sustainability, equitable resource distribution as well as social, health and education security. Also prioritize United Nations initiatives, resolutions and treaties.
- Move the money from the military to urgent human and environmental needs.
- Russia must be included in all future Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) meetings to address the gravity of the environmental situation in the Baltic Sea. We call for joint large scale clean-up operations.
- The work of the Arctic Council must be restored and include Russia's full participation. Furthermore, cooperation between Indigenous people across the Arctic borders should be encouraged.
- The elimination of the nuclear threat and that the Arctic and Baltic states sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW); as a first step removal of nuclear weapons from high-alert status, extension of warning times and adoption of a policy of no first use of nuclear weapons; enhanced preparedness for potential radioactive emissions from nuclear-powered vessels in Arctic and Baltic waters and the exclusion of all military activities around civil nuclear facilities as well as establishing safety zones around them.

The Arctic and Baltic regions should be made into nuclear-weapons-free and demilitarized zones of peace.

- Open borders, facilitation of interstate exchanges and restoring people-to people programs.
- Cultivation of a culture of peace. Implementing the UNESCO mandate to build peace through international cooperation within the fields of education, science, culture and communication which is vital to counter the present world tension and militarization. It is necessary to encourage renewed contact and cooperation with UNESCO and see the vision and program of a culture of peace as an important, comprehensive, humanistic framework for our common efforts to learn to live together peacefully.

Finally, the participants call for the restitution of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)'s inclusive mandate as a necessary framework for peace in Europe and the world.

We call for an OSCE Summit in 2025 to mark its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary – and in the spirit of the Helsinki Summit in 1975 – to include Russia and a broad spectrum of civil society.

We believe in the indivisibility of security, which means that no one is secure until everyone is secure. Peace is achieved by diplomacy, cooperation, “cross-border activities”, active involvement of the diaspora and a feminist agenda counting on protection, meaningful participation and prevention in all phases of the conflict.

***Signed by individual participants in the conference and other persons supporting the statement***

**Janny BEEKMAN** - the Netherlands

**Palle BENDSEN** – (NOAH Friends of the Earth Denmark) - **Denmark**

**Bruna BIANCHI** - (Scholar of pacifism and nonviolence) - **Italy**

**Oleg BODROV** – (Public Council of the Southern Coast of the Gulf of Finland) – **Russia**

**Magret BONIN** – (Peace Cooperation Committee GER-SH) - Germany

**Ingeborg BREINES** – (Former Chair of IPB and UNESCO Director) - Norway

**Isabelle CASEL** – (Deutscher Friedensrat) – **Germany**

**Quanta DAWN-LIGHT** – (Peace activist and promoter ) - **USA**

**Martha HENNESSY**– (Catholic Worker, Kings Bay Plowshares 7) - **USA**

**Frederik JANSSENS** – (Pax Christi Vlaanderen) – **the Netherlands**

**Lena JARLÖV**– (Women for Peace) - **Sweden**

**Lieve De KINDER** – (Leuven Peace Movement, Belgian Coalition Stop Uranium Weapons) - **Belgium**

**Mechthild KLINGENBURG-VOGEL** – (Kieler Friedensforum/Kiel Peace Forum) - **Germany**

**Ulla KLÖTZER** – (Women for Peace, Global Women for Peace United Against NATO- GWUAN) –  
**Finland**

**Johnny KRISTOFFERSEN** - (member of a group working for peace; Bottna För Fred) - **Sweden**

**Lea LAUNOKARI** – (Women for Peace, Global Women for Peace United Against NATO - GWUAN) –  
**Finland**

**Matteo LORENZINI** - (Researcher at Physics Department - University of Roma Tor Vergata) - **Italy**

**Tamara LORINCZ** – (Canadian organization Women's Voice for Peace -VOW) – **Canada**

**Christer LUNDGREN** – (journalist, member of the Folket i Bild association, and the No to NATO Network) – **Sweden**

**Eva BJÖRKANDER MANNHEIMER** – (phil.lic., peace activist) - **Sweden**

**Ellen MASS**– (Global Women for Peace United Against NATO - GWUAN) - **USA**

**Gloria McMILLAN** – (WILPF US DISARM Committee) - **USA**

**Heidi MEINZOLT** – (member of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom - WILPF and coordinator of a women's WG in the OSCE area) - **Germany**

**Merva MIKKOLA** – (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom- Finland) – **Finland**

**Luigi MOSCA** – (Abolition des Armes Nucléaires - Maison de Vigilance' association) – **France**

**Inggerd MUNICIO** - (Assoc. Prof. Emerita Political Science, member of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom –WILPF) - **Sweden**

**Diane NAHAS** – (anti-war activist associated with NukeWatch, Space4Peace, Molotov Club, Notdudol) – **USA**

**Agneta NORBERG** – (No to NATO, Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space) – **Sweden**

**Kristina OLSSON** – (member of a group working for peace; Bottna För Fred) - **Sweden**

**Guido OOGHE** - (Member of the board of the Antwerp Peace Chair, Member of the board of the Unesco Platform Flanders) - **Belgium**

**Helena RAEYMAEKERS** - (Women in Black Leuven) - **Belgium**

**Kyle Ann ROSS** - (activist for peace) - **USA**

**Kristiina RYTKÖNEN** – (Women for Peace) – **Finland**

**Nani SNEYERS** – (Women in Black Leuven) - **Belgium**

**Sondof RABBE** – (The Hardanger Academy for Peace, Development and Environment) - **Norway**

**Regine STEINVIK** - (Norwegian Peace organisation) - **Norway**

**David SWANSON**– (World BEYOND War) – **USA**

**Kerstin SYMMANK** - (Diplomatie statt Waffen) – **Germany**

**Olli TAMMILEHTO** – (writer and an old-line activist in Finnish environmental and peace movements )- **Finland**

**Liisa TASKINEN** - (Medical Doctor, retired; Peace WG of CP of Finland and European Left) - **Finland**

**Eric TERCLAEVERS** - (ICAN campaigner) – **Belgium**

**Florina TUFESCU** – (PhD, peace researcher, World BEYOND War – Romania, and WILPF International) – **Romania**

**Susanne URBAN** – (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom -WILPF) - **Norway**

**Ria VERJAUW** – (Coordinator Leuven Peace Movement) - **Belgium**

**Kathrin WINKLER** – (Nova Scotia Voice of Women for Peace) - **Canada**

**Ann WRIGHT** – (Colonel,Ret, US Army; Veterans For Peace) – **USA**

**Doris WÜNSCHMANN** – (Global Women for Peace United Against NATO–GWUAN and Diplomatie statt Waffen - DsW) - **Germany** – as well as (Ehrfurcht vor allem Leben -EVAL) - **Germany/Austria**

**Vera ZALKA** – (peace and social activist, Social Forum, Global Women for Peace United Against NATO - GWUAN) – **Hungary**

**Angie ZELTER** - (Trident Ploughshares) - **UK**