

# Conference “Give Peace a Chance”

The Hague, October 22-27



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## International Women's Peace Conference The Hague

<https://peaceconf-2024.com/about>

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### **Executive summary**

*On October 22-27, 2024 the NGO "Cultural ARCS Foundation Bulgaria", in collaboration with the 'Ivanovo Center for Gender Studies', organized the international feminist peacebuilding conference "Give peace a chance" that took place in The Hague.*

*Delegates discussed perspectives for the anti-war, anti-nuclear weapons, peacebuilding movements, opportunities to join efforts, and new forms of women's participation in the struggle for peace and conflict resolution.*

*More than 70 women from 18 countries all over the world gathered in the Hague in order to share information and opinions on what can be done to obtain security and eliminate the threat of wars and armed conflicts including the threat of world nuclear war.*

*The success of the conference was provided by the joint work of three organizing committees: Russian (the Russian NGO, Ivanovo Center for Gender Studies, partner of Cultural Arcs Foundation), Ukrainian (various NGOs, partners of ICGS) and the Netherlands (peace women's initiatives from the Netherlands). Each of them gave their input in the conference organization.*

*In the feedback most delegates mentioned that new ideas and new contacts were the most valuable outcomes of the conference. And it happened because the conference participants represented not only Europe, USA, but also Ukraine, NIS and Russia, Newly Independent States (NIS) which meant that they could exchange the ideas and experience outside their usual informational bubble.*

*Conference inspired delegates to continue their work together for the sake of a peaceful future, that is why at the last day of the conference participants started to elaborate a Road Map to develop grassroots women's peacebuilding initiatives and creation of an international women's anti-war network. 5 working groups were created, and they started to work. So, we, as initiators of this process, see it as our task to support these initiatives. Follow up activities include online and offline meetings of the working groups for detailed elaboration of the Road Map and a general strategy of the feminist peace network. We believe that time comes for people-to-people diplomacy through grass-roots initiatives.*

*As conference participants' feedback showed, most of the delegates consider working for peace a common and actual challenge. At the end of November, we had the first online meeting of the working groups activists, which showed that people are really dedicated to the cause of Peace. We are ready to continue working for it.*

*The Director*

## 1. Introduction / Context / Main Actors

After a full year period of preparations, the 2024 International Women's Peace Conference took place in The Hague from the 22 to the 27<sup>th</sup> of October. It was named "GIVE PEACE A CHANCE".

69 delegates from peace organisations registered and participated in the conference, from 21 different foreign countries, representing 55 NGO's. Additionally, 16 Peace Women Activists and representatives of Peace NGO's from the Netherlands participated as day guests. The conference was hosted partly in the Willibrordus Guesthouse and partly in the Park Hotel nearby.

The initiative for the conference was taken by a Russian scholar on Women's Movements and well-known as organizer of Summerschools for women leaders in countries around Russia and from the former Soviet Union. In this report, we avoid mentioning her name, for security reasons. We just call her *Director*. She directed the conference under the responsibility of the Cultural Arcs Foundation in Bulgaria, represented by its director Nicolai Vucov.

*Feminists always underlined close connections between feminism and pacifism as well as connections between patriarchy, violence, and war. Feminism sees war as social evil leading to the suffering of civilian population: women, children, and old people. Now, when the voice of peace is not loud enough, we need efforts to make women's pacifist movements and initiatives strong and visible again.*

The conference was sponsored by the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation in Germany with € 70000,- and supported by a group of peace women in the Netherlands, *WoPeC*<sup>1</sup>, under the responsibility of the Platform Women&Sustainable Peace. The support consisted in fundraising, accommodation plus logistics in the Hague and the organisation of some specific activities in our country, such as a dialogue with Dutch peace NGO's, visit and dialogue with judges of the International Criminal Court, lecture and visit to the Peace Palace and a celebration of Peace with the Mennonite Community in the Palace Church in the Hague.

