

## **Activity report 2005-2006 for IPPNW in Europe.**

By Bjørn Hilt, Regional vice president of IPPNW in Europe

In the following countries in Europe IPPNW has active affiliates working in many different ways for the goals of the federation: Austria, Belgium, Czech republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey. We also have active individual members in Hungary and Spain. There are active IPPNW student groups at many universities all around Europe, please see [www.IPPNW-students.org](http://www.IPPNW-students.org). It is a goal for IPPNW to strengthen existing affiliates and to extend our activities to even more countries in Europe.

European IPPNW affiliates are taking part in federal campaigns of IPPNW, and are also running several national projects on their own.

In August 2005 IPPNW affiliates all over Europe arranged and took part in ceremonies in remembrance of the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, sixty years ago.

In the last year many affiliates have been involved in the program "Dialogues with decision makers" in the nuclear weapons states with meetings in London, Paris, and Moscow, and meetings with representatives from NATO and The European Union in Brussels.

European students are running the Nuclear Weapons Inheritance Project, the Palestinian refugee camp project called Recap, and a new program called Target-X.

Some European affiliates are also involved in the federative small arms project "Aiming for prevention", in peace work in general, in work for human rights, and in Abolition-2000-Europe. Many Affiliates are also deeply involved in the work to document medical consequences and human suffering resulting from the war in Iraq. Another priority has been to work for a peaceful solution of the conflict regarding Iran's nuclear program, and to prevent any use of armed forces against Iran. IPPNW in Europe also prioritizes further initiatives and cooperation with other chapters of IPPNW for a medical road-map for peaceful solutions to conflicts in the Middle-East-region.

In Europe there have been several big events during the last year where IPPNW affiliates have played a leading role focusing on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant on April 26, 1986.

It is also encouraging that a collaborative project between IPPNW affiliates in Norway, Great Britain, Germany and the Netherlands has gained substantial financial support from the European Union for developing a web-based program for peace education.

It should also be mentioned that European IPPNW affiliates had an immediate outrage of protest when the French president Jacques Chirac in January this year in a speech for the first time for very long stated that France would consider using Nuclear weapons against any country when such use is regarded necessary.

Last, but not least, European affiliates of IPPNW are now preparing to join the upcoming global campaign to be launched by IPPNW and others for a prohibition of all nuclear weapons, for a new Nuclear Weapons Convention.

For the first time in many years, IPPNW affiliates in Europe succeeded in arranging a regional European meeting in the fall of 2005 in the peace city of Aubagne by Marseille. The meeting was hosted by a local group of the French affiliate AMFPGN and gathered participants from most affiliates in Europe with dear guests from the Mediterranean region, and a lot of students.

The European IPPNW student meeting 2006 was held in Naples on May 11-14.

On September 7-11 the Finnish affiliate will host the 17<sup>th</sup> World Congress of IPPNW.

In the following you find mostly strongly abbreviated activity reports from European affiliates of IPPNW. For more comprehensive reports, please see the European IPPNW web page [www.ippnw-europe.org](http://www.ippnw-europe.org).

Trondheim, Norway

May 2006

Bjørn Hilt, MD

Regional vice president of IPPNW in Europe.

## Austria

OMEGA – IPPNW Jahresbericht 2005 in Kurzform:

Im Jahr 2005 mussten wir aus finanziellen Gründen auf eine bezahlte Sekretärin verzichten. An dieser Stelle möchte ich nochmals Frau Dr. Doris Cech für ihre vorangegangene Arbeit herzlich danken.

zu den wichtigsten Aktivitäten des Jahres gehören:

- \* eine Petition an das österreichische Parlament im Zusammenhang mit der im Verfassungsentwurf der EU vorgesehenen Aufrüstungsverpflichtung.
- \* Besuche bei den Botschaften der USA, Russlands, Frankreichs, Großbritanniens und Chinas im Vorfeld der New Yorker Verhandlungsrunde über den Nichtverbreitungsvertrag von Nuklearwaffen (NPT-Review-Conference)
- \* Monatliche Veranstaltungen im Rahmen des NGO-Committee- on- Peace im Vienna International Center.
- \* März 2006: Vortrag über die aktuelle Nuklearwaffenlage – und Gefahr auf Einladung des United World College in Duino, Italien
- \* Briefwechsel mit dem österreichischen Außenministerium im Vorfeld der NPT-Review-Konferenz (s.o.), Einladung und Gespräch im Außenministerium. Es ist zu bemerken, dass die Rede des österreichischen Delegationsleiters, Botschafter Dr. Köffler am 4. Mai in der Uno in New York im wesentlichen alle unsere Forderungen enthielt:
  - + die Einforderung Verpflichtung zur Nuklearwaffenabrüstung
  - + Kritik an den zuletzt geringen Fortschritten in den Verhandlungen
  - + Hinweis auf den Zusammenhang von Stocken der Abrüstung und Proliferationsgefahr
  - + Einforderung der 13 Schritte lt. Schlussdokument der NPT-Konferenz von 2000
  - + heftige Kritik an der Entwicklung neuer Nuklearwaffen
  - + Hervorheben der Bedeutung der Zusatzprotokolle der IAEA
  - + Atomwaffenfreie Welt als Ziel der österreichischen Politik definiert
  - + Verlangen eines Konzepts kollektiver Sicherheit ohne „nukleare Abschreckung“.
- \* Beginn der Planung eines Postkartenprojekts
- \* Teilnahme am Bertha von Suttner-Symposium
- \* Teilnahme an der Sommerakademie in Burg Schlaining
- \* Reden bei den Hiroshima-Gedenkfeiern (60 Jahre) an der UNO in Wien und am Stephansplatz
- \* Publikation mehrerer einschlägiger Artikel in diversen Zeitungen
- \* Studenten-Teilnahme am IPPNW-Studenten-Kongress in St. Petersburg
- \* Teilnahme am Europäischen IPPNW - Symposium in Aubagne
- \* Mitunterzeichnung diverser Kampagnen und Initiativen zu Abrüstung und Rüstungskontrolle im Rahmen der EU
- \* Fortführung der Betreuung von Flüchtlingen und Asylwerbern durch OMEA-Graz. Umzug in das neue Gebäude

