

International Fellowship of Reconciliation



International Fellowship of Reconciliation
Internationaler Versöhnungsbund
Mouvement International de la Réconciliation
Movimiento Internacional de la Reconciliación



ANNUAL REPORT 2009
The IFOR International Committee
& the International Secretariat



Cover: IFOR Executive Director, Johannes Schot, greets His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the keynote speaker at the "Finding Common Ground" Conference held in Geneva, Switzerland from 6 - 8 August 2009. Convened by the International Fellowship of Reconciliation and the Swiss Tibetan Friendship Association, the conference was attended by over 100 Chinese and Tibetan scholars, writers, journalist, advocates and social workers. Copyright © International Fellowship of Reconciliation, photo courtesy of Richard Juilliar.

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ANNUAL REPORT 2009

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IFOR MISSION

Founded in 1919 in response to the horrors of war in Europe, IFOR has taken a consistent stance against war and its preparation throughout its history. Perceiving the need for healing and reconciliation in the world, the founders of IFOR formulated a vision of the human community based upon the belief that love in action has the power to transform unjust political, social, and economic structures.

Today IFOR counts 83 branches, groups, and affiliates in 53 countries on all continents. Although organized on a national and regional basis, IFOR seeks to overcome the division of nation states which are often the source of conflict and violence. Its membership includes adherents to all the major spiritual traditions as well as those who have other spiritual sources for their commitment to nonviolence.

IFOR members share a vision of a world where conflicts are resolved through nonviolent means, where systems that foster fear and hatred are dismantled, and where justice is sought as a basis for peace. While coming from diverse religious backgrounds, IFOR members share a common belief in the transforming power of nonviolence and reconciliation.

IFOR members carry out public education efforts, organize training programs, and coordinate campaigns. The International Fellowship of Reconciliation provides encouragement and support to people throughout the world who are promoting nonviolence in their home communities and nations.

IFOR members primarily work together through their local branches and groups. Representatives from these organizations meet at various sites every four years at an IFOR Council (next to be held in the Netherlands in November, 2010), to decide on policies and develop international programs. An elected International Committee meets regularly between Councils to oversee the implementation of these decisions.

The IFOR international secretariat in Alkmaar, the Netherlands, coordinates communication among IFOR members, links branches to capacity-building resources, provides training in gender awareness (through WPP), and helps coordinate international campaigns, delegations and urgent actions.

IFOR has extensive working relationships with like-minded non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society initiatives around the world. IFOR's 90 years of expertise in active nonviolence is recognized and respected by these NGOs and many others.

IFOR maintains permanent representatives at the United Nations (UN) in New York, Geneva and Vienna who regularly participate in conferences and meetings of UN bodies, providing testimony and expertise from different regional perspectives, promoting nonviolent alternatives in the fields of human rights, development, and disarmament. IFOR has observer and consultative status to the United Nations ECOSOC and UNESCO organizations.

IFOR has six Nobel Peace Prize Laureates among its former and present members. Jane Addams (1931), Emily Green Balch (1946), Chief Albert Luthuli (1960), Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1964), Máiread Corrigan-Maguire (1976), and Adolfo Perez Esquivel (1980) have all been or are actively contributing to dissemination of the teaching of nonviolence.



Opening remarks: President of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation

Jan Schaake, IFOR President



2009 The year 2009 has been proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations in resolution 61/17 as the “International Year of Reconciliation.” By adopting this resolution the UN recognized “that reconciliation processes are particularly necessary and urgent in countries and regions of the world which have suffered or are suffering situations of conflict that have affected and divided societies in their various internal, national and international facets”. In the resolution governments and NGO’s were invited not only to support reconciliation processes but also to promote the concept of reconciliation in educational or scientific activities.

2009 was also the year that IFOR celebrated its 90th anniversary...and many of IFOR’s branches did. After World War I, the International Fellowship of Reconciliation was established by various national fellowships to work together in healing the physical and psychological wounds of the war. Many branches existed and worked already for many years before the international fellowship was erected. From this we can see that reconciliation processes are not only limited to healing wounds after a war, and are not necessarily imposed from top down, but are often initiated at a grass roots level by people reaching out to those they have been told are the enemy.

At IFOR we recognize the good work the UN, its regional organizations and national governments are doing for reconciliation. But sometimes this work is too instrumental and doesn’t take more fundamental conflicts into account – i.e. the huge and ever increasing injustice in the world. When it comes to international supported reconciliation processes this is, to quote Matthew 7: 3-5, “like taking the speck out of your brother’s eye while paying no attention to the log in your own eye.” Reconciliation is not only directed towards overcoming direct violence but also against the underlying violence in unjust structures and in the denial of tremendous injustice in the past (like colonialism, war crimes, occupation, the international support of dictators, etc.). This might be the difference between a somewhat instrumental version of reconciliation versus a more fundamental version.

In this annual report over the year 2009 you will read of many activities around the world to address the theory and practice of this more fundamental version of reconciliation. Also the different forms it takes on different continents - like the US FOR’s delegations to Iran; dealing with political, ethnic and religious differences in many African countries; dealing with the past in the Far East; with the occupation in the Middle East and the joint conference held by European IFOR BGAs with partner organizations in Central and Eastern Europe to address the still existing divide in Europe 20 years after the disappearance of the Iron Curtain.

For the International Committee of IFOR this worldwide reflection on reconciliation in connection to peace building and disarmament formed a welcome stepping stone in the preparation of the Quadrennial Council which will be held in 2010. An opportunity to exchange different experiences, learn and gain inspiration from each other. Unfortunately, at the end of 2009 we learned that it was not possible to have this Council in Africa as we planned. And so, as organization with ambitions to work world wide for a more fundamental version of reconciliation, we have to reconcile our ambitions more often than we like with the means we have at hand. This is also a valuable educational process, and I’m sure we’ll have a great Council in 2010.

Jan Schaake

IFOR President

Letter from the IFOR International Secretariat

Johannes Schot, Executive Director



Dear friends and colleagues,

As the Executive Director of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation I have been asked to say a few words for the IFOR 2009 Annual Report.

2009 was a difficult year for the international movement. The economic crisis hit the movement and financially, so IFOR had to be careful with its expenditures and costs. Decreasing income from our branches automatically means decreasing income for the IFOR Secretariat. We managed to keep the budget in control and limited our losses. At the same time we tried to conduct the same amount of work with less staff. The challenge the International Secretariat faced was that we needed to put more emphasis on fundraising and, at the same time, keep the Secretariat's communications with the branches going. The Secretariat often felt caught in a "Catch 22" situation.

Highlights of 2009 included the conferences *Women in War Zones* at the Peace Palace in The Hague, organised in cooperation with IFOR's Women Peacemaker Program (WPP), the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (BuZa) and the Embassy of Sweden, and the *Sino-Tibet Conference* in Geneva, organised by IFOR's UN Representative Jonathan Sison on behalf of the IFOR movement. We were honored to have the Dalai Lama himself open the *Sino-Tibet Conference* conference. Several civil society organisations from China and Tibet discussed their current problems and possible solutions over a period of three days.

Smaller conferences also took place. Interesting to mention here is the UNESCO sponsored conference on Nonviolent Education in Norway at the end of 2009 with our colleagues from FOR Norway, a small but vibrant branch. Although the weather was freezing cold, the hospitality was warm. And there was of course the EuFOR conference in Spala, organised by our colleagues in Poland, The Ecumenical Foundation Tolerancia. These EuFor meetings are becoming institutionalised within the movement. Although they have no constitutional status, the EuFOR meetings are highly effective in renewing the feeling of fellowship.

The Secretariat also saw an increase in volunteers and interns from all over the world. Our offices in Alkmaar has truly become a multi cultural entity where Japanese, Colombians, Germans, Americans, French, Kenyans, Fujians, Kirghiz, and Dutch staff, volunteers and interns are working side by side. It is amazing to see how we can differ so much, yet still be united in our actions.

So what did 2009 bring to the International Fellowship? One thing is certain—IFOR is not putting its head in the sand and ignoring the difficulties. The challenges ahead have been identified and recognised. These will be points of departure for the upcoming IFOR Council in 2010. As the world changes, IFOR also changes, but always keeping its eyes on the ball. We are set up as an organisation fighting for peace, although nonviolently and together, side by side, something we always have to keep in mind. We are obliged to honour our founding fathers that set up this international peace movement in 1919. The Secretariat has a role in this, a role sometimes very pro-active, sometimes very reactive. It is still a matter of fine-tuning, but as long as we remember the legacy of our founding fathers, it will all work out.

Johannes Schot

IFOR Executive Director

1 AROUND THE MOVEMENT

1.1 Statement of Purpose

The International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR) is an international, spiritually-based movement of people who, from the basis of a belief in the power of love and truth to create justice and restore community, commit themselves to active nonviolence as a way of life and as a means of transformation—personal, social, economic and political. By the end of 2009, IFOR counted 83 member-organizations in 53 different countries, on all continents, among its membership.

1.2 New Members

In 2009, one new member became an IFOR affiliate. “Sympathy, Treatment, Acceptance and Rehabilitation,” also known as STAR, is a non-governmental, non-political and not for profit organization working in Faisalabad and Nankana in Pakistan. The aim of the organization is “To develop a society with equal rights of all the community members with a special focus on Orphans & poor Children and disadvantaged Women.” The organization also works for rehabilitation of people and works toward inter-faith harmony, peace and gender equality at a grassroots level.



In 2009 STAR organized two Peace Walks, Faisalabad and Khushpur Peace Walk in Faisalabad.

STAR has collaborated with partner organizations to promote the concepts of Inter-Faith Harmony and Peace building among school children in Pakistan and has worked with teachers, political and religious leaders to promote Peace Day activities in Pakistan. In August 2009, the STAR group received a Peace Award from Lasani Welfare Foundation.

We welcome “Sympathy, Treatment, Acceptance and Rehabilitation” to the IFOR network and look forward to hearing about their future programs and projects. Contact information for STAR and other IFOR members can be found in the IFOR BGA Directory at the end of this annual report, or on the IFOR website www.IFOR.org.