*The Hague was chosen as the conference venue because it was the centre of the women's pacifist movement on the eve of the First World War and in 1915 the international women's pacifist congress took place here, in which women's delegations from opposing military blocs took part.*

Some outstanding advocates for Women's Peace Activities shared their experiences at the conference:

Ann Wright, a retired U.S. Army Colonel and a former U.S. diplomat. She resigned from the U.S. government in 2003 in opposition to the U.S. war on Iraq. She has been on peace missions to North Korea, Iran, Yemen, Cuba, Gaza and Israel. She is an organizer for the Gaza Freedom Flotilla and is a member of Veterans For Peace & CODEPINK: Women for Peace. She speaks and writes on U.S. militarism around the world. She is the co-author of "Dissent: Voices of Conscience."

Cynthia Lazaroff, founder of Women Transforming Our Nuclear Legacy and NuclearWakeUpCall.Earth, is an award-winning filmmaker and author of "Dawn of a New Armageddon". Dedicated to reducing nuclear risks,

<sup>1</sup> Marie-Anne van Erp, Janny Beekman, Annet Weijermars, Maria Peters, Sigrid Hutter, Joke Oranje

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she has pioneered U.S.-Russia exchange initiatives since the 1980s and co-founded the American-Russian Women's Dialogue and Peacebuilding Initiative. A Princeton magna cum laude graduate, she produced the documentary series "U.S.-Russia Relations: Quest for Stability" and has received multiple awards for her peace efforts.

Erik de Baedts, former consultant at Ernst&Young, and director of the Peace Palace where he worked together with the Carnegie institutions worldwide to develop a peace agenda, the Carnegie Peace Building Conversations at the Peace Palace and in the New York Times Center. Currently he works as a director and advisor of FiC (Faith in Cooperation) and board member of Education For A Better And Just World With A Sustainable Climate.

Madeleine Rees, former Secretary General of the Women's League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF); Known as gender expert to the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and whistle blower against human rights abuses in Bosnia by peacekeepers and others working for the United Nations.

Goran Lojančić, member of Frontline Defenders. For over 12 years now, he has worked as a consultant with the Nansen Centre for Peace and Dialogue, and has developed peace building programs in the Balkans.

Mekka Abdelgabar from Darfur/Sudan shared her experience on how militarism affects African countries in justifying impunity for atrocities; Claudia Tribin from Colombia shared information about how women strongly improved the negotiations on peace between the Government and the FARC. Ivana Balen shared her experience with Women's Public Protest through the example of Women in Black.

### ANNEX I-A: JUSTIFICATION

### ANNEX I-B: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

## 2. Objectives and Outcomes / Monitoring report

The objective of the conference is the strengthening and consolidation of a stronger international feminist peace movement.

### 2.1 Expected Outcomes

As the result of foresight and strategic sessions in the conference, a Road Map of solidarity for visibility of peace movements, *new peace initiatives* and networking will be elaborated and shared with civil society. As a result of the *learning process*, the Road Map will become a resource for consolidating and developing a *network of peacekeeping* and anti-war organizations.

The conference will provide an opportunity for representatives of various international organizations and foundations to get acquainted with new NGOs, activists, and peace initiatives that were previously unknown to them. For representatives of civil society institutions, the conference will provide an opportunity to get acquainted with new opportunities for organizational and financial support.

### 2.2 Monitoring

During the meetings, a monitoring effort was made by students from Leiden University. Each day they interviewed a selection of participants in semi-structured interviews. Their conclusion was that the participants were highly satisfied with the conference, the opportunities to share ideas and the programme in general. However, they noticed that the young people were generally not informed about the conference and their way of building a new society and defend its values was not taken into account. Security issues were not sufficiently addressed to be trusted as a strong alternative to weapons. They advise:

- to invite also speakers with a higher public profile (not necessarily only academia, also VIP's and practitioners)
- to organize more open events (e.g. in universities) while maintaining basic security measures to maintain the privacy of participants
- to put considerable effort in a follow up to reach out to other agents and institutions, as not only pacifists and feminists are interested in stopping war violence.

The attached Monitoring Report contains interesting details on various sessions.

## ANNEX II: Monitoring Report

### 3. Approach and main content / films

In the introduction some of the key note speakers were already mentioned: feminist thinkers, leaders of large feminist antiwar, pacifist and antinuclear networks, initiatives and organizations, representatives of international funds supporting peace initiatives, prominent opinion leaders, and women politicians.

To maximize the involvement of participants in discussing proposed opportunities for action, the conference planned interactive forms of work: panel discussions, networking, strategic foresight sessions. To increase understanding of the possibilities to strengthen established peace and justice institutions, excursions were planned to the International Criminal Court, and to the International Court of Justice and the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Peace Palace.