Soweit ein Rückblick in Kurzform. Für Fragen stehe ich gern zur Verfügung.

In der Hoffnung auf Ihre Teilnahme an unserer Jahreshauptversammlung und mit den besten Wünschen für das Neue Jahr grüßt Sie herzlich

Ihr

Dr. Klaus Renoldner

## **Belgium (French)**

### **Association Medicale Pour La Prevention de la Guerre Nucleaire (AMPGN)**

"This IPPNW affiliate covers the southern part of Belgium and Brussels (about 4 million inhabitants). Our medical membership is still around 700, plus a number of lay sympathisers. Our quarterly review, apart from a number of papers on technical, climatic, radiobiological, international and IPPNW issues, and reprints of declarations by K. Annan and M. El Baradei, has included original papers from the Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs (who has considerably disappointed us, since then) and an active Euro-deputy (V. de Keyser). It is well received even in unexpected quarters (AIEA). We have pursued our policy of meetings with authorities (several ministries and parliaments), including the Euro-Parliament, either on our own, or with international delegations. In some quarters, our message seems to be better received, at least by the high civil servants concerned. The President of the Belgian Senate has several times shown her support, notably in participating to our, larger than usual, 60th year commemoration of the Bombing of Hiroshima (6.08.05).

Several lectures to medical groups and schools have been organised and more are planned. We participated, along with Abolition 2000 to various demonstrations in favour of peace and nuclear disarmament, both in Brussels and at the site of the American nuclear missiles in Belgium.

We devoted a large amount of energy to mobilize (by letters, calls and personal visits) the French speaking Burgomasters in favour of the "*Mayors for Peace*" movement set up by Mayor Akiba from Hiroshima. It was not evident at first, as they felt more concerned by local problems than to international issues. But, as one of them - who had understood - said, "Nuclear bombs are designed for cities, not for troops scattered in the countryside". This clinched the matter and the result has been excellent; almost one half of them have responded positively and Belgium has (thanks also to our Flemish counterparts) the highest fraction of municipal authorities supporting Mayors for Peace."

H. Firket

## Finland

IPPNW Finnish affiliate  
Physicians for Social Responsibility – Finland  
Activity report 10.5.06

PSR Finland has nowadays about 950 members, of which more than 50 are students. During the last years we have got many new young members and especially student activities have increased. We do not have any paid personnel, everything is done as voluntary work.

PSR Finland has all the time had a very broad agenda for activities. The largest section is development cooperation, which composes more than half of both our budget and voluntary work. Just now we have two ongoing projects in Nigeria (an HIV education project and a maternity health project), one project in Angola (health care insurance for pregnant women) and an HIV education project in Zambia. PSR Finland has also coordinated fundraising in a small rebuilding project after tsunami in Thailand. Besides these concrete projects we have taken actively part in discussions about Finland's development policy.

In September 2005 PSR organised an international symposium Health as a Bridge for Peace in Helsinki together with WHO and UN University. There were prominent speakers and good discussions.

PSR's special Health Action International (HAI) group has been active in national discussions about medicine policy and transparency in the relationship between pharmaceutical industry and physicians. PSR is the only medical association in Finland which refuses totally to accept any sponsorship from industry.

In peace work most activities have concentrated in planning the IPPNW 17<sup>th</sup> World congress in Helsinki September 2006. We have raised money for the congress and planned several workshops and discussed plenary sessions together with IPPNW's central office. Also social program has been paid attention.

We have also continued to translate and publish books about war and health in Finnish. WHO's report Violence and Health (in Finnish) was distributed to our members and to decisions makers. Michael Renner's book Anatomy of Resource Wars is also being translated and published before the world congress. We also publish a newsletter regularly and we have homepage (in Finnish) [www.lsv.fi](http://www.lsv.fi).

