

NEWSLETTER No.15

June 2016



9th INMP Conference to be held in Belfast (Northern Ireland, UK) in April 2017

As announced in the last newsletter, the 9th International Conference of Museums for Peace will take place 10th-13th April 2017 in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The dynamic and innovative city has been described as ‘a living museum city in the process of exceptional transformational change and conflict resolution’. The conference theme, *Cities as Living Museums for Peace*, highlights Belfast’s social and political transformation from a divided, troubled city to one which models peace consciousness through post-conflict healing and reconciliation. The conference will be co-hosted by Visit Belfast and Ulster University. Visit Belfast is a public/private sector partnership funded and supported by Belfast City Council, Tourism Northern Ireland and other partners. Ulster University’s Institute for Research in Social Sciences has many scholars working on issues dealing with the past, legacies, memory, commemoration and peace and reconciliation. Several local organisations, including at the grassroots level, are represented on the local conference steering committee.



Stormont Parliament Buildings in Belfast

The opening reception of the Conference will be held in Stormont, the parliament buildings of the government of Northern Ireland. This date (10th April) is the 19th anniversary of the historic Good Friday / Belfast Agreement, signed on this estate. The Conference presentations and meetings will be held on the Ulster University, Belfast campus. An optional pre-conference guided city tour, as well as post-conference field visits are planned. The field visits will include peace organisations and museums such as, potentially, Healing Through Remembering, Corrymeela (Northern Ireland's oldest peace and reconciliation organisation), and The Ulster Museum which contains a controversial photo exhibition on the history of the *Troubles*.



Titanic Belfast

The conference organizers in Belfast and local steering committee have been enthusiastically committed to making the conference successful. Belfast has been described as ‘one of the top ten world class conference locations’, and

is keen to attract conferences on peace and conflict resolution. A prime visitor attraction is the spectacular Titanic Belfast museum; the world's largest Titanic exhibition is a monument to the city's maritime heritage. Opened in 2012 on the centenary of Titanic's ill-fated maiden voyage, the museum is located on the famous shipyard where it was built.

The call for conference papers, panels, and poster presentations is posted on the INMP website. Please submit your proposals to museumsforpeace.org. As in previous international conferences, the programme aims to provide a balance between themes inspired by the host / local venue, and those which reflect the concerns of INMP members. We look forward to an inspirational and memorable conference which also marks the 25th anniversary of INMP.

U. S. President Barack Obama's Visit to Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park

It is not often that peace parks and peace museums make headline news around the world. Of course, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park is not just any peace park, nor is U. S. President Barack Obama just any visitor. His visit to the Peace Park and Museum on 27th May, lasting altogether just under two hours was widely covered and commented upon.



President Obama and Prime Minister Abe

In a ceremony at the Cenotaph, flanked by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, he laid a wreath and delivered a speech. He also met and embraced two survivors: 91-year-old Sunao Tsuboi, the Chairman of the Hiroshima Prefectural Confederation of Atomic-Bomb Sufferers Organisations, and 79-year-old Shigeaki Mori who spent decades researching the fates and tracing the families of American POWs, airmen who had been shot down over the Hiroshima area and detained.

He discovered twelve POWs who died on 6th August 1945, and spearheaded the creation of a memorial dedicated to them in Hiroshima.

President Obama signed the guest book in the museum, writing: 'We have known the agony of war. Let us now find the courage, together, to spread peace, and pursue a world without nuclear weapons'. This followed a short visit in the museum, rather different from that by John Kerry whose visit the previous month was the first by a U. S. Secretary of State. During a 50-minute tour, guided by museum director Kenji Shiga, Kerry was greatly moved by the artefacts and other exhibits, and commented that he had seen 'a display that I will personally never forget' and urged all world leaders to visit Hiroshima.



President Obama and an atomic bomb survivor, Mr. Shigeaki Mori

These 2016 visits to the city had been preceded, and in some ways prepared, by informal and formal visits of U. S. ambassador to Japan, John Roos in 2009 and 2010, and by his successor, Caroline Kennedy in 2014 and 2015. No serving U. S. president had visited the city before; when Jimmy Carter did so in 1984, he had long left office whereas Richard Nixon's visit in 1964 took place several years before he assumed the presidency.

Peace Boat (Japan) and Obama's Visit to Hiroshima

Among the many comments and reactions around the world about President Obama's visit to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park we reproduce the statement issued by *Peace Boat* on 1st June, entitled: *After words must come action – For a Nuclear-Free World: Together with the Hibakusha:*

'On May 27, 2016, Barack Obama became the

first sitting United States president to visit Hiroshima. Although his visit was rather limited, he met with Hibakusha, survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. For a president to hear the words of survivors in person is something for which not only Hibakusha organizations but also civil society groups from Japan and around the world, including Peace Boat, have long been calling for, this meeting was truly a historic occasion.

The president of the country that currently holds the world's largest nuclear force, and the only country to have used nuclear weapons, must be commended for facing the victims of these weapons. We would also like to express our respect for the efforts of Hibakusha, the Mayors and people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Governments of Japan and the US and other related organizations for having realized this visit.