Reaching out to a broader audience, the municipality, embassies and policymakers were invited to the opening session. An open day was to be organized at the end of the conference to brief interested parties on the results. Due to security limitations for a number of participants, this was cancelled. To strengthen global networking, Dutch peace women and Human Rights organisations were invited to participate in some of the sessions of the conference.

Right from the start, the following subjects were proposed as content for the conference

- ◇ The pacifist movement and new reality. Challenges and possibilities. How to counteract the growth of militarism?
- ◇ What is and can be the role of women and the women's movements in a global anti-war movement and peacebuilding efforts? What are possible forms of women's solidarity in promoting anti-war and peacekeeping initiatives? How can we promote these grassroots initiatives to the decision-making level?
- ◇ Which changes would be needed in national and international security structures to support anti-war movements and peacekeeping efforts from civil society and neutral countries?
- ◇ What new forms of dialogue, involving civil society, would work well to address the conflicts between countries in war? For example, alternative forms of dialogue, shared grassroots initiatives, lobby networks, facilitating information and media contacts to counteract propaganda, participation in political parties and labour unions, involvement of social and religious associations.

The suggestions boiled down to theme's for 3 short documentaries (20 minutes each).

- ◇ The impact of militarisation and war propaganda
- ◇ What faith and feminism are (not) doing for peace
- ◇ Proposals for concerted action to end armed conflict

The films can be found on the website of Women and Sustainable Peace:

<https://vrouwenenduurzamevrede.nl/> or, temporarily, on

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1NqtjKdeje0gJ6jwO80mExJyqEtov1jwI>

## 4. The conference day by day / Glossary of Lectures

### 4.1 TUESDAY 22 – Arrivals

The Tuesday was for arrivals and for preparations by the organisation teams from Russia and the Netherlands. At the end of the day, the Guesthouse offered soup and sandwiches to the participants.

### 4.2 WEDNESDAY 23 – Militarisation and War Propaganda

Opening by Nicolai Vukov, representing the ARC Foundation in Bulgaria; Sacha Felix, representing the Municipality of The Hague; Anna Zanen, representing the Platform Women&Sustainable Peace in the Netherlands; Madeleine Rees, representing WILPF.

#### **Panel discussion on the choice between militarism and de-escalation**

Introductions by Cynthia Lazarov, founder and director of Women Transforming Our Nuclear Legacy & NuclearWakeUp Call, USA). Ann Wright (former colonel in the US army and retired diplomat for peace, USA); Mekka Abdelgabar (Stichting VOND: from NL she supports the women's peace movement in Darfur, Sudan) and Dr. Martijntje Smits (philosopher and peace activist in the New Peace Movement in NL).

The message of the panel was that every person has a choice to make. Accepting the risk of escalation of wars to a nuclear “accident” or intended attack is irresponsible. A large majority of countries in the world (except those who have them) already signed a Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), thanks to the lobby of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). This means that it helps to lobby for abolition. Everyone can contribute by influencing her own environment. Question those who advocate that more weapons would keep us safe. Nuclear weapons destroy everything and don't stop at borderlines between countries. Women in civil society movements can organise manifestations and conferences. Women in high positions can choose for non-cooperation with governmental attacks to other countries and can advocate for cease fire, negotiations and peace building. We need everyone's support. Overwhelming disrespect for women's and family's needs and rights in armed conflict encourages moral decay, limitless violence, massacres, collective rape in poor countries and even genocide. We need to develop more soft skills to disarm hard irrational positions. We can support and make use of our international peace and justice institutions. Let's stop being on-one. Women are half of the world's population.

#### **Visit to the International Criminal Court.**

At the ICC we met judge Solomy Bossa and her colleague. After that, the group attended to an explanation on the mechanisms for objective and documented judgment, and the functioning of 5 different courts in the different secluded and open court rooms.

The judge explained how she couldn't believe that she would reach such an important position as an African women. It means that the ICC shows it determination to represent their constituency (the member countries), disregarding their power position in the world.

