

PEACE EVENT SARAJEVO 2014

Invitation to the second Preparatory meeting in Sarajevo, March 22nd to 24th, 2013

The year 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I, which was triggered by the assassination of the Austrian heir to the throne in Sarajevo on June 28th, 1914. This can be seen as a symbolic date for a century of a "Culture of War and Violence" with two world wars and numerous regional wars - among them the one in the former Yugoslavian countries in the 1990's when Sarajevo suffered from the siege of the city in the "last war in Europe" - as well as for the global dominance of structural and cultural violence.

But the 20th and the beginning of the 21st century have also seen a world-wide rise of nonviolent activities and achievements as an alternative to war and violence and for global and social justice, human rights, peace and reconciliation which was reflected in the declaration of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence (2001–2010) by the United Nations. So, building on the experience of three "Salons de Paix" in Paris in the course of this Decade, the idea came up: Why not make Sarajevo the place to trigger a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence in 2014?

In September 2012 a first meeting of organizations interested in and thinking of organizing a Peace Event in Sarajevo 2014 took place, attended by several Bosnian and other European movements and NGOs¹. In this meeting the organizations present confirmed their willingness to organize a Peace Event in Sarajevo 2014, and to open up participation in the planning and realization to all those willing to contribute to a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence.

The proposed title for the Event is "**Peace Event Sarajevo 2014**" with the subtitle "***From a World of War and Violence to a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence***". We are aware that a change of paradigm like this will not happen within a few days, in one event, but that it is an ongoing process, and a series of initiatives all over the world in past years have shown that this shift is possible.

The shape or format of the Peace Event Sarajevo 2014 could be described in several circles:

- a *core event* of 3-4 days, possibly in mid June of 2014, which could be a meeting place for activists, practitioners and researchers of Active Nonviolence, a place of exchange and mutual empowerment, an opportunity to review the achievements and challenges so far, as well as a public testimony that "nonviolence works",
- an opportunity to present a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence in its diverse dimensions (history, education, sciences, gender, economy, arts, intercultural and interreligious dialogue, networking, peace policy, media, dealing with the past and reconciliation, ...) in the *public space*,
- the Peace Event could be embedded into a more extended series of events, a "*Season for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence*", e.g. from June till September 21st, the International Day of Peace,
- *geographically*, the circles could enclose the city of Sarajevo, the country of Bosnia- Hercegovina, the region of the former Yugoslavia, all of Europe and even the whole world with decentralized simultaneous events in many different places.

¹ Among them Mreža za izgradnju mira / Peace building Network (Bosnia-Hercegovina), Center for Nonviolent Action (Sarajevo), HCA Banja Luka & Tuzla, Caritas BiH, Nansen Dialog Center, REMI, Versöhnungsbund Austria, IALANA, International Network for a Culture of Nonviolence and Peace, Italian Network for Civil Peace Corps, Comitato Italiano per una Cultura di Pace e Nonviolenza, Nyitókör Egyesület from Hungary and HAC France.

We want to invite you to discuss with us about the different events, as we need the support of the international and national peace and social movements in the different countries.

The Preparatory meeting will take place in Sarajevo, Grand Hotel from March 22nd to March 24th.

It will start on Friday, March 22nd at 2.30pm and will end on Sunday 24th around 2pm (for details, please see the agenda enclosed).

We hope your organization is able to attend the meeting. Unfortunately, we are not able to provide any financial assistance for your participation to this meeting, which is why each participant has to take care for his own travelling and accommodation costs.

If it is possible for you to come to Sarajevo please inform us. Please bring information about your plans for 2014 with you to the meeting.

Please answer to Goran Bubalo at goran.bubalo@crs.org /telephone: 0038761211079, until March 15th the latest.

See you in Sarajevo!

Greetings

The Preparatory Organizing Committee:

David Abonyi (Nytókör Egyesület, Budapest)

Reiner Braun (IALANA, Berlin)

Goran Bubalo (Mreža za izgradnju mira / Peace building Network, Sarajevo)

Alessandro Capuzzo (Italian Network for Civil Peace Corps, Trieste)

Dragana Dardic (HCA Banja Luka & Tuzla, Banja Luka)

Bernard Dréano and Viviane Gendrot (HAC France, Paris)

Ljuljjeta Goranci Brkic (Nansen Dialog Center, Sarajevo)

Pete Hämmerle (Versöhnungsbund Austria, Wien)

Christian Renoux (International Network for a Culture of Nonviolence and Peace, Paris)

Zaira Zafarana (Comitato Italiano per una Cultura di Pace e Nonviolenza & MIR Italia, Torino)