All IFOR Branches, Groups and Affiliates (BGAs) are invited each year to submit a short report for the IFOR Annual Report. In the following section you will find an overview of the different activities, events and programs organized or initiated in 2009 by IFOR BGAs from around the world:

1.3 Branches

FOR Austria (Internationaler Versoehnungsbund)

Report from the Austrian branch on general activities and efforts during the year 2009.

1. Active peace policy:
 - Promoting the establishment of Civil Peace Services by the state to send civil peace consultants to regions threatened by violence, to protect and reconcile on a non-violent basis.
 - Lobbying for armament trade control.
2. Non-violent peace education:
 - One year course in nonviolence
 - Global education English project weeks for high school students
3. International Year of Reconciliation and 90th anniversary of IFOR
 - Series of events under the heading "Reconciliation between Realistic Chance and Unfulfilled Desire"
 - Czad-Kamerun
 - A.P. Esquivel on Latin America, especially on Honduras.
 - Z. Zoughbi from Wi'am, Bethlehem and J.Milgrom from Rabbis for Peace on Israel – Palestine
 - A 2 day conference on Cultures of Reconciliation. "Between an Eye for an Eye and Let's Forget it."
4. International solidarity:
 - Caminos de Resistencia: After four years of campaigning a volunteer was sent to Columbia to support the delegates of FOR USA in protecting the peace community in San José de Apartadó.

FOR England

FoR England continued with our focus on education for peace and nonviolence, campaigning against militarism and support for nonviolent peacemakers. Our education work included a particular focus on reconciliation this as part of the International Year of Reconciliation, a youth nonviolence training weekend as well as myriads of talks to churches, schools and conferences.

On the campaigning side we published a major briefing for church leaders on military spending and human security in run-up to UK strategic Defense review and received good coverage in Church media. We also initiated a campaign on the use of armed drones. Our research using Freedom of Information legislation on the use of British armed drones resulted in national coverage.

Once again FoR helped to organise the regular Peace Zone at Greenbelt under the auspices of the Network of Christian Peace Organisations (NCPO). Some 19,000 people attend the annual Christian arts festival which takes place at Cheltenham Racecourse over four days of the August Bank Holiday. The theme this year was 'Redemption Songs' and we tried hard to include the theme in various activities that took place inside the zone.

We continue to support peacemakers through our International Peacemakers Fund giving grants totaling almost US \$50,000 during 2009. We also held a special gathering for those involved in the radical end of nonviolent peacemaking in the UK.



Art work from the "Peace Zone" at Greenbelt Christian Arts Festival.

Chris Cole, FoRE Director

FOR France (MIR France)

In February, we published a book: *L'espérance insoumise*, Nouvelle Cité, Paris, looking at religions as driving forces for social and political reconciliation. Bringing together 15 authors (13 from IFOR) on 4 continents, Hildegard Goss Mayr wrote the preface..

In summer 2009, we began an African Manual for reconciliation in post-conflict situations. We also went to Rome during the Synod of the African Bishops. Training on active Gospel based nonviolence in Abidjan brought together people who consider founding FOR in Ivory Coast. With a group in Togo, keen to become an FOR group, we teach young people peer-mediation at school. They have all lived through atrocities after the 2005 elections.

With MIR Congo, we finished a 2-year "Training for trainers in active Gospel based nonviolence". There is huge demand in the region, and the 6 new trainers are close to grass roots activity.

Last but not least, in France we had an auto-evaluation, wrote a paper about our board's internal functioning, ran a meeting for Christian peace organisations, and redefined our future objectives.

Maria Biedrawa

FOR Germany (Internationaler Versöhnungsbund e.V.)

Internationaler
Versöhnungsbund



Seit 1914 gewaltfrei aktiv
gegen Unrecht und Krieg

1. In July/August we sponsored a speaking tour with Beatrice Amony from "Peace and Development-Africa" in Uganda. Beatrice visited a number of schools, church-communities and groups around Germany and delivered very touching information about her educational rehabilitation efforts with former child-soldiers.

2. In August we organized the traditional IFOR-Summercamp for young adults in Berlin on the theme "interreligious peaceful living together". The hosts, Martin Niemoeller Peace Center and Christian Community Grimnitz provided insight into the origins and faith-basics of the 3 religions Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

3. In April we organized a "fact finding mission" for US/Arizona refugee activists of "No more Deaths" on the situation of refugees from the Mediterranean sea (after hosting German FOR in Arizona on the US/Mexican border tragics). After contacting NGO's and politicians in Berlin and Duisburg the US activists were accompanied for a visit to Malta to investigate the refugee problem at an overcrowded spot.

Holger Klee, Director

FOR India

For the year 2009, we have reports of 28 training Programs in Active Non Violence, 15 programs on Gender Sensitization, 23 programs on Mediation and Conflict Transformation – through these we were able to reach over 4600 participants.

Meetings have had wide media coverage and have highlighted issues such as dowry, drug and substance abuse, domestic violence, human rights violations, etc. Also, we have held several round tables on the topic of inclusion- social, financial, and political.

In our Inter faith meetings we focus on the role of religious institutions in promoting harmony and the influence religious leaders have to promote that 'the best practice of faith is when people are at peace with one another'.

We have publicly shared our concerns about the recent Government decision to give 100 percent Foreign Direct Investment to Arms Manufacturers to manufacture weapons in India.

Our program of publishing about activism and positive change continues. We introduce the subject of nonviolence as a methodology of sustainable change in our publications.

The Fellowship's commitment to gender equality goes back to its very foundation in 1950. We have a gender policy and have taken steps so that gender related subjects are on the syllabi of the university.

Mathew George, General Secretary

FOR Japan (Nihon Yuwa Kai)

In June 2009, the Japan Fellowship of Reconciliation assisted the Uganda FOR in their efforts to establish the Peace Constitution by adopting the Japanese constitution, especially Article 9 which renounces war. In demonstrating the needs for their peace constitution, the Uganda FOR members asked us to send 25 t-shirts, bearing the text from "Article 9" in English and Japanese.

We responded gladly. We have translated the Article 9 postcards into English, French, Portuguese, Chinese, and Korean. We shall continue translating Article 9 into more languages for distribution.

Our 59th annual JFOR meeting was held in Hiroshima where we also joined the memorial service of Gandhi. Main topics were: (1) The after-effects of nuclear radiation, (2) Civilian injury in Iraq, and (3) Support for the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty meeting in New York next May. We urged the Japanese government to apologize to women for making them into "sex slaves" during the past war.



JFOR members at Hiroshima Memorial Park – many are wearing the organization's T-shirts quoting Article 9 of the Japanese constitution, which renounces war.

Kyoko Iitaka, JFOR Secretariat

FOR Norway (Kristent Fredslag)

In general: IFOR was functioning mainly as a project group seeking to find ways to expand and attract new members from the different spiritual traditions represented in Norway. Nevertheless, board members of IFOR Norway have been active representing IFOR in joint projects with other peace movements.

Nationally, Heidi and Jørgen Andersen are busy preparing for the 13th International Conference on War Tax Resistance and Peace Tax Campaigns will take place at Skiringssal College (near Sandefjord, Norway) July 2-4 2010. Grethe Andreasen and Heidi continued our commitment towards the Daphne-sponsored IFOR / NonViolent Education in Kindergartens.

The month of December was especially busy, as a series of visitors came to Oslo. We were thrilled to receive Virginia Baron who took part in peace demonstrations when Obama received the Nobel Peace Prize. She met IFOR friends and Bestemødre for Fred. We also co-hosted a delegation from the NonViolent Education in Kindergartens which convened in Oslo for an end-of-the-year conference.

Trond G. Rasmussen

FOR Palestine (Wi'am Center)

Another year has passed since Wi'am first opened its doors to the Palestinian public in 1995. Wi'am has not lost sight of its main goals - to spread peace and justice in the region and give the community a ray of hope for the future. Wi'am continues to deliver assistance, education, and hope to different sectors within society. The women's department works steadily towards equality and independence.

Through a commitment to nonviolence, Wi'am seeks to empower the Palestinian community by developing spiritual, pragmatic, and strategic approaches that will allow it to resist all forms of oppression.



Wi'am Center Youth Program.

The children's department strives to build an environment where children can play and learn as others in the world can. The Diplomacy Citizen department has witnessed an increase in international visitors who are given a unique insight into the complex historical, cultural, social, political and religious aspects of the Holy Land. The youth department continues to create a generation of conscious citizens. Also worthy of mention is the Christmas play that is held annually.

Zoughbi Zoughbi, Founder / Director

FOR Scotland

Alan Watt, from the Iona Community (extreme left) and David Mumford, board member (extreme right) celebrate International Peace Day.

FOR Scotland is a small branch with around 50 members. The highlight of 2009 was the annual residential conference in May on the theme of 'What can I do for Peace?'

Speaker meetings included Gene Stoltzfus on the need for a vocabulary of peace in the Middle East, John Ainslie on the Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and FOR board member David Mumford on the introductory paper for the forthcoming World Council of Churches conference to celebrate the ending of the Decade to Overcome Violence. David Turner from the Campaign Against the Arms Trade spoke at another meeting.

The branch continued its campaign against the Trident nuclear submarines. Following on one member's attendance at the European FOR meeting in Poland, the branch supported the campaign to improve the European Union's capacity for non-violent intervention by lobbying candidates for the European elections. The Greens were supportive (but not elected in Scotland) and we had more encouragement from the Liberals than we expected.



Members of the branch encouraged the celebration of international peace day in their own areas and the photograph (see above) illustrated an action by Brechin Churches Together.

David Mumford, Board Member

FOR Sweden

In 2009, SweFOR celebrated its 90th birthday with a big party in connection to the annual meeting. 2009 was also the year when SweFOR organized the first "Training of Trainers" in Sweden. Inspired by the good work done by SONAD, our FOR colleagues in Sudan, we did an in-depth training that involved a trip to Jerusalem, where the participants learned about nonviolence in a conflict setting.

The 15 trainers are now doing their own workshops, which enables us to reach out to a much larger audience.

This year we did a comic book about a fictional arms dealer called Zven, who travels around the world selling Swedish guns. The idea is to reach out to new audiences with information about the negative impact of Swedish arms.

We sent 15 peace observers to Guatemala, Mexico and Colombia, where there continues to be a need for international observers who can monitor human right abuses.



Peace Day Enactment of arms trade chain in Stockholm.