The main question of the participants to the court was: what can women expect from ICC in terms of defending women's rights in armed conflict, and implementation of UN resolution 1325 by all signatories? Answer: the ICC cannot prevent transgression or disregard of international agreements, but it provides basic ground for restoration of international law and jurisdiction on gross perpetrations against it. If more and more legal cases



are conducted, in which perpetrators are held accountable and selected for punishment after a fair trial, a deterrent effect can grow. The ICC is well known for its trials, but it is also present in conflict areas collecting evidence. Unfortunately, the ICC is not recognized by all countries, especially not by the major powers. On the contrary, it is suffering from cyber attacks and massive investigation on due diligence by these powers. For that reason, lobby and support from civil society is necessary and remains important.

### Evening Art session

Exhibition of anti-war pictures of Ukrainian painter Alexandra Haradhulia, presentation of women's history project by Buyelorrussian actress Aksana Haiko, presentation of the cartoons about girls discrimination in the Northern Caucasus by Svetlana Anokhina, etc.

After that participants could meet at the reception in the Park Hotel.

## 4.3 THURSDAY – Feminism and Faith

### Visit to the Peace Palace

Before the visit to the Peace Palace, Dr. Erik de Baedts, former director of the Peace Palace, explained the history of the Peace Palace and the functioning of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) inside. Question was: what can the judges and staff do to ensure peace and prevent armed conflicts? The answer: there is a long history of interstate conflicts that have been brought to the PCA and resolved through mediation. The PCA is currently acting as registry in 7 inter-state arbitrations, 95 arbitrations arising under bilateral or multilateral investment treaties or national investment laws and 109 arbitrations arising under contracts involving a State or other public entity. In the past, a long list of cases were resolved preventing war. When countries don't apply to the PCA, then a third party can bring the case to the International Court of Justice, like the case where South Africa asked the ICJ to investigate the accusation of genocide of the Palestinian people in Gaza, for which Israel is held accountable. Bringing a case to the ICJ helps to organize a process of collecting evidence for a process of truth finding. In this process NGO's can come in, for example, Amnesty International offered an extensive documented report in this case. A second responsibility of ICJ is building up an international a valid legislation system for interstate conflicts.

Then, the group moved to the bus to visit the Peace Palace. Participants listened to explanations in the Visitors Centre, and hang their vows in the three at the outside. At the eternal flame of peace, Yaël Deckelbaum's song 'Prayer of the mothers' was sung.

### Feminist Approaches

After lunch a plenary session was organized on feminist approaches of anti-war movements and the history of women's contribution to peace building and reconstruction. With introductions from

- ◇ Ingrid Sharp (Leeds University, UK)
- ◇ Julia Garrajo (Centre for Social Studies, Coimbra University, Portugal)
- ◇ Madeleine Rees (Former WILPF, UK)

There are many books, written by women, that describe the contributions of women to the abolition of slavery, discussions about decolonization, peace talks and reconstruction. However, in official history lessons in Portugal, for example, their important role and work is still underexposed. In the current system, women are sidelined, and the Security Council Resolution 1325 is not being implemented.

What can women do now to claim a place at the negotiating table? It will be a long process, from the bottom to the top, to help write laws, to think about the system and to analyze where it goes wrong and how it can be

done differently. Discussions will have to be held in a safe environment and mutual competition has to be avoided. The UN should be respected to function as intended. Changes are especially needed in the Security Council.

Nowadays, peace seems so far away, how can women strengthen their influence? Even if now many people, (diplomats, politicians, NGOs), express that violence and wars must stop, nothing in that direction seems to happen. Peace is of course more than demanding a cease fire, negotiate and stop a war. Building peace involves activities for prevention, agreeing on guarantees for respecting human rights. How can we use social media to contribute to a positive agenda, instead of instigating fear and being a channel to sowing hatred? How do you change systems of oppression, exploitation? Important but also uncomfortable questions may and must be asked here. The conversation with the participants in the room came to a point where despair and helplessness were expressed. Only after a while, when examples of conflicts were remembered that actually *were* resolved, the moods flared up again.

### Meetup Believes

The second session that afternoon was a meetup on Religion, peace and justice: the role of religious organisations and networks in peacebuilding and reconciliation. It started with an introduction by Ulrike Auga, professor at Humboldt University (Germany). She pleaded for deconstruction of the concepts of Peace, Religion, and Gender. She gave some examples of successful mediation in conflicts by female religious leaders to make her point: in Northern Ireland (International Fellowship of Reconciliation), in Indonesia (Islamic Feminism in Peacebuilding), in South Africa (Truth and Reconciliation Committee).