PSR students have been active in organising Peace test –campaign in Finland and they have also been involved in organising the IPPNW student meeting during the coming world congress. Finnish students have been active in international IPPNW student meetings and Ante Pettersson has been one of the IPPNW student representatives from Europe. Many students are also active in our development projects, and we try to integrate an educative part in all our projects abroad.

Kati Juva  
chairperson  
PSR Finland

## France

### **ASSOCIATION DES MÉDECINS FRANÇAIS POUR LA PRÉVENTION DE LA GUERRE NUCLÉAIRE (IPPNW-France)**

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### **ANNUAL REPORT (Annual General Meeting)**

2005 has been a bad year for the abolition of nuclear weapons. It has been a year of failure as regards the updating of the NPT, with the acceleration of nuclear proliferation as a consequence. IRAN is an official candidate for the bomb, but there was also the public recognition of Algeria's nuclear programme, the discovery of a secret military option in the Brazilian programme, the development of the Egyptian programme and the announcement made in Morocco of the start of a complete programme, in addition to the nuclear reactor in Rabat, with the purchase of a nuclear power station from the USA. The main responsibility for this lies with the official nuclear powers. Even if the USA and Russia lead the race for new nuclear weapons, we have to consider what is going on in our own back-yard because in France the news is not good; not only does the construction of M51 missiles continue (missiles intended for China), but the President of the French Republic has decided to join the options of the " US NUCLEAR POSTURE REVIEW ". His speeches contain the same imprecations against the "terrorist states", the same attempt to play down the dangers of nuclear weapons within a vague concept called "weapons of mass destruction". Nuclear weapons are not only considered a deterrent but could be used as a threat to "prevent war" if French interests are threatened, for example supplies of oil (or uranium) for which France has to rely entirely on imported resources. But the most discouraging factor resides in the discrepancy between the increase in the threat of nuclear war and the apathy of public opinion in France, despite the efforts of the media to highlight the danger. This will remain the focal point of our action in 2006. The reason for which French public opinion appears indifferent is admittedly partly due to lack of information, despite the efforts of the media, but the main cause lies elsewhere. **Our fellow-citizens are convinced that they cannot do anything about it** and that transparency in this field is a myth, with Parliament powerless and an acquiescent government. One man makes all the decisions - the same one who resumed nuclear testing and set all the other nations of the world against France. What people actually want is a little more democracy, and that we prove that this is possible.

Despite this situation, AMFPGN has not remained inactive and throughout 2005 all of our actions were directed towards changing public opinion.

### **OUR ACTIVITIES WITHIN FRANCE:**

We consider regional activities to be of vital importance because they are initiated by our members.

- THE CONFERENCE IN NANTES: (Western France) The 3 meetings which took place in Nantes in January 2005, including the national annual general meeting, were organised by our members in the "Loire Atlantique" region. The aim of this was to discuss the medical and scientific bases of our action for the abolition of nuclear weapons, first with our colleagues in Nantes then, in the evening, with the general public and this was even more successful than we had dared hope.

- = ACTIVITIES IN THE "PROVENCE-ALPES-COTES D'AZUR" (PACA) REGION : (South-east France). The congress in AUBAGNE was organised by our Vice-president Yves Perrin-Toinin and our Treasurer Anne-Marie Guitard – for more information on this, see BJORN HILT's report at (ADRESSE WEB DU RAPPORT). It also included several meetings with high-school pupils on the question of the military use of nuclear power, and our point of view as health professionals.

#### - MEDICAL STUDENTS IN STRASBOURG

Following the IPPNW European students' meeting in Saint-Petersburg, a group of students led by Katrin Pipert and Guillaume Corduan decided to try to mobilise local medical students and take part in the students' meeting at the congress in Aubagne. Unfortunately we did not manage to give them all the local support they were expecting. We are conscious of the lack of support and assistance which we are able to provide for our student members and hope to be able to remedy this in the near future.

#### - THE PARIS AREA

The members of this region organised 3 initiatives:

- the setting up (in common with the pacifist movements) of a parliamentary joint committee with special regard to nuclear disarmament. Success has so far been limited.
- the search for a common programme of action with all the organisations which make up Abolition 2000, during a meeting at the French Parliament on October 8; one of the decisions was the organisation of "Three days for nuclear disarmament" (JDN) in the Paris suburb of Vitry.
- a group of committee members (Roger Vuilleminot, Irene Guerineau and Beatrice Kirjner) represented our association at the "Fete de l'Humanite."

#### OUR ACTIONS WITH THE AVEN (the Association of Veterans of Nuclear Tests)

The association of the veterans who were present at French nuclear tests (AVEN) chaired by our colleague Dr VALATX, requested our assistance and support on the consequences of the nuclear tests in Algeria and Polynesia. We attended the meetings of the association in Saint Malo, Paris and Brest but we now need to give permanent local support. This is already being done in Brittany, thanks to our vice-president Christian Chenal, and also in the Paris area but has not yet been achieved in Aquitaine. Contacts with this association should however be improved because the veterans feel isolated and misunderstood by their doctors when they try to make their claims for compensation. It is our duty to give them all the help we can.