In President Obama's speech at the Peace Memorial Park, he once again put forward the goal of a "world without nuclear weapons." However we must point out that there was a severe lack of substance regarding efforts for nuclear weapons abolition.



President Obama made no reference to the basic fact that it was the United States that dropped the atomic bomb that took the lives of more than 200,000 people, nor to the responsibility of the United States for that action. Further, when speaking about the abolition of nuclear weaponry he stated that "we may not realize this goal in my lifetime." In addition, he made no mention about concrete policies or steps for nuclear disarmament.

Through the "Global Voyage for a Nuclear-Free World: Peace Boat Hibakusha Project," Peace Boat has travelled around the world with more than 160 Hibakusha, sharing the reality of the impact of nuclear weapons. The average age of Hibakusha is now over 80, and for many they are fighting for a clear roadmap to nuclear weapons abolition to be established within their lifetime.

This is something achievable. The efforts of the Hibakusha are bearing fruit: in recent years international recognition of the inhumanity of nuclear weapons has grown, with an unprecedented gathering of momentum towards banning nuclear weapons. The first United Nations Open-Ended Working Group to address legal measures for the banning of nuclear weapons began in Geneva in February of this year, and more than 120 states are now calling for a commencement of negotiations for a treaty banning nuclear weapons. However, the United States, together with other nuclear-armed states, is boycotting this working group, and Japan is opposed to the commencement of negotiations for a treaty banning nuclear weapons.

If President Obama and Prime Minister Abe hold sincere aspirations for a "world free of nuclear weapons," then the United States and Japan must transform their current policies, and immediately participate in negotiations for a treaty banning nuclear weapons.



President Obama's speech in Hiroshima reflected upon humanity's history of war. He also referred to the fact that the victims of the atomic bombs were not only Japanese, but also Koreans and US prisoners of war. Nuclear damage has no national boundaries, and whether in the country of victory or defeat, the overwhelming majority of victims in wars are civilians. Peace Boat has learned and experienced this reality through our 33-year history of conducting international exchange programmes through our global voyages. This is the very reason that we at Peace Boat Japan undertake activities to spread the spirit of Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, which sets forth to build peace without relying on force.

To rid the world of nuclear weapons, and never again repeat war: President Obama's speech contained several phrases which indicated such

sentiments. Yet, these words must be turned into concrete action.

In August of this year, marking the 71st year since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Peace Boat's 9th "Global Voyage for a Nuclear-Free World" will set sail from Japan with first and second generation Hibakusha onboard. They will call at New York in October, during the General Assembly of the United Nations. During this visit, Peace Boat and the Hibakusha onboard will share the reality of the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons with citizens of the United States and people from around the world.

When survivors of war raise their voices, and citizens build connections beyond national boundaries and take action, it is possible to effect change in international politics. Peace Boat will continue such activities, while calling on the Governments of Japan and the United States to eschew expansion of their military cooperation and perpetuation of the existence of their military bases. Instead, Peace Boat calls for truly peaceful cooperation towards nuclear weapons abolition and human security.'

Great Success of the Hiroshima Panels in the U.S.

By Takayuki Kodera, Head of the Maruki Gallery for the Hiroshima Panels (Saitama, Japan)

The Hiroshima Panels were exhibited at American University in Washington, D.C. from June to August 2015, at Boston University from September to October and at Pioneer Works in New York from November to December. This exhibition was realised through the donations and passions of 2000 citizens and 70 organisations. As a result, 11,000 people visited the exhibitions. Favourable comments were made by *The Associated Press*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *The Financial Times*, among others. In New York, a 5-hour workshop for high school students was organised seven times by *Hibakusha Stories* with teachers as a part of their class.

On each occasion, students first listened to a Hibakusha named Yasuaki Yamashita and asked questions. Then they viewed the exhibition of the Hiroshima Panels. This elicited comments such as:

'Can the decision of dropping the atomic bomb be justified? Is this my country? Was it necessary to kill so many people? Was this what the U.S. expected? Nuclear weapons are weapons of the devil. I can't believe that we still have them. Isn't it possible to change the world just by watching this exhibition? Don't people think that they want to change the world after they have seen this? I want to change the world using this opportunity'. Young Americans immediately accepted the message of the Hiroshima Panels. They tried to understand their country and history, while thinking of human dignity, having hope for a better future, and feeling that they wanted to change the world.

About 50 UN and NGO disarmament experts from Austria, Japan and Mexico watched the Hiroshima Panels, supported by *Hibakusha Stories* and Peace Boat (Japan). The Japanese Minister to the UN, Mr. Takeshi Akahori, said, 'All the people who watched the Hiroshima Panels must be surprised by the misery of the atomic bombings. I think that raising awareness of people would lead to the abolition of inhumane nuclear weapons.' The Austrian Ambassador to the UN, Jan Kickert, said, 'The Hiroshima Panels are art works that directly convey the suffering of people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. People can understand what they should do by watching them. The victim side of the atomic bombings against humanity should be repeatedly mentioned. The treaty against nuclear weapons was supported by more than two thirds of world citizens. We can't leave the earth to the future generations if this treaty is not passed.'