After that, groups were formed to share their (good and bad) experiences with religion with each other. On request of the participants, a separate group was formed by only Russian speaking participants, under leadership of an Ukrainian moderator. There was no plenary session for reporting on the group sessions, it was private. Instead, inspired by the music of 'imagine' of John Lennon, groups were asked to imagine peace as a dream to live for.

## 4.4 FRIDAY – New forms of dialogue and grass-root initiatives

### Panel Discussion “The antimilitarist movement and new reality, challenges and opportunities”.

Introduced by Nela Porobic Isakovic (WILPF Bosnia Herzegovina); Madeline Rees (UK); and Gorana Mlinarevic (Bosnia Herzegovina).

It is needed to be aware of the differences between people and different circumstances. Be aware of your own colored glasses, e.g. white, western, capitalist background. People living in poverty are not concerned with themes such as war and peace. They are worried about equal rights. What does reflection on 20 years of conflict yield: people are manipulated, economy is leading. Anyone who rebels against this will be criticized. Politicians, lobbyists, social media have great power and influence. Also the USA and NATO. The EU is divided. Systems are still too much dominated by men. Something fundamental has to change.

Inge Luther (Germany) mentions the practice of dialogue circles with refugees that her organization OWEN makes possible since 2016. Women have been talking about peace and actions, women from Russia and Ukraine, among others. Small circles of 20 women: listening, learning from each other, respect for different perspectives and circumstances. It is important to invest in building up civil society, day by day, relentless, even in difficult circumstances.

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At the end, we were invited by a women's group from Zoetermeer to join singing 'Prayer of the mothers' and Dona Nobis Pacem in the monastery garden.

### Meeting with European peace NGOs.

Invited were: The Hague Peace Projects, PVDV, PAX, Women for Peace The Hague, Kerk en Vrede, Sankara Revolutions, Peace Brigades International.

Ivana Balen gives a passionate lecture on the work of 'Women in black' who were engaged in public protests, during the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, through their black clothes as a sign of mourning. This is meant to challenge the public to reflect on the victims, show solidarity, not to get stuck in accusations. They combine their presence on crowded places with a form of street art (laying down in circles, for example).

Then, participants spoke with each other in groups with the invited Dutch NGOs about their work for peace in different layers of societies:

- ◇ Level of individual change through education, mindfulness and arts
- ◇ Level of work in communities, healing wounds and providing safety to act together
- ◇ Level of publications, public gatherings and media, protecting space for critical thinking
- ◇ Level of organized lobby for policy changes and resilience in local and national governments
- ◇ Level of inclusive international networking to combat war propaganda
- ◇ Level of research to provide viable and useful alternatives to armed conflict.

The challenge was to find opportunities to combine different levels, to learn from each other and becoming more interesting and resourceful.

In the individual change group, a visual artist from Belarus and a musician from Ukraine explained how art reaches deep feelings of individual people, which opens the mind to deal with reality and energizes the body to take steps in your own realm wherever possible. The group on "research" explained how research can help to influence decision makers (for example in finance) to dare financing innovative and more relevant initiatives for peace in our changing world. A group of participants that work for stress reduction of refugees in communities and neighborhoods (like OWEN) expressed that their work is equally important for peace. How can you progress in assuring sustainable peace if you forget to heal the wounds from the past? The group on lobby shared the experience that weakening of democratic procedures in many countries, both West and East, do block the impact of "normal" lobby work. Coalitions with other layers in society (media, networking, engagement of communities) is particularly needed on this level, to find creative solutions to reach decision makers. Finally, the group on publicity and media acknowledged that it is touch work to get attention for your information if you are considered as a minority – but at the end, journalists will be convinced: continuous repetition of relevant facts in clear language, showing evidence, will slowly change the public opinion of people who are concerned about their need for security. . In short: we will have to work on many "fronts" at the same time.

### 4.5 SATURDAY – Road Map

Goran Lojančić started the day challenging mixed working groups of participants to choose one only essential step to be taken to get towards peace. This showed to be a terribly difficult challenge in itself. A lot of different directions to move forward popped up.