Karin Haglind, Informatör / Information Officer

FOR Wales

We had another successful year with a number of projects: Members held a pilgrimage to Y Babel Chapel to remember the farmers who lost their land to in 1941 on Epynt mountain.

Our Annual General Meeting, held at Carmarthen, was organised by our new cell of members there. The main speaker was Ms J.Llywelyn who is about to publish a book on the life of the great Welsh pacifist George M Ll Davies.

At our National Eisteddfod (a cultural festival when the civil society of Wales gather to debate political and social issues) we had an information stall, held a service, and remembered Hiroshima Day by distributing white poppies.

As a part of our campaign against the establishment of a Private Military Training Academy in St. Athan we took part in the public enquiry and opposed giving planning permission for the proposed development. We await the result of the public enquiry at the moment.

We also started a campaign to establish a Peace Institute in Wales. Members of the Flemish Peace Institute came to explain the nature of their work. A petition was raised which has gone to the Petitions committee of the Welsh Assembly.

At our Annual Vigil, Hefin Wyn spoke on the successful campaign held on the Preseli Mountains in 1948 to stop the British Army from using the mountain as a military training area.

Arfon Rhys, FOR Wales

FOR Switzerland (MIR Romand, Mouvement international de la réconciliation)

In 2009, MIR Suisse Romand celebrated its 50 year anniversary with the following: Day of study on the topic of reconciliation with the philosopher Jean-François Malherbe, former Belgian conscientious objector, special issue of our newsletter "MIRoir," Pilgrimage around the famous abbey of St-Maurice, and 3 days of walking and reflection with our Italian friends.

Active in Switzerland with other pacifist groups, our French branch maintains relations with the European branches and participates in the community of the Church and Peace. At our General assembly in May, a core of support and work groups helped substitute for the former permanent secretariat.

Our major concern: to join the young people in their concerns regarding violence through a debate on the Web and within the framework of the catechism of Churches.

FOR Switzerland (FORUM FÜR FRIEDENSERZIEHUNG/FfF)

Our Swiss German branch celebrated the UN-year of reconciliation 2009 with two outstanding events: One highlight was a Pilgrimage on Eastern to remember 70 years since the closing of Swiss borders against Jewish refugees during Nazi time. Fortunately some local people like Paul Grüninger, head of the police in St.Gallen, disobeyed and saved more than 5000. 350 marchers remembered gratefully these courageous helpers.

The other highlight: FfF participated in a joint 'Time for reconciliation' between sept 21st and oct 2nd with more than 18 peace events. Our FfF branch contributed with a intense Speaking Tour of Adolfo Perez Esquivel, Peace Nobel prize Winner, which led him and 4 other SERPAJ-Representatives through Basel, Luzern, Bern, Zürich and St.Gallen.

Other activities included a training cycle of 6 days about Nonviolent Conflict Resolution, activities related to the Decade to Overcome Violence, and also trainings on 'Dealing with cultural differences' and 'Peacebuilding' with Somali refugees in Switzerland.

Ueli Wildberger

FOR USA



Founded: 1915

In 2009, the U.S. Fellowship of Reconciliation maintained its grassroots and global work for active nonviolence despite adverse factors: a peace movement that lost momentum following President Obama's election, and an economic recession that profoundly impacted the capacity of NGOs.

FOR-USA sent two peace delegations to Iran in early 2009; denial of visas limited the number of participants each time. Violence connected to the contested June national elections caused additional delegations to be cancelled. In July, FOR launched a campaign for reconciliation in Iran.

FOR's team of human rights volunteers provided protective accompaniment for Colombian peace community members throughout the year. In April, FOR led a U.S. coalition that mobilized tens of thousands to support Colombia's four million internally-displaced people.

Other FOR-USA campaigns in 2009 included: training youth with military counter-recruitment skills; strengthening a global network against U.S. military bases; supporting activists in Iraq and Afghanistan who are nonviolently resisting U.S. occupations; and organizing interfaith peace and justice events.

Ethan Vesely-Flad

Bikalpa Gyan Tatha Bikas Kendra (Nepal)

Program Summary 2009:

1. Model Children's Village – 24 girls completed their non formal primary education in 2009. Besides basic literacy, the girls are also taught various skills.



Children Peace Program.

2. Children Peace Program:

- 5th Asia Girl Child Peace Camp - 36 girls from eight countries joined in the 5 day camp, and presented the Nepali President with an appeal that a peaceful environment be created for girl children in Asia.
- Mural Painting - 6 murals were created. Altogether 650 children from ages 8 – 16 participated.
- Baal Shanti Abhiyan - a weekly program focusing on current issues relating to children. Telecast from Nepal Television every Sunday.
- Peace Education: Training for Teachers and Principals – organized in Pokhara and Kathmandu to sensitize teachers on a more child friendly environment in classrooms.

3. Women Micro Credit Program - 75 women in Sanischare and 65 women in Pokhara have formed groups. Sample micro businesses are: tea stalls, vegetable vending, goat and pigs rearing, poultry farming etc.

4. Support Classes for Children are held daily to teach Mathematics, Science and English.

5. Women's Literacy Classes teach basic reading, writing, arithmetic, health and women's rights.

Helina Rai

Doopsgezind WereldWerk (The Netherlands)

This Dutch Mennonite Organisation for Solidarity and Peace – was founded in 2006 by merging with Reliefwork and Peace Committee. In 2009 we started a Dutch support group for Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT). CPT was founded in the mid-1980s by Mennonites in North America and helps reduce violence by sending volunteers to conflict areas.

In 2009 Gene Stoltzfus, founder and director of CPT, visited the Netherlands. Four Dutch members participated in a delegation to Hebron, West Bank, Israel. (See: www.cpt.org or www.cpt-nl.org. Israel and Palestine were supported through participation in a storytelling campaign in the Netherlands, and by membership in 'Friends of Sabeel NL. Tanzania, Ethiopia, Brasil, Paraguay, Honduras, Bosnia-Herzegovina and other areas were also supported through other projects. WorldWork also organised two weekend conferences about nonviolence and sustainability. Youngsters participated and organised their own sessions.

WorldWork is supported by more than 500 'Friends', mostly Mennonites in the Netherlands. It's website is: www.dgwereldwerk.nl and has a monthly page in the Dutch Mennonite magazine 'Doopsgezind NL'.

Roel Meihuizen

Kerk en Vrede (Church and Peace, The Netherlands)

The year 2009 was extra special for Kerk and Vrede - it was both the UN Year of Reconciliation and our 85th birthday. To celebrate, we have undertaken several activities:

- We published a Peace Songbook, with both Dutch and international peace songs, and a political study about the role of media in war propaganda.
- As in previous years, we urged as many churches and municipality buildings to hang out the famous Peace Flag (VREDE in Dutch) on International Peace Day.
- During the Year of Reconciliation, one of our aims was to establish better contact with the Dutch churches and remind them of their mission as Peace Church. As a result of our efforts, a special taskforce was started up together with the Council of Churches to draft a response to the Just Peace declaration of the WCC.

On an international level, we participated in the European Grundtvig project, with other IFOR partners. We wrote a manual about adult peace courses, and successfully applied for a follow-up project, in which we will keep working together on an European level.

Abe Thijs, Kerke en Vrede

1.4 Groups***AKKAPKA-CANV (The Philippines)***

Under the three main Programs of our organization called F-I-T (Formation-Information-Transformation), we have conducted 3 Basic Seminars on Active Nonviolence (ANV) for 67 participants, 2 Deepening-of-the-Roots Seminars for 38 persons, 1 Leadership Seminar for 20 individuals, 1 Core Group Seminar, 1 Training on Lay Spirituality for the Radio Veritas Staff, 7 Recollections/Base Group Assemblies for 575 members and undertook 1 Retreat each for the Base Groups and the Staff.

We published 6 internal newsletters, participated in forums and symposia, networked with local Church groups, radio stations and NGOs for national and international activities.

Our Feeding Project benefited 1,607 children and 292 adults. We have planted 20,776 mangroves, 345 fruit-bearing trees and 189 hardwood. We continued strengthening our

Cooperative (ADMC) and the Wellness Project (DEW-C) – which all form part of our Transformation Program. We tapped national and international contacts to assist us in the rehabilitation of the typhoon victims.

Dr. Tess Ramiro

Association Tchadienne pour la N-V (ATNV, Chad)

In 2009, ATNV actions:

- Organized peace building process campaigns in Bate & Béré regions for women, and facilitated agreements & peace dialogue between antagonistic groups (9 villages).
- Realized 3 theatrical productions and films on peace and nonviolence, plus 3 on peaceful cohabitation between stockbreeders and farmers (945 sensitized people)
- Realized campaigns' of youth and peace (29 young volunteers)
- Trained 92 members of committees of peace on several topics,
- Held follow up missions for support and facilitation of cells and committees activities

Impacts of ATNV actions:

- Peace activities of sensitizing by women have been initiated in many villages where there were confrontations, violent conflicts, destruction of material and human lives
- Cessation of feelings of animosity and open hostility enters between communities with the perspective of sustainable peace agreement
- More than one thousand sensitized people
- More than one hundred people trained and engaged
- Peace committees are legitimated in 2 communities and they contribute effectively to the prevention and the management of conflicts between stockbreeders and farmers



In July, Mr. Ranjit Rae, Ambassador of India, visited the BOCS Foundation office to acknowledge schooling support for poor tribal and outcast girls in India since 1977.

BOCS Foundation (Hungary)

We had a great year at BOCS! Highlights included:

- The launch of EXPECT, a partnered IFOR project to train educators and leaders in peace and nonviolence education
- The first Hungarian celebration of Mother's Night, part of our partnered project Save Women's Lives to promote the Millennium Development Goals
- The creation of a Mother's Night English publication collection:
- <http://hu.mutternacht.de/home-hungary/english.html>
- The completion of our EuroNGOs partnered initiative, Europmapping, which examined the trends of EU nations' overseas development aid: www.eurongos.org
- The inception of AWARE, engaging European youth in global development education
- Continued work with Poverty to Prosperity, raising awareness in the EU about the links between the well-being of EU and developing countries' citizens
- The Hungarian Scientific Association of Ecologists (MOTE) awarded the BOCS Foundation the 2009 prize for excellent work in promoting ecology and sustainability education in the field.