Visitors viewing Iri and Toshi Maruki's Hiroshima Panels

A representative of the UN Disarmament Section, the Mexican Ambassador to the UN, and a representative of Reaching Critical Will, the disarmament programme of the Women's

International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), also reiterated their decision of working hard for the abolition of nuclear weapons after seeing the exhibition.

Thus, over 10,000 citizens, young people and



activists who saw the exhibition committed themselves to the abolition of nuclear weapons.

I think that this was the significance of the exhibition of the Hiroshima Panels in the U.S. during the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing.

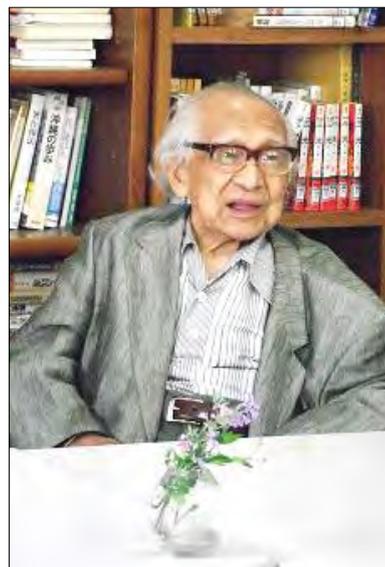
Peace Museum Honours 100-Year-Old Anti-War Journalist

The Chukiren Peace Museum in Saitama Prefecture in Japan aims at clarifying the dark side of the country's history during the period 1931-1945 – which concerns victims in other Asian countries as well as in Japan itself. The museum deals with the war responsibility of Japan in order to learn lessons, and not repeat the tragedies of war. In 2015, the museum appointed as Honorary Councillor Mr. Takeji Muno, then 100 years old. He is a well-known journalist and activist in Japan who, on 15th August 1945, the day the war ended, resigned from his position as journalist with the Asahi Newspaper Company, the only journalist to do so. He stated, 'I take the responsibility of having been unable to report the truth during the war'. After leaving the Asahi, Mr. Muno went to Yokote City, Yamagata Prefecture, where he started to issue a weekly local newspaper named *Taimatsu*. With the help of his family, he went on issuing it for the next 35 years during which it gained a high reputation.

Thereafter he continued to be a journalist in the anti-war campaign, writing articles and books and giving lectures.

Aged 101, he remains active today. Later this year, at a ceremony celebrating the 10th anniversary of

the Chukiren Peace Museum, it is expected that Mr. Muno will give a memorial lecture in a public hall in Kawagoe City, thereby giving a strong encouragement to the peace-loving people of Japan. (See also the leading article in *Muse*, the newsletter of the Japanese Citizens Network of Museums for Peace, No. 32, January 2016).



Mr. Takeji Muno (aged 101)

Tehran Peace Museum (TPM)

In 2014, the Tehran Peace Museum started an oral history project of chemical warfare survivors of the Iran-Iraq War of 1980-1988; 12 stories can be read at the [website](#). On 16th March, the 28th anniversary of the Halabja gas attack, a new interview was published – this time, with Saeid Sadeghi, an Iranian photojournalist and war correspondent who is believed to have been the first photographer at the front. His harrowing account, and photographs, can be found at the [website](#).



Peace on Earth exhibition, 9th March 2016

Another on-going project in which TPM is centrally involved is Mayors for Peace, the Iranian branch of which is headquartered in the museum. More than 800 Iranian mayors have now joined, 700 of whom did so in 2014-2015, the largest single-country increase in this period among all countries. This historical record was achieved by a team under the inspiring leadership of Mohammad Rezaei. As a 16-year old volunteer, he went to the front in 1984 where, two years later, he was badly wounded, resulting in the amputation of a leg, as well as being exposed to mustard gas.

Even so, Mr. Rezaei returned to the front. Since 2012 he has been the secretary of the Iranian branch of Mayors for Peace. The impressive story of this courageous peacemaker, entitled 'Journey from War to Mayors for Peace', is told in an interview with Elizabeth Lewis which can be read on the [website](#).

The 'Art for Peace' department of TPM hosted two events in collaboration with the Hadis Educational Centre for Children. In February, their seventh joint project of a peace drawing exhibition of Iranian children's artworks was held under the title *Peace Means ...*

In March, with the additional collaboration of the Bulgarian Embassy, a similar exhibition was held of drawings by Iranian and Bulgarian children (aged between 6-18 years old).



*Bulgarian Officials visiting
Peace on Earth exhibition*

INMP is grateful to Elaheh Pooyandeh, International Relations Associate at TPM, for sending quarterly reports on the many events and activities in which the museum is involved

American Museum of Peace (AMP)

Readers may be familiar with the *US Peace Memorial Foundation*, established in 2005 by Michael D. Knox. It directs a nationwide effort to honour the many thoughtful and courageous Americans (and U. S. organisations) that have taken a public stand against one or more U. S. wars or who have devoted their time, energy and creativity to finding peaceful solutions to international conflicts. The realisation that there is no national monument in Washington, D. C. to remember and celebrate peacemakers – in contrast to the numerous monuments dedicated to wars and warriors – inspired Knox to start a campaign for a national U. S. Peace Memorial. An outgrowth of his project is the compilation of a U. S. Peace Registry (with names of peacemakers and active opponents of war) as well as the award, since 2009, of an annual peace prize.