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In 4 rounds of workshops, in groups in varying composition, the questions and challenges were discussed that would form a shared guideline to arrive at concrete steps and actions. Each round was concluded with a plenary feedback. The result was a list of 5 topics to be addressed by 5 transnational groups:

1. Regional Conflict Resolution Group
  - ◇ Develop region-specific conflict analysis frameworks
  - ◇ Create toolkits for grassroots peace initiatives
  - ◇ Organize cross-border dialogue sessions
2. Women in Peace Processes Group
  - ◇ Map opportunities for women's participation in formal peace processes
  - ◇ Develop training programs for women peace negotiators
  - ◇ Create advocacy campaigns for implementing UNSCR 1325
3. Disarmament and Demilitarization Group
  - ◇ Research feminist approaches to disarmament
  - ◇ Organize public awareness campaigns on military spending
  - ◇ Develop policy recommendations for feminist foreign policy
4. Media and Counter-Propaganda Group
  - ◇ Create guidelines for gender-sensitive conflict reporting
  - ◇ Develop digital literacy programs to combat disinformation
  - ◇ Produce alternative media content promoting peace narratives
5. Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Group
  - ◇ Research feminist approaches to post-conflict healing
  - ◇ Develop community-based reconciliation programs
  - ◇ Create support networks for women affected by conflict

The Dutch participants of the conference will have a separate meeting after the conference to explore what would be the implications for a follow-up in the Netherlands. Meaningful participation in 5 transnational groups is quite a challenge. The network in the Netherlands will have to be strengthened and institutionalized in order to reach a position of having sufficient impact. Solidarity with the women in situations of armed conflict will contribute to dialogue if we reach out to women on both sides of the conflict.



### 4.6 SUNDAY –Celebration and Departure

On Sunday, participants were invited by the Mennonite Community in The Hague for a celebration of peace in the Palace Church nearby. It was a wonderful meeting. The Church was packed, many members of the Mennonite Community attended and also a strong delegation from the International Peace Conference was present (some had to leave earlier to be on time for their ticket home). There was a choir from another Christian community (Haagse Dominicus)

singing peace songs and inviting the audience to sing along. The pastor told two inspiring stories, prayers (collected before at the conference) were read, and vows for the future of the conference were made. At the end of the celebration, participants could socialize with the coffee and drinks that were served, with some sandwiches.

### ANNEX IV GLOSSARY OF THE LECTURES

## 5. Feedback / Evaluation

After the conference, an online evaluation survey was done by the organizers. There was a response of 37 participants. The first question of the evaluation was about the motivation of participants to attend the conference. It was answered by all 37 respondents. They made a choice for one or more of the motivations:

- ◇ I feel the threat of war
- ◇ I work in the field of peacekeeping
- ◇ I'm worried about my children's future
- ◇ This is a common problem
- ◇ It is an important topic

The second question was about which topics mostly met their expectations. Their first choice was definitely the Panel discussion on militarism (= 23). Then, others followed: Art Activism Programme (= 5), Visit to the International Criminal Court (= 5), Meeting with European NGO's (= 2) Plenary Sessions "Feminist Approaches in anti-war movements" (= 1) and Making a Road Map (= 1)

Including 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> choices, the preferred topics mentioned were:

- ◇ Panel discussion on militarism = 27
- ◇ Art Activism Programme = 23
- ◇ Visit to the International Criminal Court = 15
- ◇ Plenary Session "Feminist Approaches in anti-war movements" = 14
- ◇ Meeting with European NGO's = 4
- ◇ Making a Road Map = 3

What could be improved in the organisation? A long and interesting list of useful suggestions were mentioned, this can be checked in ANNEX V. Then, on the question if the participant would consider continuing with the work in working groups after the conference, 26 answered with yes. Others explained their limitations to full engagement.

### ANNEX V: EVALUATION MATRIX

## 6. Follow up / Road Map

At the end of November an online meet-up was organized by the Director, to start implementation of Road Map. WoPeC met on Januari 18, 2025, to round up its work and close our specific commitment. We discovered that, before closing, a few things still needed to be addressed in the Netherlands.

1. Consolidate broad participation from Netherlands' peace women in international networking alongside the Road Map of "GIVE PEACE A CHANCE".