Pag-aalay ng Pusong Foundation (Offering of the Heart Foundation, Philippines)

Community Based Foundation working for Peace through Active Nonviolence with the Urban Poor and Indigenous Group of Dumagat Tribe residing at the foot of Sierra Madre Mountain. Programs include...

Formation:

- Spiritual Growth process. Weekly meetings and once a month Assembly of 1000 women, 150 youth, 1500 children.

Education:

- Pre-School/Day Care in Metro Manila. 8 Classes with 40 children.
- Scholarship Program. In 2009-2010, 83 sponsored students: Graduates: 14 High School, 2 B.S. Education, 2 passed the
- Nursing Board Exams, 2 passed Engineering Exams.

Community Organization for Culture of Peace (On going):

- Women for Culture of Peace . 33 Groups with at least 20 members each
- Once a month Medical Clinic with free medicines. 15 active Health Volunteer Workers.
- Micro-business & Emergency Loans , plus 3 Cooperative Stores.
- Housing Project - 2 houses, one multi-purpose building. Model House built in the site.
- Library is open for public use since 2 years.

Networking (National and International):

- With Local government, Church, and other Ngo's.
- Consultative Status with the UN Economic Council

Assistance to Filipinos in Japan:

- Yearly Legal Forum in Tokyo.
- Financial & Legal Assistance to those in need.

Ms. Ma. Theresa Dalumpines, Project Director

1.5 Affiliates

BASTOB (Bangladesh)

In 2009, BASTOB operated the following 7 development projects:

1. Capacity Building for Ensuring Safe Labour Migration (CABSLAM): Objectives of the project are to ensure safe labour migration and increase foreign remittance through proper banking channels.
2. Safety at Sea for Small-Scale Fisheries and Awareness on Social Issues: Created awareness in the fishing community's on safety at sea. Awareness building was done for 205 families on health and AIDS.
3. Women Empowerment through Skill Development: Established 20 Nursery Schools with 600 Children, weekly health clinic and Scholarship program
4. Sultan-Sofa Pathshala: school for slum children of Dhaka, 5 full-time and 2 part-time teachers, 130 Students.
5. Non-Formal Education Program: BASTOB is running 5 primary schools in Chakaria, Cox's Bazar, 5 teachers, 1 supervisor and 150 students.
6. WATSAN Program: Water and sanitation awareness program. School latrines, technologies for safe drinking water and sanitary latrines for ultra poor households are also provided.
7. Micro-finance Program: Small loans to the poor. In 2009, Bangladesh Taka 128,929,000.00 (US\$ 1,896,015) was disbursed to 8,595 members. Members also enjoy insurance, health, education and business support.

Ruhi Das, Executive Director

INNATE (Northern Ireland)

INNATE's work continues to grow, slowly but surely, responding as best we can to a variety of needs. The monthly meeting, usually in Belfast, is an opportunity to plan programme and other work. We have various projects and ideas on the go, some of which are not at the stage of going public because they need further development first, on a variety of different aspects of peace and nonviolence.

We produced Nonviolent News monthly and this is now really a magazine, at least so far as the e-mail and online editions are concerned. We have continued to add photos to our website-linked photo site which we hope will become an Irish 'peace movement photo archive'. The website has continued to flourish and be a resource not just for the wider world but also a good point for people to come into contact with INNATE. We also receive a variety of queries about aspects of nonviolence from at home and abroad which we respond to as best we can. For more information please see www.innatenonviolence.org

The Jewish Peace Fellowship (USA)

Greetings and Shalom from the Jewish Peace Fellowship.

The Jewish Peace Fellowship, established in 1941, continues our long-standing participation on the U.S. FOR National Council with its programs opposing war, the death penalty, and support of anti-draft and CO education. We also maintain our relationship with the Prisoner Visitation System and the Center on Conscience and War.

This year we reprinted *Wrestling with Your Conscience* – a manual for young people searching for information on nonviolence and CO. Soon a new and fourth edition of *Roots of Jewish Nonviolence* will be printed. Our major project in 2009 was the publication of our online monthly e-newsletter – *Shalom: The Jewish Peace Letter*.

[<http://www.jewishpeacefellowship.org>.]

Free subscriptions are available from JPF@forusa.org.

Peace Maker's Society (Cameroon)

From 20-22 July 2009, through the Participatory Grassroots Non Violence Education and Training (PGNVET) programme we trained some 25 women group leaders from villages involved in bloody conflict. Women group leaders from the political hotbed of the country worked on how to use nonviolence techniques to respond to conflict situations where women are the highest victims. The creative aspect of this project is to instill in women a culture of peace in an era where hatred already exists.

Participants agreed replicate the same program in their communities under the mentorship of Peace Makers Society Cameroon. According to our external evaluators, techniques learned in training are averting acts of violence in these communities by 82.9%. The participatory training was facilitated by Ngeh Ruth Sunjo, Shiri Asobo, Fube Harrison and Wirlen Aver Lucas all renowned nonviolence trainers in Cameroon. The high water mark is that other communities are now asking for similar training.

Please note: All reports from IFOR members (BGAs) were edited for grammatical errors and content, and some were shortened to fit a format, in order to bring them into conformity with our editing standards. Every effort was made to be fair to all BGAs submitting reports and images, and guidelines were not strictly followed to allow for an author's writing style to be expressed. Captions and credits were used with the images whenever they were available or included in the delivery of a report. We would like to thank all BGAs that responded to the call for reports and supplied information and images about their organizational activities in 2009.

2 DECADE FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE

2.1 Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World

In 1997 the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed that the year 2000 would be the International Year for a Culture of Peace. In 1998 the United Nations decided to adopt the Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World- 2001-2010 to give greater worldwide support for a Culture of Peace.

One of the many ways in which IFOR has supported the Decade is by encouraging IFOR members to support Decade national coalitions and directly support the formation of the International Coalition for the Decade (ICD) to coordinate the work of national coalitions. IFOR is represented by IFOR Communications Officer Stan Morris, and is part of the International Committee of the ICD.

Another program of the ICD is the international declaration on children's right to an education without violence and an education for nonviolence and peace. A draft was officially presented to Clare Stark, UNESCO's Coordinator for the Culture of Peace, at the end of 2006. Further meetings took place with other UNESCO officials, as a prelude to the distribution of the campaign's literature to the member states, as well as its dissemination to civil society organizations. The draft declaration is available from the ICD Secretariat.

For more information on the International Coalition for the Decade (ICD), please visit their website: www.nvpdecade.org.

IFOR continues to promote peace teams and zones of peace. IFOR is presently involved in supporting the Nonviolent Peaceforce, currently working in Sri Lanka and the Philippines to help establish a foundation for sustainable peace. The NP Member Organization (MO) delegates are active at the International Assembly. The second meeting of NP MO delegates was the 2007 International Assembly in Kenya. It is up to the NP Member Organization, if they maintain a standing delegate beyond the Internal Assembly. The IFOR delegate to the 2007 International Assembly in Kenya was Joy Mbaabu. IFOR nominated Eric Bachman to fill the "IGC (International Council) international seat," and to be responsible for relating information between NP and international organizations.

IFOR also supports the European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation, which in turn supports the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict.

2.2 IFOR Representation at UNESCO

Maria Antonietta Malleo has been the IFOR representative at UNESCO since 2003. She is supported by an IFOR UNESCO working group. Maria Antonietta Malleo is an art history teacher at the University of Palermo, Italy.

2.3 International Salon for Peace Initiatives

The International Salon for Peace Initiatives, organised every other year by the French Coalition for the Decade in Paris, was not held in the year 2009. IFOR will participate in the 4th International Salon for Peace Initiatives (Salon de Paix) the 26th and 27th of November in the year 2010.

2.4 Non-Violent Education in Kindergartens—Nonviolence Education and Training Program (NVETP)

NVE supports sustainable implementation of nonviolence/nonviolent education, peace education and violence prevention in compulsory education, thus contributing to consequent implementation of Articles 19 and 29 of the Convention on the Rights of Children.

NVE is a part of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR) Nonviolence Education and Training Program (NVETP), as a joint initiative with Förderverein Kinder Jugend und Kultur. NVE cooperates with researchers, practitioners, institutions and individuals contributing to innovation, synergies, supportive frameworks and implementation in this important field of education. NVE is a contribution to the UN Decade for the Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World.

A great deal of time was spent for networking, program development, fundraising and the preparation of the NVE publication *Patterns in Reconciliation* #11 on the right of a child to nonviolent education. In December 2009, FOR Norway hosted a program meeting to discuss a 2nd phase follow-up for the NonViolent Education in Kindergartens and Primary Schools program. The European meeting, including researchers, practitioners from 7 European countries, and translations for the NVE publication were made possible thanks to the UNESCO grant received in 2008 for 2009 expenditures.

For further information please contact Eva Fuessinger eva.fuessinger@nv-e.org , John Schot john.schot@ifor.org or visit the NVE website www.nv-e.org . Publications can be ordered through the IFOR International Secretariat or the NVE Office in Germany.

3 WOMEN PEACEMAKERS PROGRAM

Overall, 2009 was an exciting year for IFOR'S WPP, bringing with it the start-up phase of **two exciting pilot projects**: the Training of the Trainers (ToT) Cycle "*Overcoming Violence - Exploring Masculinities, Violence and Peace*" and the 2010 Consultation: "*Interfaith Peacebuilding: The Need for a Gender-perspective.*" In addition, **financial support** was provided to women activists and groups to support their work for peace, with WPP publications ensuring broad **dissemination** of the work done by women peacemakers in the field, as well as providing them with the latest updates in the field of women, peace and security. IFOR's WPP also took part in several **international, regional and national events** on the topic of women, peace and security.

A very rewarding aspect of the work in 2009 was the overwhelming positive feedback received from the field on WPP's innovative ways of working and projects.