A powerful 9-minute speech by Michael Knox setting out his vision can be seen [here](#).



American Museum of Peace

The same realisation that the promotion of a culture of peace requires that peacemakers are remembered and honoured and can inform and encourage others who are striving for a more

peaceful world has inspired a separate and independent but seemingly complementary project: the creation of the *American Museum of Peace* (AMP), also in Washington, D. C. (where AMP has been incorporated and registered as an educational non-profit organisation).

The museum aims to tell the stories of Americans' contributions to peace, their vision and values, emphasising that peace is not only about opposition to war but also an affirmation of qualities, attitudes and actions that create peace on a personal, interpersonal, national and global level. AMP will present a new narrative, embracing the intention that has been central to the vision of America from the beginning and encouraging a renewed commitment to the universal principles that promote peace.



Among AMP's educational programmes are the development of Peace Tours in cities across the country, and a video series of America's Peacemakers. AMP recently celebrated International Jazz Day, 30th April, with an exciting concert programme titled, 'Celebrating the role of Jazz in promoting peace'. Thanks to the cooperation of the National Park Service, the concert was held at the Thomas Jefferson National Memorial. For more information, see the excellent [website](#).

Community Peace Museum Project in Canada

Dr. Sultan Somjee and Kimberly Baker launched a new peace museum project in Canada during a public gathering in Vancouver, British Columbia, at the end of February. Somjee, a former INMP board member, is founder of the Community Peace Museums of Kenya, and Baker is a museum educator who is writing a doctoral dissertation on

building museums of peace in conflict zones. The background to the project, *Highway of Tears*, is a series of unresolved murders and disappearances of young women along the 720 km (450 miles) section of Highway 16 between Prince George and Prince Rupert, British Columbia. The crimes occurred between 1969 and 2011 and involved victims from the numerous municipalities and twenty-three First Nation communities that border the Highway of Tears. The project aims to bring together experiences of building peace which seek reconciliation, justice, and healing from within and without the communities affected. It seeks creative ways to generate dialogue and raise awareness about this ongoing conflict of the missing women. Among concrete suggestions are the planting of indigenous peace trees along the highway route and the display of photographs and personal belongings of victims at appropriate locations such as local museums, community centres, libraries, and schools. The overall goal is to create awareness and prevent the tragedies from being repeated along the Highway of Tears or elsewhere in Canada. For more information, please write to [Kimberly Baker](#) and visit her [website](#).

Children – the Innocent Victims of War: Exhibitions at the Nobel Peace Center, Oslo

More than five million children have been forced to flee their homes due to the war in Syria; many have not only lost their homes, but also close family members and friends.

While about half of them are refugees in their own country, about 2.4 million Syrian children are living outside the country, many in neighbouring Lebanon. There they live in refugee camps, a far cry from the life they were used to. In the exhibition *Syria is my only home*, being shown in the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo from 9th March-31st December 2016, children in a camp in the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon, tell their own story in photographs and short films.



Photograph by Zakira / UNICEF Lebanon

The photos were taken by the children themselves over a period of one year after 500 disposable cameras were made available to them. Twenty children tell their story of what it is like to flee from war and live in a tent in a refugee camp and what they miss from their lives before the war – poignant testimonies to the impact of war on fragile and innocent lives.

The project was realised through cooperation between UNICEF Lebanon and Zakira, a Lebanese NGO for photojournalism.



At the same time, the Nobel Peace Center is also showing, until May 2017, an exhibition celebrating the 50th anniversary of the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to UNICEF in 1965. The organisation was founded by the UN in 1946 to help the children of Europe who had been affected by World War II. In 1953 it became a permanent part of the UN with a mandate to help children across the world. The exhibition tells for the first time the story of who nominated the organisation, what other candidates were considered, and why UNICEF was chosen – following the opening up of the archives after 50 years had passed. It is the fourth in a series of smaller exhibitions at the Center to feature selected Nobel Peace Prize laureates.

From 9th June, and continuing until 28th February 2017, the Center is also showing *The Dangerous Prize*, an exhibition about the courageous German journalist and pacifist, Carl von Ossietzky, whose warnings to the world of German remilitarisation resulted in his persecution by the Nazis.

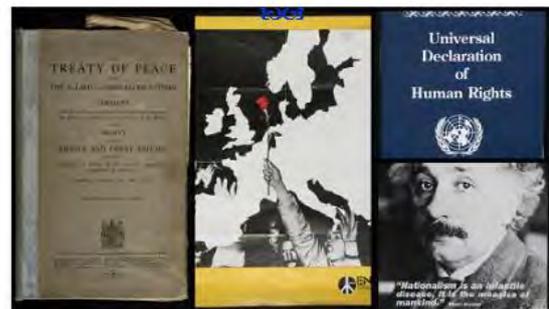


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An early whistle-blower, who paid a high price for his stance, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize (for 1935) in 1936. This was a brave but controversial decision, the first one made to a ‘dissident’ convicted for treason by an oppressive regime.

