

STORIES AND STRATEGIES Nonviolent Resistance and Social Change

Dublin, Ireland, 3-9 August, 2002

War Resisters' International's conference *Stories and Strategies - Nonviolent Resistance and Social Change* will bring together peace, social justice and human rights activists from around the world to discuss how we can make the world less violent and less militarised. As wars and acts of terrorism have increased in recent months, this event has taken on a new importance.

Since 11 September, violence within and between peoples, nations and societies has become a part of everyone's awareness, while the power of the military and the police in even the most liberal societies has been strengthened in direct and repressive ways. We are at a time when the task of building a peaceful and just society is immensely difficult. Presenting and promoting a nonviolent approach to social problems has become a formidable task involving great personal risk. Yet this is a time when we must find ways to break the cycle of violence that is spinning faster than ever. The War Resisters' International conference has the potential to make a major contribution to this effort.

We need to develop new nonviolent strategies for ending the threat of terror, as well as for revealing and deconstructing institutional violence. We need to find ways to listen to and enter into dialogue with people in our societies who find a nonviolent approach too difficult. We need to strengthen our own international network and make it a model of globalisation from below. The WRI conference will provide a forum for steps to be taken towards all of these goals.

The title and theme of *Stories and Strategies - Nonviolent Resistance and Social Change* holds new meaning in these changed political times. Storytelling and stories are powerful threads, which help people learn from each other, connect to each other, heal from painful experiences, and make our truths known. They attest to the value of each person as a part of the social fabric.

Theme groups

Theme Groups

- * Economics, Militarisation and Globalisation
- * Violence in Society and Nonviolent Social Empowerment
- * Addressing Ethnic Community and Intra-State Violence
- * Roles of Gender and Racism in War and Militarisation
- * Conscientious Objectors, Veterans, and Anti-Militarism
- * Strategies for Open Borders: Asylum and Migration
- * An Exploration and Introduction to Nonviolence
- * Dealing with the Past
- * International "Peace Operations": what they are and what they could be

Plenaries

A plenary session will be held each evening of the conference where panelists and speakers will share their stories and case studies and engage in public dialogue to highlight the conference theme. One panel will focus on the use of stories: how they have been used to heal communities in conflict, how they can be used to develop new strategies of nonviolent resistance. Following on from this idea, another evening will focus on the power of grassroots efforts in bringing about non-violent social change. One session will be an introduction to the work of NGOs in Ireland and Northern Ireland and some of the key issues they are addressing, such as ethnic conflict and economic globalisation. Two of the plenaries will highlight the connections between different issues: one will look at the links between global violence and violence in daily life, and another will focus on the relationship between anti-militarist work and efforts to strengthen civil society.

Workshops

Time each day will also be set aside for one-off workshops. Like the Theme Groups, these sessions will be a place for the sharing of stories of all participants. Some workshops will focus on specific campaigns, others will be introductory sessions on certain topics, or provide some skills training. Workshops will provide an opportunity for people to strengthen the networks around common interests and concerns that can continue after the conference. Many workshops will be planned in advance but there will also be space for these sessions to be created spontaneously during the Triennial.

Home stay programme

A home stay programme - with hosts from Irish groups both from the Republic and from Northern Ireland - gives the option to meet local activists, and to exchange experience. The programme operates prior and after the conference.

Workcamp

A work camp is being organised which will give some young people the opportunity to be part of an international team that helps with the practical aspects of the conference.

In its long history, WRI's Triennial conferences have often provided the international platform from which to launch new peace campaigns and to discuss new ideas about nonviolence. The "stories and strategies" that arise at the WRI Triennial in Dublin in 2002 are sure to trigger new activities and new ways of thinking. This is likely to influence and inspire not only the people who attend, but, on a broader scale, numerous international efforts of nonviolent resistance and social change.

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Please fill in this form and return it to WRI.

- Please send me more information on WRI's Triennial conference.
- Please send me ___ copies of this leaflet in English/French/Castellano (delete as appropriate)
- I would like to participate in WRI's Triennial Conference. Please send me a registration form.
- REGISTRATION FEES:
Conference: 350.
Daily rate: 40 Children welcome. Contact the office for details.
WRI Business meeting: 130 (Friday 9 -Sunday 11).
- Please do not send payment now. It can be sent with completed registration forms.
- I cannot participate in the conference but I want to make a donation to support people from third world countries attending the conference.
I enclose _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

WRI publications

War Resisters' International publishes a wide range of material. You can subscribe, or order a sample copy, or you can even help us promote these publications.

Peace News

The quarterly international magazine for peace activists is published in cooperation with War Resisters' International, provides a high-profile discussion forum and source of information for activists and researchers. The international subscription rate is £15 .

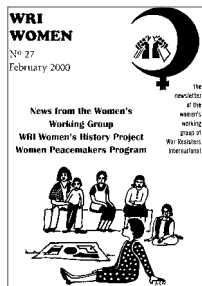


The Broken Rifle

This is WRI's own magazine, published in four languages to give in-depth information on WRI's programme and campaigns. Published about four times a year, £5 for four issues.

WRI Women

The magazine of the WRI Women's Working Group provides information on women and militarism, and of women's activities all over the world. Published irregularly, £5 for three issues.



www.wri-irg.org

WRI's four-language website with up-to-date information on WRI's work and links to most of its affiliates.

<wri-info>

An email list which supplements the website, and provides information on WRI campaigns and events, and on peace activities all over the world. To subscribe, send an email to majordomo@wri-irg.org, with the text `subscribe wri-info` in the body of the message.

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	sample copy	subscription*
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The Broken Rifle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (£5)
	language: English/Castellano/French/German	
WRI Women	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (£5)

*For subscriptions, please enclose your payment, or consult the office for payment via local financial agents or by credit card.

War Resisters' International - a nonviolent movement to end war

War Resisters' International was founded in 1921 under the name "Paco". It was and is based on the WRI declaration:

*"War is a crime against humanity.
I am therefore determined not to support
any kind of war, and to strive for the
removal of all causes of war."*

War Resisters' International exists to promote nonviolent action against the causes of war, and to support and connect people around the world who refuse to take part in war or the preparation of war. On this basis, WRI works for a world without war.



Stories & Strategies Nonviolent

Resistance and Social Change

23rd WRI Triennial Conference

3-9 August 2002

WRI Business meeting
9-11 August 2002



war resisters' international
internationale des résist(e)s à la guerre
internationale der kriegsdienstgegner/innen
internacional de resistentes a la guerra
internacio de militrezistantoj

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