"I am just reviewing the documents I got from the Angie Brooks Centre meeting in New York last September 18th. In the study conducted for the Angie Brooks International Centre on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development International Peace and Security, IFOR-WPP was cited as one of the best examples of organizations that specialize on training women [from different parts of the world] in various aspects of peacebuilding, and referred to several times." – Mavic Cabrera Balleza from the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP)⁽¹⁾

Below follows a short overview of IFOR'S WPP achievements during 2009:

3.1 Education and Training

Training of the Trainers 2009

The first training of the pilot ToT Cycle "*Overcoming Violence - Exploring Masculinities, Violence and Peace*" took place in The Netherlands at Hotel Golfzang in Egmond aan Zee. In total, 19 trainees (chosen from an applicant pool of 300) from five different continents participated in the ToT.

The 2009 training focused on the theory and practice of gender-sensitive active nonviolence, the theory of masculinities and its relation to violence, and participatory and gender-sensitive facilitation. In addition, the ToT trainees participated in dialogue sessions with WPP staff members, Dutch women peace activists, the Kitchen Table ⁽²⁾, as well as UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Gulnara Shahinian. Trainees also participated in the "*Second Swedish-Dutch Conference on Gender Equality: Women in War Zones*", which took place in the Peace Palace on December 3, 2009..

A direct powerful outcome of the 2009 ToT was the collective statement *Together for Transformation*, drawn up by the trainees in the framework of the *16 Days Against Gender Violence Campaign*. The statement was drafted to publicly affirm their commitment to gender-sensitive active nonviolence and ending violence against women and was disseminated widely ⁽³⁾; including a publication in *Voice Male Magazine*.

¹ The Angie Brooks Centre is envisioned to become a leading global institution and network dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of women's empowerment, leadership development and international peace and security and will be headquartered at the University of Liberia. It is named in honor of the late Angie Brooks, Liberia's permanent representative to the UN and Africa's first woman President of the UN General Assembly. It is also intended to honor women in leadership worldwide.

² The Kitchen Table is the WO=MEN Working Group on Men and Gender Justice

³ The collective statement was widely distributed via the IFOR/WPP email lists (e-service, Cross the Lines), the IFOR/WPP website, the IFOR/WPP Regional Africa Desk, the email distribution list from the Centre for Women's Global Leadership (entitled 16 days campaign), Women's United Nations Report Network (WURN), MenEngage network and website, the United Network for Young Peacebuilders (UNOY), Peace and Collaborative Network, AWID, Fellowship of Reconciliation USA, UNIFEM partners, Cordaid Partners via the Cordaid Partnership website, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF).



WPP Training of Trainers Pilot session "Overcoming Violence - Exploring Masculinities, Violence and Peace."

Knowledge generated during this first-of-its-kind Training of Trainers has been analyzed and distributed via articles made available via the IFOR'S WPP website (www.ifor.org/WPP) and WPP mailing lists (e-newsletter *Cross the Lines* and *WPP Opportunities* e-list).

Nonviolence Education and Training (NVET)

2009 Projects supported by IFOR'S WPP under the NVET training activity were:

Balkans: National Council of Women of Republic of Macedonia (UWOM) – Macedonia

The project was implemented by the *National Council of Women of Republic of Macedonia (UWOM)*. Since its establishment, UWOM is functioning as a network of 104 independent and multi-ethnic (Macedonian, Albanian, Turkish, Roma, Serbian, Bosnian and Vlach) member organizations.

Main objectives of the project included dissemination of knowledge on UNSCR 1325, as well as the establishment inter-sector cooperation for its implementation. In the long term, the project aims to incite an initiative for the ratification of UNSCR 1325 in Macedonia and the overall incorporation of a gender perspective in the country's peace and security policy. To this end, workshops took place in every region in Macedonia, focusing on cities with inhabitants of different ethnic and religious origin.

Balkans: SKILLS – Croatia

As a follow-up to the 2008 conference *Women Create Alternatives for Armed Conflict* (in which IFOR'S WPP was involved), where women activists from Serbia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia and Kosovo/a created an action plan aimed at awareness raising on active nonviolence and increasing co-operation between peace and women's movements in the Balkans, NGO SKILLS - approached the WPP for financial support in the framework of implementing the Balkans action plan. During 2009, SKILLS organized:

- a series of **four trainings "Together for Peace"**, taking place across Bosnia; Croatia, Macedonia and Serbia (February – May 2009);

- The collection and **publishing of women's anti-war actions** (May 2009), in order to give recognition to Balkan women's continued engagement for peace;
- a **public and media presentation** of the Women's Antiwar Collection for the purpose of broad dissemination;

The training series reached out to approximately **80-100 people** (majority women). Participants represented a cross-section of society, including local peace and social activists, academics, women's groups representatives, and public officials. Through **public and media presentations** (on the trainings as well as the Women's Anti-War Collection "*Why I am for peace*"), an **additional 500-700 people** were reached.

Latin America: Fundacion Mujer, Arte y Vida -MAVI – Colombia

Goal of the 2009 project "*Escuela Política de Mujeres*" was to develop Colombian women's lobby and advocacy skills; to strengthen women's citizenship and leadership through participation in mass media, and to promote peace and nonviolent actions from a women's perspective. *Fundacion Mujer, Arte y Vida -MAVI-Colombia* developed the training course "*Communicating with a Women's Perspective*" (April 2009), which developed the skills of 16 women and 1 man as **spokespersons** in the context of the Colombian armed conflict. Promoting dialogue and understanding of the disproportionate impact of the armed conflict on women's wellbeing was a crucial aspect of the training. Main outcomes of the training included:

- **Increased participation in mass media;**
- The creation of a weblog for the **dissemination** of information on activities;
- **Increased participation in national and international public campaigns**
- Creation of the **alliance "Infogenero"**, which is a virtual platform that reaches more than 3,000 users (www.infogenero.net)
- Participation in **regional meetings** to prepare the "*XII Latin American and Caribbean Feminist Congress*" which will be hosted by Colombia in 2011;
- **Lobby** with women from the Municipality to incorporate the national law 092 into the local agenda.
- Advocacy for increased commitment on law 1257 which punishes violence against women;
- The **production of the online book "Umbral de las Memorias"** with testimonies of all the women involved in the 2009 activities.

Pacific: Pacific Centre for Peacebuilding (PCP) – Fiji

Based in Suva, Fiji, PCP works to reduce and prevent violent conflict in Fiji and the wider Pacific region. The main goals behind the project "*Engaging: building on nonviolent education for action using a gendered perspective*", are to increase awareness in Fiji on gender-sensitive nonviolent practice and action, thereby specifically focusing on nonviolent social change from a Fijian perspective. For this project, PCP collaborates with FemLINK Pacific (a women's community-based media organization) in order to develop a media dissemination strategy that ensures that women living in rural areas can also learn about nonviolence education. The project covers the four regions of Fiji (North, East, Central and West) and is implemented during the period June 2009 – June 2010, with financial support from IFOR'S WPP and AUSAID.

The Project consisted of the following activities during 2009:

- **Nonviolence Training of Trainers** for PCP staff (21-24 September 2009) in Suva; training 6 PCP activists;
- One week **nonviolence training** (28 Sept – 2 Oct 2009) for FemLINK Pacific field correspondents from around the Pacific region; training 21 women activists;
- A **first community nonviolence follow-up workshop** (December 2009); held in Bua in celebration of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign; training 40 women and men.

International Orientation

During 2009, the WPP/IS provided a 5 week **Orientation Program for two young activists from Fiji and Kyrgyzstan** at the IFOR International Secretariat (IS): Aktuigun Pazylova from

NGO Pangea and Paulini Saurogo Turagabeci from the Fiji Women's Right's Movement. The Orientation program covered international aspects of peace work with particular attention to understanding the interconnections among peace, development, and gender equality. Aktuigun and Paulini made presentations on the work of their respective CSO's to IFOR staff and other Dutch organizations; liaised with relevant Dutch and Dutch-based international nongovernmental organizations. They also attended several conferences on the topic of women, peace, and security - including the launch of the Belgian National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325. On a daily basis, they assisted WPP staff with work in the office, such as the preparations for the 2009 May 24 Celebration in Utrecht and produced the 2009 edition of *The Time is Now*.



The IO participants confirmed that the program had been very valuable, leading to an increase in their knowledge on gender and peacebuilding; writing and presentation skills; as well as strengthening their network:

"The general program is very intensive; it was very interesting and gave me inspiration and information, and an opportunity to change and grow"- Aktuigun (photo: left).

"As tired as I'd be on some evenings when returning home, I'd never exchange the experience for anything and am very appreciative of it all and hope that other young women can experience it too" – Paulini (photo: right).

Financial support women activists

In support of annual **South-South and North-South exchanges**, in 2009 WPP support was made available for activists from Latin America and the Balkans who lacked the resources to attend international conferences and ongoing education on gender and peacebuilding:

- Six women activists from Bosnia Herzegovina were supported with a travel grant in order to attend the **regional conference "Women's Pathways to Peace"**, organized by the Ecumenical Women's Initiative (EWI). The conference took place in Omis, Croatia, in November, 2009 and was also attended by IFOR'S WPP Gender Officer Cristina Reyna. In total, 37 participants representing Bosnia, Croatia, Kosovo,

Macedonia, Serbia, Lebanon, Palestine, and the UK took part in the conference.

- A representative from WIPNET Liberia received a travel grant in order to attend the **“Strategy Session on UNSCR 1820”**, in New York from September 21 - 25, 2009. Goals of the event included the exploration of collective strategies for the full implementation of UNSCR 1820. The group also attended the 64th UN General Assembly Meeting’s session *“Peace and Security through Women’s Leadership: Acting on 1325 and Climate Change”*, which was hosted by Liberian President *Ellen Johnson Sirleaf* and Finnish President *Tarja Halonen*.
- From 18-24 October 2009, a young woman activist from Serbia was supported to participate in the **“Women Leaders Course”** organized by the Webb Institute for Leadership in Democracy, Ruskin College, Oxford, UK. Participants of the course included women leaders from peace organizations from South East Europe.
- During December 2009, two women activists from the organization *Fundacion Mujer, Arte y Vida -MAVI-Colombia* received a travel grant to attend the meeting *“Encuentro Construyendo Juntxs Red, Red, Genero y Paz”*. The meeting took place in Buenos Aires and was organized by the Institute Paulo Freire (Berlin, Germany). The meeting contributed to the **strengthening of the Latin American network** around gender and peacebuilding.