#### OUR PLACE IN THE COALITION FOR NUCLEAR DISARMEMENT:

Our committee members have remained active in our relations with the collective for nuclear disarmament in France, in particular our founder president PIERRE PERNIN; We do all that is possible to maintain the unity of the organisations having signed the call for the elimination of nuclear weapons and to mobilise public opinion, within the framework of social priorities. A large proportion of the population already rejects globalisation, and it is up to us to show them that this is leading to nuclear proliferation. We also attended a conference in the French Parliament on US unilateralism, to highlight the consequences of this as regards nuclear energy.

#### **OUR INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Priority was given to the mobilisation of IPPNW Europe. Our role was to draw attention to the situation around the Mediterranean basin, in addition to that in the Middle East. It was for this reason that we organised, with the help of our vice-president BJORN HILT and the Steering Committee in the PACA area (see above), the European congress in Aubagne. The success of this congress lay not only in the participation of European associations, delegates from the Middle East and that of our own members (the French delegation was by far the largest), but in the outcome. All the associations present agreed to include in their action the question of the nuclear threat in the Middle East, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Palestine and Egypt, but also in North

Africa, especially in Algeria and in Morocco. This extension of the boundaries of the Mediterranean commission is crucial in our action against nuclear proliferation in relation to social violence and conflict. On March 30, at the European Parliament in Brussels we must try to influence the decisions of the European Union in favour of the abolition of nuclear weapons.

#### **WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE?**

1. One of our main priorities in 2006 must be influencing public opinion, in response to the dangers of President Chirac's aggressive strategy for a deterrent force. Along with our partners of Abolition 2000 France, we organised the JDN in Vitry (see above) on 10, 11, 12 March), as the first stage of an attempt to mobilise public opinion in order to obtain a democratic debate on the nuclear question during the forthcoming presidential elections in 2007.
2. Our projects to support the veterans' association AVEN. In addition to the 2 regions where support is already being given to the veterans (Brittany and the Paris area) we propose to extend this to 3 other areas (PACA, Northern France and the Loire region). This means appointing someone to be in charge of nuclear tests who will have to develop a network and contacts with our members to meet the needs of the veterans.
3. This AGM must also start an effective policy of support for medical students: Without involving ourselves in their internal debates or their decisions, we must start providing them with a real strategy of support. It is up to this AGM to make proposals, for example a regular place in our magazine devoted to the students, a specific budget, providing what they need for their activities, etc...
4. We must take our place in the international mobilisation against the position of our president on nuclear matters, as PSR does in the USA, in view of the dangerous policy of President BUSH. Our participation in the IPPNW congress in Helsinki in October must hinge on this. Our federation must be able to count on us in the world-wide mobilisation to stop this nuclear madness.

There is thus a lot to be done, including in the mobilisation of our members, an urgent need for new members and the renewal of our committee. 2006 must be a year of revival for AMFPGN.

## Great Britain

### MEDACT Activity Report for IPPNW February 2005 – January 2006

#### **INTRODUCTION**

##### ***Evidence-based campaigning***

Last year the AGM conference was about the skills drain of health workers out of developing countries and Medact's original research on the issue. In the following year there has been an increasing focus on human resources for health and Medact's research still attracts much attention, as it gives evidence of the true economic loss that this movement of health professionals creates.

Conflict and its consequences are a frequent cause of migration, and while some who migrate to UK are a major source of staff for the NHS, some have to seek asylum. Access to healthcare for these people appears to be far from assured, and evidence of this is being documented by the Refugee Health Network and Entitlements Group hosted by Medact.

Given what is already known about the multiple effects of violent conflict it is particularly tragic that it is still resorted to in an attempt to try and resolve political disagreements and to replace stalled negotiations. Medact continues to collect evidence on the appalling health effects of the war in Iraq, and contributes to efforts to prevent any military action in relation to Iran. The death and injury caused by violent conflict appear all too obvious, however detailed evidence still plays an important part in advocacy and with colleagues Medact is planning a systematic documentation of the effects of explosive violence.

In times when some weapons are described as 'smart' and their effects as 'surgical' Medact continues in its efforts to make sure the worst tools of war are not available. We have advocated at the highest level that Trident should not be renewed, and are producing a report to illustrate - were it ever to be used - that its effects would be massively disproportionate. At a time when nuclear weapons appear to be less of a public concern, Medact's continued campaigning and advocacy in this area is vital.

The past year has seen an increasing recognition amongst major players that is essential to give more support to health systems if broader goals such as the Millennium Development Goals are ever to be met. This was already a major message of the first Global Health Watch (GHW1), launched in June 2005 and produced with colleagues from People's Health Movement and the Global Equity Gauge Alliance. GHW1 considers health and its wider determinants from the perspective of civil society, and advocates for greater accountability in relation to health from key global actors; it also clearly outlines what individuals can do to make a difference.