Timely Exhibition at The Peace Museum, Bradford (UK)

A new exhibition entitled ‘*A force for peace?*’ *The History of European Cooperation* opened in The Peace Museum in Bradford on 5th May and will run until the end of July 2016.

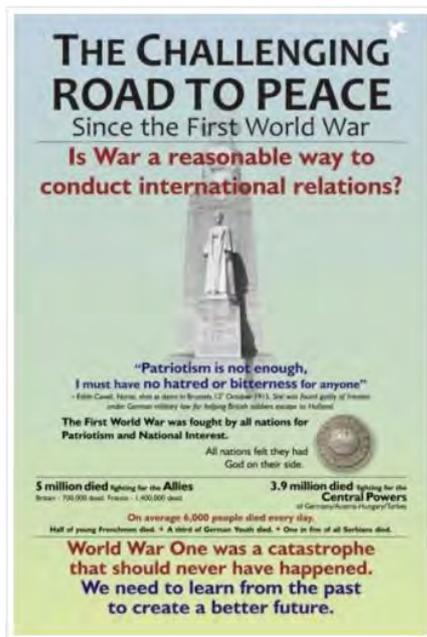


It features a 1919 copy of the Treaty of Versailles that concluded World War I (a recent donation), objects relating to the League of Nations and its successor, the United Nations, and explores the development of the European Economic Community (EEC) which became the European Union (EU). The exhibition coincides with a national debate that has been taking place in the UK ever since the government announced the holding of a referendum, on 23rd June 2016, about continued British membership of the EU. The display also provides arguments from both sides of the current debate and is meant to stimulate thought and discussion on the role of the EU and its contribution to peace in the continent and beyond. A poster of the exhibit can be found [here](#).

The Challenging Road to Peace Poster Exhibition

Rupert Gude of the Tavistock Peace Action Group (TPAG, central London) has produced an informative and powerful poster exhibition entitled *The Challenging Road to Peace – Since the First World War*. It consists of 18 large posters with texts, illustrations, striking quotations, statistics, questions, etc. The first half of the exhibition deals with such subjects as the origins of the war, the recruitment of soldiers, conscription and conscientious objection, the use of poison gas, and

concludes with a list of the names of soldiers from the Tavistock area who lost their lives in the war. The question ‘What can we do to make a more peaceful world?’ serves as an introduction to the second part which documents the start of cooperation between countries, factors making war more likely today as well as those making for peace, challenges for peace today and what individuals can do to make a difference. Among individuals featured are Emily Hobhouse, Sylvia Pankhurst, Bertha von Suttner, and Bertrand Russell.



One panel is devoted to TPAG; established some 30 years ago, it consists of ordinary people who are committed to working to achieve a peaceful and nuclear-free world. The group is affiliated to such leading British campaigning groups as the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) and the Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT).



TPAG promotes initiatives for peace together with other organisations through meetings, day conferences, film shows, travelling exhibitions, street stalls, street vigils, demonstrations, and campaigns for peace and against nuclear weapons. For more information please click [here](#). Also of interest is a short, [two-minute video](#) by Rebecca Wilson on the Tavistock Square Peace Garden in central London.

Peace Tourism in India: In the Footsteps of Mahatma Gandhi

The Indian state of Gujarat contains many memorial places associated with Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation who was born in that state. They include the house where he was born in Porbandar and which today is called Kirti Mandir. It has been converted into a museum that shows personal memorabilia, a photo exhibition on the life and times of Gandhi, a library and prayer hall, etc. Another memorable location is the Satyagraha Ashram that he established in 1917 in Ahmedabad and from where he and his followers led various Satyagrahas which ultimately culminated in the ending of British rule. Within the precincts of the Ashram is the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, a modest dwelling of the Mahatma that was the nerve centre of the Indian freedom struggle. It contains an immense archive of his letters and is a national monument. Another memorable place is Dandi, the village on the coast of the Arabian Sea which became famous world-wide after Gandhi had selected it as the place for the Salt March which he commenced on 12th March 1930 when he walked from Ahmedabad to Dandi – a distance of nearly 400 km – with some of his followers to protest against the imposition of a tax on salt. Thousands of people participated; a beautiful statue showing Gandhi collecting salt (illegally) celebrates this important instance of civil disobedience. It forced the world to pay attention to the movement for Indian independence, and inspired millions of Indians to join that movement under Gandhi’s leadership.



*Mahatma Gandhi’s birth house
Photo by Gandhi Serve Foundation*

These are only some of the museums, ashrams, statues and other memorials concerning Gandhi and the Indian independence movement to be found in Gujarat and which the state has carefully

preserved. Gujarat can rightly be called ‘the land of Mahatma Gandhi’. In order to promote Gandhi tourism, the state government has recently produced ‘The Gandhi Circuit’, a handy travel guide that allows visitors and tourists to follow the life of the greatest peace thinker and peacemaker of the 20th century. For more information, click [here](#) (and search for Gandhi Circuit). The brochure can be downloaded [here](#).