3.2 Networking and Building Regional Capacity

Regional Desks

To build regional capacity, ensure sustainable and culturally sensitive women’s programming, and to strengthen South-South and North-South links among women peacebuilders, two regional desks for the promotion of gender-sensitive nonviolence training were established in Africa (hosted by the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding in Ghana) and Asia (hosted by the Cultural Academy for Peace in India) in 2007. Both Desks were envisaged to be self-sufficient and sustainable by 2009. Late 2008, the IFOR’S WPP Africa Desk secured funding for the period 2009-2011. The IFOR’S WPP Asia Desk was not able to secure funding beyond 2008. In the framework of supporting the Asia and Africa region, IFOR’S WPP at the IS mainly provided technical support throughout 2009.

Future

Throughout 2009, the WPP/IS started working on the development of a comprehensive regional strategy for the period 2011-2015. During the 2009 planning sessions, the **Middle East was prioritized as region** of focus in the coming years. Key issues that informed criteria of selection were:

- Need for gender-sensitive nonviolent peacebuilding in the region;
- Region has active conflicts and post-conflict countries;
- The lack of women’s involvement in (formal) peacebuilding processes;
- Need for increased (regional) networking around UN SCR 1325; in particular gender sensitive nonviolent peacebuilding;
- Need for broadening of WPP partners in the region;

IFOR’S WPP anticipates that the process of building partnerships in the Middle East region will take at least 3 years.

- Overall, throughout 2009, IFOR/ WPP focused on **expanding its contacts** in the different regions (Caucasus, Middle East and the Pacific). On a daily basis, the WPP/IS responded to requests for information on gender and peacebuilding as well as linked women’s organizations to resources and funding agencies. On May 23, 2009, in preparation for the 24 May event *“Voices of Peace from the Balkans and the Caucasus”* the WPP met with 6 activists ⁽⁴⁾ from these regions to **discuss ways forward in terms of**

⁴ **Zorica Trifunovic** (Women in Black / Serbia); **Lesley Abdela** (Gender and post-conflict specialist/ United Kingdom); **Gulnara Shahinian** (UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery / Armenia); **Arjeta**

WPP's engagement in the Caucasus and Balkans during the period 2009-2010 and beyond. The meeting provided space for discussion and agreement on the best way forward for both regions, including in terms of identifying key stakeholders and how to engage them.

Documentation, Analysis, Dissemination

IFOR'S WPP's documentation work, a.o.; focuses on disseminating cases of women's nonviolent strategies for social inclusion and conflict resolution; the most successful strategies women have developed; as well as the obstacles women face in their work for peace. During 2009, IFOR'S WPP:

- Produced, in cooperation with the *International Peace Bureau* (IPB) based in Geneva, **the May 24 International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament Action Pack**. Since the 1995 UN World Conference on Women in Beijing, IFOR and IPB have published this pack to raise attention and support for women's peace initiatives. The pack focuses on women's work for peace, provides readers with suggestions for solidarity actions, and refers them to further resources on the pack's topics. It also contains an international directory of women's peace groups. The May 24 2009 Action Pack – entitled *Voices of Peace from the Balkans and the Caucasus* contained articles related to women, peace and security in the Balkans and the Caucasus region.
- **Published three editions of e-newsletter *Cross the Lines* (#36-38)**, in English, Dutch, German, Spanish, Russian, and French. Each edition of *Cross the Lines* (CtL) contains articles related to women's peacebuilding, as well as a list of new resources and publications and a calendar of upcoming training programs, seminars, and conferences. In 2009, *Cross the Lines* included articles on the incorporation of a gender perspective in civilian-based peacekeeping; IFOR'S WPP's presence at the AWID "Power of Movements" conference; the IFOR'S WPP-facilitated "Gender, Youth and Peacebuilding Training 2009" at the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY); working with men and boys as allies; the May 24 Celebration "Voices of Peace from the Balkans and the Caucasus", the IFOR'S WPP Africa Desk-organized training on advocacy and lobby; and an article on UNSCR 1325, 1820, 1888 and 1889. Approximately 3,500 organizations and individuals receive CtL directly via the WPP database and mailing lists.
- **Disseminated monthly editions of the IFOR'S WPP *Opportunities* e-service**, which provided information on relevant courses, trainings, conferences, campaigns and job opportunities in the field of women, peace and security. IFOR'S WPP staff has registered with several online (news) groups and other networks on gender and peacebuilding (incl. AWID; IANSA; WUNRN; Peace and Collaborative Network; Yahoo groups such as *WorkingWithBoysandMen* and *menagainstviolence*; the *womenpeaceandsecurity* mailing list; *UN WIRE*; International Centre for Research on Women) and through this network receives constant updates on latest resources, job opportunities, campaigns and training events. This information is compiled in an e-newsletter which is distributed widely to approximately 2,600 receivers (including organizations and individual activists). Its content in turn has re-appeared in various digital newsletters and newsgroups.
- **(Co-)organized several expert meetings and awareness-raising events** on the topic of women, peace and security; for example:
- On **8 March** 2009 (International Women's Day), IFOR'S WPP co-operated with **Movisie** in the framework of its launch of the 'We Can' campaign in the Netherlands.

Rexhaj (Executive Director Gender Training and Research Center and Board Member of the Kosova Women's Network / Kosova); **Teko Goletiani** (Cultural – Humanitarian Fund Sukhumi / Georgia); **Tijana Vignjevic** (activist / Bosnia & Herzegovina).

During the event, IFOR'S WPP staff organized a workshop under the theme *'Tough Guys: are you concerned?* to discuss the links between armed violence in the society and at home, and how this is connected to the education of young boys and girls. About 120 participants attended the day.

- On **May 24, 2009** (International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament), IFOR'S WPP organized the public event *"Voices of Peace from the Balkans and the Caucasus* in RASA Centre for World Cultures in Utrecht, in celebration of the work done by women activists and musicians working for peace from the Balkans and the Caucasus region. Approximately 80 people participated in the day, which was organized by IFOR'S WPP in collaboration with *Musicians without Borders*. The day started with a panel discussion between women peace activists from Georgia and former Yugoslavia, who discussed the work done in both regions, and the obstacles they meet in their work. Musical intermezzos by women musicians from the respective regions provided an inspiring break between the discussions. During the second part of the day participants could attend different workshops related to the panel discussions, as well as a documentary on women's life in the Balkans during and after the war. The day ended with an inspiring concert by the women musicians, providing the audience with an opportunity to get to know the musical heritage of the countries and regions discussed.
- Attended and spoke at several conferences and public events on the topic of women, peace and security;
- Provided IFOR'S WPP materials (e.g., IFOR'S WPP workshop kit; posters on 1325, peacebuilding and gender) upon request;
- Updated the IFOR'S WPP website regularly with relevant information on IFOR'S WPP activities and new resources on women, peace and security.

Dutch Peace and Gender Platforms

During 2009, WPP co-operated with the following (Dutch) initiatives in the framework of women, peace and security:

- **Platform WO=MEN**, an initiative by representatives of Dutch CSOs and policymakers to ensure that empowerment of women and gender mainstreaming remain on the agenda of development co-operation. IFOR'S WPP actively participated in its 1325 WG; several activities of the 1325 WG members; as well as the bi-annual 1325 NAP review meetings held at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- **Platform Women and Sustainable Peace (Platform Vrouwen en Duurzame Vrede)**, which was established to promote sustainable peace by stimulating equal co-operation between men and women in (armed) conflict situations and conflict areas. WPP was involved in the planning of follow-up activities resulting from the 2008 conference *Women Create Alternatives for Armed conflict*, which included the production of the brochure *Vrouwen, Vrede, Veiligheid: Resolutie 1325 in uitvoering*. IFOR'S WPP financially supported the publication of the English version of the brochure.
- IFOR'S WPP attended several meetings of the **MDG 3 working group** held at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the framework of providing CSO input in terms of the implementation of the MDG 3 fund;
- In addition, IFOR'S WPP co-operated with the **European Women's Lobby (EWL)** in the framework of providing input to its position paper on UNSCR 1325.

3.3 Mainstreaming Gender

Consultation: “Interfaith Peacebuilding: The Need for a Gender Perspective

IFOR, as an interfaith movement for peace and active nonviolence, has a 90-year history of practical experience and knowledge of how religion can be a positive resource for peacebuilding and justice. While the role of religion in peacebuilding and conflict is still a relatively new field of academic study and research, much public and media attention has focused on the negative role religion plays in conflict.

It is against this background that the IFOR’S WPP is planning the consultation “*Interfaith Peacebuilding: The Need for a Gender Perspective*”. This consultation is planned for 2010 and will invite pioneering progressive theologians and peace activists from five major spiritual traditions (Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, and Judaism, and Islam) from different continents. Participants will analyze -using a gender-perspective- the multiple roles of religion in current conflicts, both as cause of war and as incentive to peace building. In addition, the impact of interfaith peacebuilding initiatives will be analyzed, as well as the interconnections between peacebuilding and women’s rights. Women activists who work for peace within their religious traditions will share successes of their approach, as well as obstacles encountered in their traditions and how to overcome these obstacles, as well as potential risks.

Preparations for the consultation took place throughout 2009. The IFOR’S WPP team further defined consultation objectives and expected outcomes, and attended two conferences in the framework of information gathering and networking:

Late 2009, IFOR’S WPP conducted telephone interviews with women representatives from the five different faith traditions in order to gather input on the program and set-up. Application formats were drawn up - including specific questions in order to gather further input regarding participants’ needs and expectations of the consultation – and contact was established with the IFOR UNESCO representative in the framework of fundraising for the consultation with UNESCO. Arrangements were made with the local organizer in Cyprus, where the consultation will be held from September 12-16, 2010.

Engendering Peace

During 2009, annual meetings of the Gender Working Group (GWG) and WPP Working Group (WPP WG) took place, resulting in the monitoring of the IFOR gender mainstreaming process (GWG) and development of a gender action plan for the 2010 IFOR Council. The WPP WG provided input to the strategic planning process of IFOR’S WPP (2011 – 2015; WPP WG) in the framework of sustaining women’s programming in IFOR beyond 2010.

Gender updates and trainings were also conducted for IFOR staff and board members (ICOM), as well as other CSOs, in order to enable incorporation of a gender perspective in their (peace) work.