Medact is now active in raising awareness of the evidence for the threat to health that potentially could dwarf them all: climate change. Given the unique and influential voice that health workers have in this regard it is essential that they engage in reducing these effects in a way that does not exacerbate the increasing global divide between rich and poor.

Finally, linking two key areas of our work, we have presented clear evidence that nuclear power is not part of the answer to climate change and advocated against nuclear new build.

#### **ACTIVITIES**

##### **WMD & Conflict**

During the past year nuclear issues have continued to be an urgent agenda item, dominated in the UK by the proposed replacement of Trident, renewed dangers of nuclear proliferation and the debate on the future of nuclear power.

##### ***Trident the Big Issue***

Medact made a strong submission to the Select Defence Committee clearly laying out the dangers of replacement and the advantages of scrapping Trident, following this up with a

briefing for Members who wanted to lobby their MPs. In addition, President June Crown together with other eminent health professionals signed a letter to Tony Blair setting out similar concerns. Towards the end of 2005 Medact was asked by Greenpeace to undertake a joint briefing to illustrate the indiscriminate nature and devastating potential health effects of this type of weapon which will be published in autumn 2006.

Continuing the practice of dialogue with decision-makers, Medact members made a number of visits to diplomats to discuss Trident replacement as well as the Non-Proliferation Treaty review.

### ***Joseph Rotblat major loss***

The death of Jo Rotblat, founder of Pugwash and the WMD Awareness Programme, at the end of August 2005, was a deeply sorrowful event for all who work for nuclear disarmament. Robert Hinde, CBE, chair of Pugwash, has become patron of the Programme, which secured further funding to carry out more research and to organise a programme of public events to raise the level of nuclear awareness. In June 2005 Medact helped to facilitate a visit by Former US Secretary of Defence Robert McNamara during which he spoke of the need for international understanding to prevent proliferation.

### ***Nuclear power opposed***

Medact registered its opposition to nuclear power by drawing attention to the many problems associated with nuclear new build in a submission to the Environmental Audit Committee in September 2005. The submission outlined the reasons why nuclear power is not part of the answer to climate change, pointing out the link between nuclear power and nuclear weapons, the likely problems if fissionable material gets into the hands of non-state actors, the difficulties with waste disposal, the investment needed to develop nuclear power and the relatively minor role it can play in mitigating global warming.

Medact members have also supplied materials to the Department of Health to inform the public of necessary actions in the event of low level radiation following a major incident.

## **Violence Conflict & Health**

### ***Monitoring health in Iraq***

The violence and lack of security in Iraq has continued to negatively affect the health and health services of the Iraqi people and monitoring the situation is still a priority. Following its previous published reports, Medact produced an Iraq Health Update in *Communiqué* in the Summer of 2005 describing the devastating effects of the violence on the physical and mental health of the Iraqi population and how the health services are struggling to cope with the consequences. A study visit to the UK was facilitated for two Iraqi psychiatrists, helping to maintain professional links. Medact continues to call for an independent and comprehensive assessment of the number of deaths caused by the conflict.

### ***Iran***

In response to the increasingly tense situation concerning Iran and its nuclear power programme, Medact worked with the Crisis Action network to advocate that no military action of any sort should be used in response to this situation.

### ***Afghan health system***

Medact continued to emphasise the importance of effectively restoring health systems after conflict, and as a member of the Afghan Health Consortium, helped organise the third health symposium on the rehabilitation of the Afghan health system at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in November 2005. This involved the diaspora and several members of the Ministry of Health who came from Afghanistan for the event.

### ***Elisabeth James lecture 2005***

Giving a moving account of the terrible effects of war on the most vulnerable members of society, consultant child and adolescent psychotherapist Sheila Melzak was the speaker for the second Elisabeth James lecture on the subject of 'Children in War' in November.

## **Health & Development**

### ***Global Health Watch launched***

July 2005 saw the launch of the Global Health Watch, an alternative world health report that gives civil society a voice in key issues relating to global public health, and advocates for a more equitable global system and greater global accountability. Undertaken by Medact, the Global Equity Gauge Alliance in South Africa and the People's Health Movement, this was a truly collaborative effort which produced a document that is now being used for education, advocacy and campaigning. Launches have so far taken place in 16 countries. Planning is now beginning for Global Health Watch 2, coordinated by the Secretariat in South Africa. The Watch is available for free download from [www.ghwatch.org](http://www.ghwatch.org) and also on sale in bookshops.

### ***Skills Drain – original research continues to have an effect***

The injustice of poorer countries supplying richer countries with health professionals was the basis of Medact's two research papers on the issue of health worker migration launched at the British Medical Association in February 2005. They have attracted huge interest since, particularly the proposed solution of financial restitution to address the push factors that cause people to leave their country in the first place, and this interest has been boosted by media coverage in the *Sun*, *Guardian*, and the *Independent*. Meanwhile the issue of human resources for health and their effect on health systems has received increasing policy attention over the past year, with Medact's research at the core of the debates.