On December 8, The Hague Peace Projects organized a Peace and Justice Café in the Grote Kerk at the occasion of the Human Rights Festival. Former Minister Pronk was invited as key note speaker, on the subject "The Power of Imagination", addressing the risks of further militarization. Large paintings of Jakob de Jonge were exposed, showing the dystopic relation between nature and believe in constructions and weapons.

A new group, called "Women for Peace The Hague", is currently a solidarity hub supporting peace women in situations of armed conflict. They are now engaged in: building a warm partnership with Women Wages Peace (Israel) and Women of the Sun (Palestine); collecting information in the media on de-escalation; formulating their vision on how to feed dialogue between different visions on the involvement of Dutch policies. They plan to cooperate with both the Platform for Women and Sustainable Peace and with the New Peace Movement.

WoPeC approached this group with the request to invest in the follow up of the conference, and offered to contribute to the cost of legalization of this group, and to the costs of a quality upgrade of their approach.

2. Document the valuable input of the conference systematically to inspire new Peace-groups.

After its responsibility for the Conference, The Platform Women for Sustainable Peace joined a new peace coalition in the Netherlands, called "Nieuwe Vredesbeweging". The Platform was received with some reservations. A rumour was created that women as such are not bringing added value in the peace process; and that implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 1325 showed all these 20 years not to be producing results; and that honesty of people has to be doubted if they support the Israeli-Palestinian women's movement "Women Wage Peace"/"Women of the Sun". It is clear that the Platform needs to engage in showing their added value and claiming their relevance in radical pacifist movement in the Netherlands. A first step will be to ask the participants and lecturers at the Conference to share their speeches and reference links with us; to make a glossary of relevant links showing the effective work of women to contribute to peace in our history, and to show presence in events and manifestations in the Netherlands opposing war propaganda, arms trade and involvement in the global/European power game through weapons.

3. Organize a one day meeting in the Hague with all the Dutch participants at the conference, to discuss possibilities to contribute to the Road Map for international peacebuilding.

### ANNEX VI- THE ROAD MAP – FIRST DRAFT

## 7. Financial Report /Excel sheet

To support the accommodation of the conference in the Hague, WoPeC engaged in fundraising. The original plan was to raise €25.000, but this target was too difficult to reach. Organisations that would normally contribute to such initiatives hesitated for political reasons. Unfortunately, the Municipality withdrew their expected financial support for internal reasons.

A special women's fund in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs showed interest and this helped to interest a second fund also from the Protestant Churches, specialized in learning conferences. Members of the Platform Women and Sustainable Peace contributed, a public crowdfunding effort was started, and the NGO Kerk en Vrede also contributed generously from their limited resources. The final result was a bit more than € 19.000,-.

The money was mainly spent on accommodation. WoPeC found a Guesthouse in the centre of The Hague, that accommodated 32 of the participants, including meals and 3 extra meeting rooms, one of them sufficient to 80 people, at affordable rates. The other invited participants, including lecturers and staff, were accommodated in the nearby Park Hotel, which was paid by the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation via the Cultural ARCS Foundation in Bulgaria. They shared most of the sessions and the meals with the others in the Guesthouse. Rosa Luxemburg paid for 60 lunches, and coffee breaks and 2 receptions in the Park Hotel. The final cost for the Platform Vrouwen&Duurzame Vrede for the accommodation was €10800,-

During the conference itself there were some other organisational costs as well, up to a total of 3000,-

The next expenditure was for the costs of WoPeC for preparations and follow up. PV&DV paid for meeting costs, stationary, travel costs. And then, for reporting and documentation, for the creation of a follow up organisation in The Hague and for dissemination of the Road Map in Dutch (peace) movements. At the moment of writing this report, these expenditures are not yet fully paid, but the work is in process. The total is €3.871.

We thank our donors for their generous support and for trusting our organisation.

### ANNEX VII- INCOMES AND EXPENSES

## 8. Gallery of Photo's

Photos can be found with the link below. They were made by Kate Garside and can be downloaded free of rights.

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1eSM5TMxNsrcQpEPZlf4S\\_yLoPa0qH9KW?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1eSM5TMxNsrcQpEPZlf4S_yLoPa0qH9KW?usp=sharing)