Throughout the year, IFOR’S WPP co-organized and participated in numerous expert meetings, conferences, and lobby and advocacy events in the framework of women, peace and security, which contributed to further knowledge exchange and awareness raising on the topic. Two notable events in the year were:

- **International Colloquium on Women’s Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security**, March 2009 in Monrovia, Liberia. IFOR’S WPP participated in several Colloquium sessions, including a break-out session on UNSCR 1325, where it shared its experiences with the Dutch NAP process. IFOR’S WPP was also invited to address the Colloquium audience to share its lessons learned as a program supporting women’s peace initiatives worldwide.
- **Second Swedish-Dutch Conference on Gender Equality: Women in War Zones**. On 3 December 2009, the **Embassy of Sweden, the Dutch Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense, the Swedish Institute** and IFOR’S WPP organized this conference which took place at the Peace Palace in The Hague. Governments and armed forces of Sweden and the Netherlands, as well as international organizations, NGOs and women’s networks active in conflict and post-conflict areas were invited to discuss concrete examples and best practices in relation to UNSCR 1325 and 1820.

Main goal of the conference was to come up with pragmatic recommendations for next year's 10th anniversary of UNSCR 1325. IFOR'S WPP participated in the preparation of the conference; invited women activists to speak during the panel discussions; disseminated the invitation within its network; and contributed to the reporting on the event.

3.4 Evaluation

All WPP activities were evaluated and monitored by means of standard reporting formats, oral/written evaluations, and questionnaires. Input from these evaluations will be used for future program planning. Mid 2009, the IFOR'S WPP submitted its final report documenting work done and results achieved during the third Program Phase (2005-2008), as well as the audited 2008 financial report to the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The TMF Final Term Evaluation (2005-2008) took place from September 2008 to June 2009. During the second part of 2009, evaluation results were discussed internally by the different IFOR stakeholders (including the IFOR'S WPP Asia and Africa Regional Boards and Desks, WPP Working Group, and ICOM. Contact was established with the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs late 2009 to discuss the results of the evaluation report, with a meeting taking place in March 2010.

4 REPRESENTATION & WORKING GROUPS

4.1 Representation

IFOR maintains permanent representatives at the United Nations (UN) in New York, Geneva and Vienna who regularly participate in conferences and meetings of UN bodies. To read reports from these representatives, visit the IFOR website, www.ifor.org.

Jonathan Sisson served as IFOR representative to the UN in Geneva, assisted by Michel Monod. Together with War Resisters International, IFOR continues to be concerned with the rights of conscientious objectors.

John Kim and Frank Ostrowski were the IFOR representatives at the UN in New York in 2009.



We report with sadness that 2009 was Frank Ostrowski's final year as IFOR representative to the UN in New York. Dr. Ostrowski passed away in January 2010 at the age of 79.

When originally asked, "Would you like to be IFOR's UN rep?" Frank answered: "It would be a dream come true," and so began more than a decade of faithful, dedicated, and much appreciated service to IFOR in this position.

Frank Ostrowski, 1931-2010

Peter Hämmerle continues to represent IFOR at the UN in Vienna. Nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament are major themes in Vienna.

Maria Antonietta Malleo is the IFOR representative at UNESCO.

IFOR Vice-president Françoise Pétremand represents IFOR at World Council of Churches.

Françoise Pétremand, David Mumford and Stan Morris represent IFOR at the International Coordination for the UN Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence.

IFOR is a founding member of Nonviolent Peaceforce, an international body seeking to develop nonviolent intervention strategies in areas of conflict. IFOR member Eric Bachman is the IFOR representative on their International Council, and is also their Treasurer. IFOR staff has also participated in NP meetings.

IFOR works with the European Centre for Conflict Prevention, and continues to collaborate with the Global Partnership on the Prevention of Armed Conflict.

IFOR is a founding member of Eirene. It continued its involvement with this organization throughout 2009. The Executive Director John Schot participates on the board.

IFOR is a partner organization of the Conference of European Churches (CEC).

IFOR is a partner organization of War Resisters International (WRI)

IFOR maintains good relationships with Pax Christi International and the International Peace Bureau (IPB), and IFOR's vice President Francoise Pétremand represents IFOR at the Church and Peace annual conferences.

4.2 Working Groups

At its quadrennial Council in Japan in October 2006, IFOR created a number of new working groups (WG), in addition to existing ones, to oversee the implementation of the 4-year plan. The following are current working groups: Youth Working Group; WPP Working Group; Publications Working Group, Strengthening Membership Working Group (Field Officer support); UNESCO Working Group; International Theological Working Group; Reconciliation Working Group; Peace Constitution Working Group; Gender Working Group.

All IFOR representatives and working group conveners can be contacted through the International Secretariat. Some private addresses are given at the end of the listing of branches, groups and affiliates, and these people can be contacted directly.

5 ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

5.1 International Committee

The International Committee (ICOM) is the principal decision-making body of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR) between Council meetings. Its members are responsible for translating the directions and recommendations decided upon by the International Council into a working program for the International Secretariat. They are also responsible for monitoring the Secretariat's overall operations and for coordinating IFOR's regional activity and the operations of the IFOR Working Groups. In addition, the International Committee determines and approves the IFOR annual budget and decides on the size and shape of the IFOR staff. The International Committee was elected at the Council in Tokyo in 2006 and continues in office until the Council meets in 2010.

The principal officers of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation are the President, the Vice-President, and the Treasurer. These three officers form IFOR's Executive Committee (Ex-Com) and are also members of the International Committee. The Executive Committee is empowered to act on behalf of the International Committee between International Committee meetings.

The members of the Executive Committee (Ex-Com) are listed as follows:

President: Jan Schaake, Kerk en Vrede (IFOR branch in the Netherlands)
 Vice-President: Françoise Pétremand, FOR Switzerland (French-speaking IFOR branch)
 Treasurer: Vololona Razafindrainibe, FOR Madagascar (FIEFA/MIR-MAD)

The International Committee members, in addition to Ex-Com members, are:

Richard Deats, FOR USA
 Nhamo Sithole, FOR Zimbabwe
 Stella Tamang, Bikalpa Nepal
 Zoughbi Zoughbi, FOR Palestine (Wi'am Center)

The International Committee met 29 June through 3 July 2009, Ex-Com met 26, 27, 28 September 2009.

5.2 Stichting IFOR

Stichting (Foundation) IFOR is the legally registered body in the Netherlands which owns the building, employs the staff and permits IFOR to operate as a legal entity. It acts under the guidance of the International Committee.

The members are:

President: Jan Schaake (The Netherlands)
 Secretary: Willem Laan (The Netherlands)
 Foundation member: Paul Kruyswijk (The Netherlands)
 Treasurer: Vololona Razafindrainibe (Madagascar)

The Stichting is also responsible for the use of the building and is legally representing the International Secretariat.

IFOR is continuing its relation with Musicians without Borders (MwB), which occupy three rooms in the building. MwB was initially sponsored by IFOR as a group of musicians and singers who show how a shared love of music can be a powerful force for peace and reconciliation. Their website is www.musicianswithoutborders.nl.

Other groups, such as Amnesty International and a local support group for asylum seekers, use the building on a regular basis.

5.3 International Secretariat

In 2009 IFOR's International Secretariat had the following paid staff members: Executive Director (100%), Financial Administrator (80%), Communications Officer (100%), Administration Assistant (30%).

In February 2008 Johannes R. Schot became the new International Coordinator. The International Committee decided to change the title to "Executive Director." He remained in this position through 2009. Arjan Dekker has worked as Financial Administrator since April 2003. His financial expertise supports both the general staff and the Women Peacemakers Program (WPP), and since 2007 he has also been doing work on the NVE project. From September 5, 2007 Stan Morris, a volunteer through Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS), has worked as IFOR's Communications Officer. Helga de Goede continues to work as the Administrative Assistant for IFOR, but officially retired in 2009. She continues with her support of all staff members as a volunteer.



IFOR staff in the International Secretariat's "Peace Library" located at Spoorstraat 38 in Alkmaar (Laura Hassler, director of Musicians without Borders, on the far right).

5.4 Women Peacemakers Program

Isabelle Geuskens worked (100%, since September 2009 at 80%) as Program Manager; Shelley Anderson, who normally works as the Program Officer (100%), has been on sick leave since March 2007 and left IFOR in August 2009. Her work has been partly taken over by the Communication officer (80%) José de Vries. José started working with the Women Peacemakers Program in July 2007 as a volunteer. Dorothy Attema has been working as Regional Development Officer (80%). Gender Officer Cristina Reyna was hired in mid-2007 and worked on an 80% bases. Banafshe Hejazi had a temporary contract with WPP from May until August as the Assistant Program Officer. Merle Goosewinkel started her duties as an intern Programme Assistant in January 2009.

5.5 Volunteers and Interns

Stan Morris continues to work full-time as a international volunteer through Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS).

Emeline Boulanger, a French student, worked as the assistant to the Communications Officer, mainly on translation and updating IFOR's email database. Leonora van Uenen continues her work on IFOR's archives as a part-time volunteer.

6 PUBLICATIONS

6.1 IFOR Publications

IFOR Website

The Secretariat's website, www.ifor.org, continues to be IFOR's electronic "front door" and is managed by Communications Officer Stan Morris. The website allows IFOR, and especially those members within the Fellowship that don't have websites, to present a wide array of timely information to the public, and to IFOR's membership. Through this website, IFOR receives the majority of its requests from organizations and individuals seeking affiliation, membership, and/or other information.

In 2009, the IFOR website was instrumental in supporting and delivering press information and materials prepared for the *Sino-Tibet Conference* in Geneva, Switzerland. On 28 July (the event was kept secret until 27 July) a media blitz was initiated by our communications staff, using the newly developed *NEWS@IFOR.org* alert program in conjunction with the IFOR website. An email announcement was sent, both in French and English, to our membership, and the general public was alerted via our website.



By Saturday morning the IFOR website and the website's Special Reports pages were at the top of the list of *Google* search results, when the title of the event was used as the search criteria. Three days before our campaign began, the *Sino-Tibet* event had no Web presents associated with the IFOR website, and it was listed only at #3 by Friday night. But, likely due to higher volume ("number of hits") and some HTML engineering, the positioning of the IFOR website had jumped to the #1 overnight. Pages of the IFOR website that were relative to the *Sino-Tibet* event were continually updated and/or created to host timely conference information.