### ***Medact part of Da Vinci programme***

Education is fundamental to Medact's work and, in collaboration with other IPPNW affiliates, organisations and academics from across Europe, Medact became involved in 2005 in an EU programme to produce a set of web-based modules on peace medicine for undergraduate and post-graduate use. We are taking the lead on the module on Migration and Health, and contributing to the module on War, Weapons and Militarisation.

### ***The Right to Health***

Together with Essex University and the British Medical Association, Medact is involved in research into the legal and moral basis of the right to health and the implications for national medical associations.

## **Environment and Health**

### ***Global warming***

Over the past year global warming has increasingly been recognised as one of the major issues of our time. Raising awareness of the present and potential health effects of global warming illustrates the human suffering involved and the inequitable distribution of its consequences.

In January 2006 Medact organised a meeting on climate change and health with key actors at which the contract and converge model, the greening of the NHS and the particular role of health professionals were discussed. Medact staff and members have also spoken at various climate change events over the past year. It was decided that the 2006 AGM should be a consultative event on this subject to help set the future direction for Medact's activities in this area.

## **Refugee Health Network**

### ***Access to health care***

The difficulties asylum seekers can experience in accessing health care in UK are very real and are being documented by the Refugee Health Network, and the associated Entitlements Group,

both of which are hosted by Medact. These are powerful advocacy groups for the right to access to healthcare for asylum seekers, and their work has received considerable media attention including a full page feature article in the Society Guardian in December 2005. They continue to request the government for an evidence-based impact assessment of previous and possible changes to regulations regarding access for this vulnerable group. They are also a practical network which can locate support for asylum seekers in relation to their health needs when they most need it.

### ***Communications***

*Medicine, Conflict and Survival*, the international quarterly journal, celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2005. It continues to cover crucial issues concerning health and conflict in a balanced and highly authoritative way that makes for fascinating reading. During the past year this has included an objective and insightful volume on terrorism, and a supplement on the Medical Association for the Prevention of War by Dr Alex Poteliakhoff, a key member since its inception in 1951.

Medact's triannual newsletter *Communique* continues to keep members up to date with Medact's many activities, and to include items of particular interest such as Executive Committee member Lucy Krajl's personal experiences with the night commuters of Gulu in northern Uganda.

## **Italy**

### ANNUAL REPORT OF AIMPGN (IPPNW-ITALY) ACTIVITY

Even this year AIMPGN cooperated with IPB-Italy to the activity of the Italian chapter of Mayors for Peace. But the most important notice is the organization of the Italian Student Group of IPPNW, leaded by Luca Astarita, from Naples, that helped the organization in Naples of the European Conference of the Students of IPPNW (may 2006). News on: [www.ippnw-students.org/Naples](http://www.ippnw-students.org/Naples). AIMPGN is co-funding with IPPNW chapters of Norway and Great Britain the workshop of the Mediterranean Commission in the World Congress in Helsinki.

## **The Netherlands**

### **NVMP-Dutch affiliate of IPPNW SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT 2005**

#### **Mayors for Peace**

One of the most important activities the last couple of years has been the support for the Dutch Mayors for Peace campaign. Together with Dutch coordinator Karel Koster from Eurobom we worked hard to make this campaign successful in our country. We have a good working relationship with Karel Koster. He is one of the few Dutch political lobbyists who's work and information is respected. This means that when he is involved in a project you'll get results. In case of this important project which puts nuclear weapons on the political agenda again as well as in the media we did achieve more than we expected. A group of almost 90 cities/communities has given support to the Mayors for Peace declaration, of this group 22 Mayors actually became a Mayors for Peace member.

We also were successful in producing a 'Hiroshima and Nagasaki'-exhibition. This exhibition is a very important back up for the campaign. In about 10 cities it has been shown to the public. On July 4 the exhibition will have its peak moment when Mayor Akiba himself will open it in the cityhall of Leidschendam.

NVMP sees this campaign as one of the most important campaigns at the moment as it comes to giving attention to the dangers of nuclear weapons. Mayors are in fact an important instrument being a spokesperson for the common people.

The exhibition is shown on our website <http://www.nvmp.org>

#### **Global Health Education, Medical Peacework (Leonardo da Vinci)**

The successful Global Health Education project was finalised in 2005 resulting in a CD-rom containing the four developed 'modules'.

These modules can be used for Global Health courses at universities. They can also be seen on our website [www.nvmp.org](http://www.nvmp.org).

The project got financial support from the NCDO (national commission on development), that made it possible to reach some clear results. The GHE-project in fact continues to develop itself and will start promotion of the, from time to time actualised, courses.

GHE also was a stimulant to join the Medical Peacework-project (Leonardo de Vinci, LdV) initialised by the Tromso-university. Also this project has major financial support, this time from the European Commission, which makes it possible to pay for Dr. Leo van Bergen who is working at material for this 'distant e-learning' project. In October 2006 an update-LdV workshop will be organised in our country.