**English Pacifist Vera Brittain
Commemorated in Street Names in German
Cities**

The pacifism of Vera Brittain (1893-1970) grew out of her experiences in World War I when she lost close relatives and friends. The impact of the war on a whole generation of English youth was poignantly described in one of the most famous autobiographical memoirs of the war, *Testament of Youth* (1933). Her commitment to absolute pacifism remained firm even after the start of World War II when she was a severe critic of the strategy of saturation bombing of German cities despite the fact that the Nazis had attacked from the air London and other cities, notably Coventry whose famous cathedral was left in ruins. Among the German cities bombed by the Royal Air Force (RAF) were Berlin and Hamburg. In recognition of Brittain’s courageous stance, and her efforts for reconciliation, both cities recently named promenades along the banks of local rivers in her name.



On 19th February, a ceremony was held in the Mitte district of Berlin where a stretch of the promenade along the Spree river was named *Vera-Brittain-Ufer*. The events in Berlin had been preceded by a similar ceremony in Hamburg,

where on 28th June 2014 the same name was given to a promenade in the city’s Hammerbrook district. Brittain’s daughter, Baroness Shirley Williams, a leading British politician and former minister, was a guest of honour on both occasions.



Baroness Shirley Williams in Berlin

The initiative for thus remembering and honouring a brave woman who devoted her life to reconciliation and peace-making came from Gerfried Horst, chairman of the association ‘Friends of Kant and Koenigsberg’. The ancient Prussian university town where Immanuel Kant was born and lived all his life was also destroyed by bombing from the air. This is where he wrote *Towards Eternal Peace* (1795) which ranks among the most important writings on the subject. One of the aims of the association is to make Koenigsberg (today called Kaliningrad) into the ‘City towards Eternal Peace’. For more information, please click [here](#).

**Mini-Peace Museum in Brandenburg Gate
in Berlin**

In Berlin’s most iconic building, the Brandenburg Gate, is a ‘Room of Silence’ (*Raum der Stille*), a small place in the middle of the city where people can meet in silence, leaving aside their religious, political and ideological differences. This non-denominational character is reflected in the room’s neutral and simple decoration. Its only adornment is a woven wall-hanging symbolising light penetrating darkness. The wish to promote peace is reflected in a poster displaying the word ‘peace’ in many languages as well as in a collage on the subject of tolerance.

The room is modelled on the one that deeply spiritual UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld had commissioned for himself and his colleagues in 1957 in the UN building in New York and which continues to be in use. The vision for creating a Room of Silence in the middle of Berlin emerged in 1988 in the eastern part of the then still divided city; following German reunification, it was successfully brought to fruition in 1994 with the help of the Senate of Berlin.



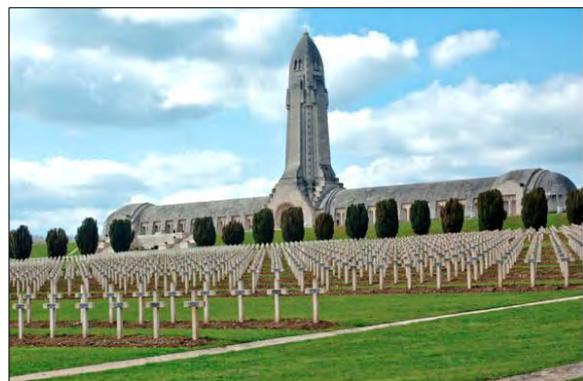
The Brandenburg Gate

The location of this mini-peace museum in the Brandenburg Gate is most appropriate because the latter was conceived as a Gate of Peace when it was commissioned by Prussian King William II in the late 18th century. This is shown in the relief on top of the Gate which depicts the victory of Eirene, the Goddess of Peace, while Mars, the God of War, has sheathed his sword. However, this message of peace receded into the background in the course of history, not least during the Cold War when the Berlin Wall was built along the Gate in 1961. It became the symbol of a tragically divided city and world, standing near the frontier between opposing military forces and hostile ideologies which threatened the peace of the world. The Room of Silence reminds visitors of the original spirit of the Gate and offers an opportunity for reflection and hope. For more information, please click [here](#).

Centenary of Battle of Verdun (France) Commemorated

While Hiroshima sums up the horror and tragedy of World War II, Verdun similarly evokes World War I. Whereas in Hiroshima tens of thousands of civilians were killed in an instant (and many more died later, or continued to suffer from the effects of the atomic bombing), the battle of Verdun in the

north-east of France lasted 300 days (February-December 1916), making it the longest battle of World War I, and one of the longest and costliest in all of history. In this period, 800,000 French and German soldiers were killed, wounded, or went missing. It cost the lives of 163,000 French and 143,000 German soldiers. Today, the battlefield zone remains a vast graveyard hiding the mortal remains of some 130,000 missing soldiers. Today, it continues to be a large and dangerous area where housing and farming are prohibited because of the millions of unexploded shells that litter the area. Remains are collected and displayed in the Ossuary at Douaumont.