In the course of a year, many additions and improvements have been made to IFOR's website. News items on the front page are now more prominently displayed with summary information and images, and copies are archived under "Alerts & Actions" or "News & Reports." The Become a Member page has been improved to include membership information on PDF files in French and Spanish, and a photo album and a calendar page were both added—all these new options are now also displayed and linked at the bottom / left column on the website's homepage. IFOR maintains an important Web presence!

IFOR in Action™

The IFOR International Secretariat produces a quarterly eZine (online magazine) under the name IFOR in Action™. Available both in English and French, the publication features articles and reports of IFOR Branches, Groups and Affiliates from around the world.

IFOR in Action™ is FREE and easily read online in a Web browser or downloaded as a PDF and read offline. To subscribe, please contact IFOR Communications Officer / Publications Editor [Stan Morris](mailto:Stan.Morris@ifor.org).

Each issue of *IFOR in Action*™ highlights a different region of the globe; the 2009 spring Edition #50 focused its attention on The Americas, Summer #51 on Asia, Autumn #52 on Africa, and Winter #53 rounded off the year 2009 with its final focus on Europe. The publication continues to be proofread by Virginia Baron or Ethan Vesely-Flad (FOR USA), and former *Fellowship* editor Richard Deats proofread issue #53. All the above proofreading was generously done at no cost to the International Secretariat.

*IFOR in Action*TM is also translated into French as the Secretariat finds funding; this work is usually completed in batches during the summer by French interns, who come to the Secretariat and stay for a period of four months. These same interns also translate the IFOR Annual Report, and both publications are available on the IFOR website. *IFOR in Action*TM subscribers now total 1,426 (1344 English / 82 French).

YO!TM (IFOR Youth Opportunities)

This monthly electronic newsletter, newly renamed to include the brand YO!TM, features 6-8 news items or events relating to youth activities. The full text of each news item is linked to a website and associated files that are uploaded to the IFOR Web server. In 2009, in an effort to bring a younger perspective to YO!TM, Nina Perkowski, a former IFOR (WPP) intern and currently a member of the Youth Working Group, joined Communications Officer Stan Morris as co-YO!TM editor. Nina researches, gathers, edits and produces the content, and the design work, formatting, and distribution continue to be done in-house by Stan Morris. At this time, YO!TM has a total of 80 subscribers and is only delivered in an English version.



IR (International Reconciliation)

International Reconciliation, IFOR’s journal, aims at bringing a deeper understanding to the practice and theory of active nonviolence. It contains in-depth reports, interviews, analysis and reflections from IFOR’s field associates and other activists from around the world. The journal is published on an “as available” basis, when a publisher (normally an IFOR member organization) commits to the program’s requirements and agrees to publish one of the available quarterly issues. At this time, only FOR USA has a commitment to publishing IR magazine (normally a fall edition).

Patterns in ReconciliationTM

This series of IFOR books, called *Patterns in Reconciliation*TM, is well established and brings new thinking to the theory, practice and philosophy of nonviolence. There are now ten publications (books) in the series. The latest, *Patterns #11*, is in production by IFOR’s Nonviolence Education and Training Program (NVETP), as directed by Eva Fuessinger with assistance from IFOR Communications Office Stan Morris. Funding for *Patterns #11* was provided by a UNESCO grant received in 2008. The *Patterns* editions that are available for download are located on the IFOR website at: <http://www.ifor.org/publication.htm> .

6.2 WPP Publications

WPP Opportunities e-List

The WPP staff has registered with several online (news) groups and other networks on gender and peacebuilding⁵; and through these resources receives constant updates on latest resources, job opportunities, campaigns and training events. This information is compiled in an e-newsletter which is distributed widely to approximately 2,600 receivers (including organizations and individual activists). Its content in turn has re-appeared in various digital newsletters and news groups. The editions can also be accessed via http://www.ifor.org/WPP/wppmaterials_newsletters_archive.html .

⁵ Including: AWID, IANSA, WUNRN, Peace and Collaborative Network, [Yahoo groups such as WorkingWithBoysandMen](#) and [menagainstviolence](#), the [womenpeaceandsecurity](#) mailing list, UN WIRE, International Centre for Research on Women, and many more.

Cross the Lines

This newsletter is published three times per year, in six different languages (Dutch, English, French, German, Russian, and Spanish). Each edition of *Cross the Lines* (CtL) contains articles related to women's peacebuilding, as well as a list of new resources and publications and a calendar of upcoming training programs, seminars, and conferences. The newsletter is widely distributed by post, email, and via the WPP website. Approximately 3,500 organizations and individuals receive CtL directly via the WPP database and email lists. *Cross the Lines* editions can also be accessed via the WPP website.

May 24 Action Pack

A May 24th International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament pack is produced annually in co-operation with the International Peace Bureau. The pack highlights women's peacebuilding activities and strategies. Depending upon the theme the pack is translated into different languages: a pack focusing on African women's peacebuilding appeared in French and English; a pack on women's peacebuilding in the southern Caucasus appeared in English with Russian summaries; the pack for 2004 on women's peacebuilding in the Middle East appeared in Arabic and English. The pack has stimulated women's peace activities around May 24.

WPP Website

In 2009 the website was regularly updated (once per week) with WPP news and other relevant information. You will find the WPP website at: <http://www.ifor.org/WPP/index.html> .

7 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In 2009, our accounts showed a deficit of € 13,041. The deficit continues to be covered by the legacy fund of Judith Stronach, received in 2005 and 2006. It is noted here that in 2005 IFOR had a positive balance of € 259,131, of which has been available over the last few years to cover a total loss of € 203,137 (2006 - € 78,588, 2007 - € 35,644, 2008 - € 75,905, and 2009 - € 13,041). A special mention has been made on the fact that the deficit has become much less than in previous years.

As the International committee has decided to come closer to a balanced budget for the year 2009, cutbacks were made on various costs. A retiring part time staff member was not replaced in March 2009 and her tasks were partly taken over by other staff members and by new volunteers. A deficit of € 5,157 was then expected in the prepared budget for 2009.

The difference of € 7,884, from the actual figure of € 13,041, is mainly caused by the following:

- Higher expenses on PR & Fundraising
- Higher expenses on Networking & Representation
- Less income on Personnel consultancies
- Less income on donations

Moreover, the expenses of program costs were significantly lower than in 2008. The IFOR/WPP Regional Desk in Africa became independent and the IFOR/WPP Regional Desk in Asia was discontinued because of lack of funding.

Another IFOR program, NVE (Non Violent Education, "Pre-Study on Violence Prevention in the Educational Institution 'Kindergarten'- Present Approaches and Development Possibilities"), had lower expenses in 2009 than in 2008, as only a small conference for this project was organized, in December, for the entire year of 2009. Because the expenditure on programs was much lower this year, there was also less income from IFOR Funds.

IFOR is a movement that counts on all its members, from all over the world, for support in order to remain active and a heartfelt thank you is offered for all the participation and donations received over the years.

The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the main donor for the IFOR Women Peacemakers Program (IFOR/WPP). IFOR would like to extend our appreciation and thanks to the Ministry and other donors for their continuing support of the program.

UNESCO was the donor in 2009 for IFOR's NVE project. IFOR thanks UNESCO and IFOR's partners in the project for their support.

The building that IFOR owns at Spoorstraat 38/40 in Alkmaar, NL was valued at €126,352, which considerably understates its current market value. The solvency and liquidity of IFOR remains satisfactory.

IFOR 2009 accounts have been prepared by the company Zweers and Wijbenga.

If you would like further details about any item in reference to the accounting, a copy of the full report of the accountants, and/or have any other questions, please contact the IFOR Treasurer, Vololona Razafindrainibe, or the Financial Administrator, Arjan Dekker, through the International Secretariat.

APPENDIX

STICHTING IFOR BALANCE

	31-12-2009	31-12-2008
	€	€
Assets		
Building	126.352	126.352
Equipment	5.887	8.160
Accounts receivables	33.736	72.625
Invested assets	346.152	395.653
Liquid assets	103.797	234.509
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total assets	615.924	837.299
Liabilities		
free capital reserve	204.384	217.425
<i>[decrease: €13,041 deficit in 2009]</i>		
foundation capital	45	45
provisions	52	3.112
<i>[funds under the control of IFOR]</i>		
earmarked funds		
<i>[funds to be used according to donor's instructions]</i>		
Freeman Trust	61.368	61.368
Third world travel fund	39.336	39.336
Women Peacemakers Program (WPP)	252.003	407.438
WPP Regional desk Africa	10.147-	10.147-
WPP Regional desk Asia	18.527	18.527
UNESCO Funding NVE.EU	6.917	11.595
WPP/IFOR projects	555	555
other earmarked funds	4.803	3.722
accounts payable	38.081	84.323
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total liabilities	615.924	837.299

STICHTING IFOR PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT 2009

	2009	2008
	€	€
Expenses		
personnel	309.238	379.452
administrative expenses	9.353	61.291
housing	11.560	10.059
organizational expenses	22.559	19.759
information & publications	1.429	3.604
PR & Fundraising	4.471	8.685
program costs	405.930	1.027.413
networking & representation	4.574	12.420
miscellaneous expenses	16	28.688
	769.130	1.551.371
Income		
BGA Contributions	99.033	74.382
IFOR Funds	401.136	1.053.747
donations	6.174	8.912
legacies	2.784	-
subscriptions & material	-	231
interest	11.849	15.229
reimbursements	230.054	242.958
income for administrative overhead	-	51.789
income earmarked funds	4.901	28.150
miscellaneous income	158	68
	756.089	1.475.466
	13.041-	75.905-

IFOR BGA DIRECTORY

AFRICA

❖ Branches

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B.P. 5612
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077 495 903; 077 973 543
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Website: www.ifor.org/JYAK.htm

FOR Zambia (Youth Forum for Peace & Justice)

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261
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❖ Groups

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Fax: +229 21 31 20 02
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Website: www.sonadsudan.org

Tchad Nonviolence

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❖ **Affiliates**

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PARC (Pan-African Reconciliation Centre)

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