Our organisation sees these projects as a perfect example of spreading our 'message'. A good and structural organised project with external finance. This is the way we should do our work.

#### **Other initiatives**

Our board has spent a lot of time during her meetings discussing how we could better reach our members and involve them in an active role in one of our projects. For that purpose we organised several working groups concentrating on issues like 'small arms', 'health effects of war', 'depleted uranium (weapons)' and 'conflict-mediation'. These issues have been selected as being our most important topics. Making these working groups successful however is another huge task that won't be easy.

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## Norway

### Annual report 2005, Norwegian Physicians against Nuclear Weapons (NLA) Norwegian affiliate of IPPNW

(approved at the annual meeting of NLA in Trondheim on March 4, 2006)

This is a short version of our annual report. A full annual report in Norwegian can be found in our newsletter "Norske Leger mot Atomvåpen" 2006; Vol 24 (No1): and on our web-page [www.legermotatomvapen.no](http://www.legermotatomvapen.no).

NLA has 920 personal members, among them about 800 physicians and 120 medical students. You find NLA at the following address:

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[www.legermotatomvapen.no](http://www.legermotatomvapen.no)

#### The board

Elected members of the board of the NLA in 2005 have been Tordis Sørensen Høifødt (leader and international councilor, Tromsø), Klaus Melf (Deputy leader, deputy international councilor, Tromsø), Ingvild Fossgard Sandøy (treasurer, Bergen), Bjørn Hilt (Vice President Europe IPPNW, Trondheim), Cecilie Bredrup (Bergen), Kjersti Johnsrud, Anne Alvik, Christin Mørup Ormhaug and Per Wium, (all Oslo). Student representatives to the board are Rune Dahl (also international student representative, Oslo), Brage Brakedal (Bergen), Gard Jørgensen (Trondheim), Rebecca Aasmundrud, (Tromsø).

There have been ten board meetings, eight as telephone meetings and two meetings together, one of these in Oslo on January 13 together with the council and one in Bergen, March 12, after the annual assembly. There are approved minutes from all board meetings.

#### The council

The following are at present members of the advisory council of NLA: Ulrich Abildgaard, Carl Birger Alm, Christian Borchgrevink, Odd Steffen Dalgard, Anne Grieg, Kjell Grøttum, Kurt Hanevik, Kristian Hagestad, Hans Asbjørn Holm, Jens Gustav Iversen, Einar Kringlen, Mons Lie, Eiliv Lund, Morten Bremer Mærli, Kirsten Osen, Alexander Pihl, Hans Prydz, Johannes Setekleiv, Hilchen Sommerschild, Otto Steinfeldt-Foss, Per Sundby, Helge Waal and Steinar Westin.

#### Student groups

NLA has active student groups in all four Norwegian universities, Oslo, Bergen, Trondheim and Tromsø.

#### Journal

In 2005 there were three issues of our journal "Norske Leger mot Atomvåpen". In addition the number 3 from 2004 was distributed in January 2005. The journal is distributed to all members, to medical and common libraries, and to some newspapers. The editor was Trygve Berge, medical student, Oslo, together with Torbjørn Hugo.

#### Web-page

You find the NLA web-page on [www.legermotatomvapen.no](http://www.legermotatomvapen.no). The editor is board member Christin Mørup Ormhaug, Oslo, and the web-master is Egil Veland, medical student, Oslo.

#### Annual assembly 2005

The annual assembly 2005 was held in on March 12 in Bergen.

Christin M Ormhaug and Nicholas Marsh, Peace Research Institute in Oslo (PRIO) talked about "Small weapons – a challenge for the health sector?" Klaus Melf, Centre for International Health, University of Tromsø talked about "Challenges in Medical Peace Work".

### **Collaboration with other NGOs**

NLA is a member of the Norwegian Peace Council and of Abolition 2000. NLA collaborates with "No Nuclear Weapons" (Nei til Atomvåpen) and The national Pugwash committee in arranging meetings and making contacts with MPs and the government on disarmament issues.

### **Dialogue with decision makers**

NLA has joined a Nordic group that has taken responsibility for continuation and coordination of the IPPNW program for Seminars and Dialogue with decision makers in the nuclear weapons states and NATO. The person responsible for this in our board is Bjørn Hilt.

Bjørn Hilt participated from NLA in Brussels with politicians in the European Union January 19. He also gave a speech on March 17 in the "Subcommittee of security and defence" in the EU Parliament in a hearing on "Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the role of the EU-parliament".

NLA gives priority to visiting the embassies of the nuclear weapons states in Oslo at the same time as the Dialogue meetings. In 2005 NLA has visited the embassy of the Unites States.

### **Nuclear Weapons Inheritance Project**

Medical students from NLA have actively contributed to the international student project NWIP in 2005. Gard Jørgensen took part in dialogue seminar in India and Pakistan during the summer 2005.