Ossuary at Douaumont

Like Hiroshima, Verdun has become a city of peace – a symbol of French-German reconciliation, and of European unity. It was at Douaumont that French President Francois Mitterand and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl transformed Verdun into a symbol of peace and reconciliation when they clasped hands in 1984, the first time that a German Chancellor had been invited to an anniversary in Verdun. The centenary commemoration on 29th May (two days after President Obama’s visit to Hiroshima) saw French President Francois Hollande and German Chancellor Angela Merkel repeat the gesture as well as appeal to European unity. With no survivors remaining, the commemorations were focussed on educating young people about the horrors and consequences of war and involved the participation of some 4,000 French and German children.

President Hollande praised Verdun as ‘the capital of peace’, stating that ‘Verdun is a city that represents at the same time the worst, where Europe got lost, and the best, a city being able to commit and unite for peace and French-German friendship’. A short video clip of the ceremony can

be viewed [here](#).



World Centre for Peace, Liberty & Human Rights

Among the many museums in the area is the World Centre for Peace, Liberty and Human Rights, housed in the impressive building that used to be the Verdun Episcopal Palace. The centre, opened in 1994, has permanent as well as temporary exhibitions. The permanent exhibition, *From War to Peace*, has been entirely revised around Franco-German unity, the primary driver in European peace and cooperation. For more information, please click [here](#).

2016 Global Art Project for Peace (GAP)

During the week 23rd- 30th April, the Global Art Project for Peace exchange took place and was a resounding success. Involving some 15,000 artists from around the world, each participant created a work of art expressing global peace. The art was exhibited, or performed, locally during the first three weeks of April. This was followed during the last week of April by an international exchange by matching participants (group to group, and individual to individual), culminating in a worldwide art exchange. Art works are sent as a gift of global friendship and exhibited in the receiving community. Hundreds of schools, involving thousands of pupils, participated; other groups include art councils, artist cooperatives, music and dance groups, community groups, churches, libraries, youth and women's clubs. Some 200 regional coordinators helped to organise the 2016 Global Art Project for Peace.

One example among many is a project which involved 24 schools in China, including Inner Mongolia, in the exchange. The regional coordinators organised a two-day GAP workshop and training session in Beijing for 200 teachers

and pupils who will go back to their schools and organise GAP art/peace activities.



Participants were given a GAP certificate for successfully completing the workshop. A GAP exhibition of art created and received in China is being held in Shenzhen. One of the GAP regional coordinators in China is Professor Zhen Wei, Chair of the Art and Design Department at Beijing Normal University who helped coordinate the involvement of his department as well as that of the University's Education Department in the exchange.



Founder-director and INMP board member, Katherine Josten, says: 'The mission of the Global Art Project is to joyously create a culture of peace through art. For over 20 years the Project has been dedicated to the idea that "peace cannot be achieved through violence; it can only be achieved through understanding". The Project has been a beacon of hope that peace is possible'. The GAP, which is being held every other year, has so far linked 145,000 participants in 89 countries on all continents. For more information, including an evocative/stimulating 7-minute interview with Katherine, see www.globalartproject.org Many photos illustrating GAP 2016 activities around the

world can be viewed on the GAP Facebook page: www.facebook.com/GlobalArtProject/

Peace Image of the Year Award

The Alfred Fried *Photography Award* invites everyone with a passion for photography, and peace, to provide a visual answer to the question, 'What does peace look like?' It is the only photography award that reaches out to people, encouraging them to express through their images how they think of peace and to use their creativity and their photographs to make a strong statement for peace. The annual award ceremony takes place at the Austrian Parliament in Vienna to celebrate the five winners; one of them receives a cash prize of Euro 10,000 for the 'Peace Image of the Year'. The image is released every year on 21st September, the International Day of Peace. It is on display at the Austrian Parliament for one year and then becomes part of its art collection.



'Look at Me, I am Beautiful.'
by Patricia Willocq, Belgium

The winning images together with some 300 other selected images form a travelling exhibition each year to promote the quest for peace through excellency in photography. The winning image is also displayed on several billboards in Vienna, with the slogan, 'What does peace look like?'

The competition, which is free of charge, is open to everyone, whether professional or amateur. It is being organised by the Photographische Gesellschaft and Edition Lammerhuber, in association with UNESCO, the Austrian Parliament, the Austrian Parliamentary Reporting Association, and the International Press Institute. The award is named after Alfred Hermann Fried (1864-1921), the Austrian journalist and peace activist who was a close collaborator of Bertha von Suttner. A pioneer of peace journalism, he received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1911. For the 2015 award, more than 14,000 images were

received, submitted by more than 5,000 photographers, hailing from 121 countries. For further information, please click [here](#).

Peace Posters Exhibition Workshops at House for Peace *La Filanda*, Casalecchio di Reno (Bologna, Italy)

From 15th-26th February the House of Peace *La Filanda* hosted a workshop for secondary school students on the topic 'Preparing an exhibition of posters about migration'. Students, aged 16-17, specializing in the humanities, came from the 'Leonardo da Vinci' school in Casalecchio di Reno.



Workshops at La Filanda

In 2007, a similar workshop involved an entire class of the same school in the preparation of a poster exhibition on the theme 'Education for peace and anti-racism'. That exhibition, consisting of 30 posters, was displayed at a middle school, with high school students leading their younger peers. The setting of the exhibition on immigration was different and involved two groups of five students working with four volunteers from the International Pacifist Posters Documentation Centre (CDMPI) who took turns in guiding and assisting students. Each group was asked to select 15 posters out of 40 which were presented.



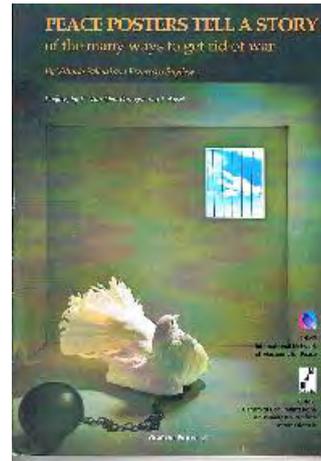
Workshops at La Filanda

In this way, a total of 30 posters out of 80 were selected for the exhibition. This selection was preceded by a preparatory phase led by CDMPI volunteers, about: the story of CDMPI and its posters collection; how the technical characteristics (graphic and communicative) and content (social, political, cultural) of each poster can be analysed; techniques for poster digitization and scanning; and how to compile a short description sheet of each poster.

In the near future, the exhibition will be displayed in the 'Da Vinci' high school and its authors will guide their peers during the visit. At the same time of this laboratory on posters, two more workshops were held at *La Filanda*: on fair trade economy, and a small 'market of solidarity'. These events, together with the posters collection and an archive of paper documents, illustrate some of the activities of the House for Peace *La Filanda*.

Peace Posters Tell A Story ...

A previous issue of this newsletter reported on the publication, in Italian, of a substantial and original book on peace posters, by INMP member Vittorio Pallotti and Francesco Pugliese. As befits a book on this subject, it is richly illustrated with full-colour reproductions. It is a great pleasure to be able to welcome the recent publication of an English translation, similarly illustrated, entitled *Peace Posters Tell A Story ... of the many ways to get rid of war*. Like the original edition, the book is published by the International Pacifist Posters Documentation Centre which is based at the peace house *La Filanda* in Casalecchio di Reno, near Bologna, Italy. The volume, which can be highly recommended, costs Euro 30 (plus postage), and can be ordered from vittoriopallotti@libero.it



The Cover of Peace Posters Tell a Story . . .

In her recent book, *Introducing Peace Museums* (see previous newsletter), INMP board member Joyce Apsel devotes half a chapter to *La Filanda* and describes how its poster collection is imaginatively being used 'as a springboard for peace projects'. In addition to a preface, she has contributed several essays to *Peace Posters Tell A Story ...* The volume contains many other original and highly interesting essays by the authors, as well as some other contributors.

The Hiroshima~Nagasaki (Hibakusha) Peace Mask Project



Peace Mask Project, a Kyoto City registered NPO, is currently working on creating 100 Peace Masks of Hibakusha (nuclear bomb survivors) from Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Peace Masks will be both intergenerational, including the survivors and their descendants, and international, having a small, proportional number of non-Japanese. Phase One of the project will be complete by 31st August 2016. Following this, Phase Two will be focused on the planning and construction of a travelling international installation of the masks on panels that will also contain the names of all known 460,000 survivors. Phase Three includes plans of bringing the installation to the 9th INMP Conference in Belfast in April of next year, among other international locations.

The Hibakusha project is concurrent with *Peace Mask East Asia: Japan Korea China*, which was

initiated at the last INMP conference in No Gun Ri, Korea in September of 2014. Following the completion of the Hibakusha project, the East Asia project will be resumed in mid-2017. Peace Mask Project also participated in the 6th INMP Conference at the Kyoto Museum for World Peace of Ritsumeikan University in 2008.

Peace Mask Project is open to the possibility of subsequent workshops and exhibitions at other peace museums and peace building institutes worldwide. The project team is particularly interested in working in areas in need of conflict transformation where workshops and events also include short talks, live musical performances and dialogues between peoples, groups and parties in disagreement, including those engaged in open conflict.



For further information about this community art and peace project, please visit the website: <http://www.peacemask.org>. Additional information concerning the Hiroshima~Nagasaki project, can be found [here](#). For contacting Robert Kowalczyk, Peace Mask Project's International Coordinator, please click [here](#). All are welcome to share in the project.

Bertha von Suttner's Biography in Japanese

Brigitte Hamann's book *Bertha von Suttner: A Life for Peace* has recently been translated into Japanese by Osamu Itoigawa, Mitsuo Nakamura and the late Morio Minami and was published in June (Tokyo: Akashi Shoten.) An ordering address is 6-9-5 Sotokanda, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0021 Japan. They are also the translators of *Lay Down Your Arms!*



DEADLINE NEWSLETTER 16

The next INMP newsletter (No.16) will be published in September. **The deadline for fall submissions is 31st August 2016.** (max. 500 words with one or two photos.) Please send your text and images to <mailto:news@museumsforpeace.org>.

Subscribe to our quarterly newsletter by sending an email [here](#). Please provide your name and that of your organization.

Editors' Note

Editorial board members are Ikuro Anzai, Peter van den Dungen, Robert Kowalczyk and Kazuyo Yamane.