### **IPPNW campaign**

NLA has followed up the campaign from IPPNW central office in mobilizing the public before the NPT RevCon in May 2005. We have recruited Mayors for Peace and made lobbying among politicians. We have advocated the Norwegian Medical Association to write a letter to the prime minister about the importance of the NPT RevCon and to urge the Norwegian government to be actively profiled during the conference. Christin M Ormhaug represented NLA at NPT RevCon in New York.

### **Other activities**

#### **Small arms**

NLA sent an application for economic support from the Norwegian Agency of Development Cooperation (NORAD) on the project "Aiming for prevention" in Zambia and Uganda in 2004 , but we did not succeed to get money. However; we have made a new application in 2005, and will receive an answer in 2006. NLA signed Control arms campaign (se [www.controlarms.org](http://www.controlarms.org)).

#### **Depleted Uranium (DU)**

Members of the board have made a literature review, which has been published in the journal number 3/2005.

#### **Seminar to mark 60 years after the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki**

NLA arranged a seminar together with the Norwegian Medical Association on December 1, with the topic, "A new atomic catastrophe – only an empty threat?" Speakers were Henrik Salander (WMDC- Blixcommission), Gunnar Westberg (IPPNW), Harald Siem (Norwegian Health Authorities) and Hilde Karen Ofte and Kristin Alice Jakobsen (doctors, recent medical students, University of Tromsø).

#### **Nuclear-Free Future Award (NFFA) 2005.**

On September 24, NLA took part in arranging a seminar in connection with the celebration of Nuclear-Free Future Award (NFFA) for 2005. Morten Bræmer Mærli spoke on the topic " Is there a connection between nuclear energy and nuclear weapons?", and Eiliv Lund "To challenge scarce information: Health Consequences of nuclear tests and Chernobyl".

### **Renewal proses IPPNW**

Bjørn Hilt and Sveinung Larsen (medical student, Oslo) participated in the IPPNW-renewal-meeting in London on Febr. 25.-27. Ingvild F. Sandøy and Klaus Melf took part in the follow up meetings in London in May 2005.

Klaus Melf is appointed a medical member of *The International Association of University Presidents (IAUP)s Commission on Disarmament Education, Conflict Resolution and Peace*. The commission meets twice a year, and he attended the first meeting in the UN in New York on Dec. 7.

During 2005 representatives from NLA participated in 15 international and national meetings about peace and disarmament, and published contributions or articles to newspapers. We have also taken several contacts with the Norwegian government and other politicians about nuclear weapons issues, peace and disarmament.

Tromsø February, 2006  
Tordis Sørensen Høifødt  
Leader and IC of NLA.

## Sweden

### **Annual Report of the SLMK (IPPNW-Sweden) Sept 1, 2004 – Aug 31, 2005. A short summary.**

SLMK, Svenska Läkare mot Kärnvapen (Swedish Physicians against Nuclear Arms) is the Swedish affiliate of IPPNW. The aim of SLMK is to inform about the medical consequences of nuclear weapons and nuclear war. The ultimate goal is the total abolition of nuclear arms. Membership amounts to 3300 physicians including about 70 medical student members. SLMK is an associated member of the Swedish Society of Medicine.

At the AGM in November 2004, a new President was elected, Frida Sundberg. Also two new Deputy Presidents were elected, Martin Tondel and Leonore Wide. SLMK has a central office staffed with two persons, Klas Lundius, who is the cashier of SLMK, and a part-time secretary. Most of the work in SLMK is performed on a voluntary basis. About 40 individuals reported a total of 850 working days during the year. SLMK has a sound and stable economic situation. Member fees, gifts from members and supporters, and a share of savings in BANCO Fonder together account for more than 80% of the total income of SLMK. A minor grant was received from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Our web page [www.slmk.org](http://www.slmk.org) is managed by Bengt Lindell. There you will find the study material "Learn about Nuclear Weapons" in English as well as in Swedish. SLMK's quarterly journal is edited by Jan Larsson and Ulf König. This newsletter also serves as newsletter for our Danish sister affiliate, the DLMK.

### **International activities**

Gunnar Westberg, President of SLMK since 1995, was elected a new Co-President of IPPNW at the IPPNW World Congress in Beijing in September 2004.

Gunnar Westberg and Hans Levander participated in an IPPNW Regional Conference in Hiroshima, Japan, in August 2005. Together with two German colleagues and a German student they went on to North Korea where they met with colleagues from the KANPP, the North Korean affiliate of IPPNW.

The NPT Review Conference was held in May 2005, unfortunately with no positive results. NGO:s from all over the world had come to New York. SLMK sent 4 representatives, among them Jenny Immerstrand, medical student, who spoke at the demonstration in Central Park.

SLMK raised nearly \$,20,000 for the upstart of a new IPPNW campaign for an international convention against nuclear weapons. Individuals in IPPNW have got funding for e.g. travels.

#### Dialogues and Seminars with Decision-makers, DwDm

These seminars have been an important part of SLMK activities since quite a few years. The responsibility for the program has been transferred to the central office of IPPNW. SLMK still gives some economical support. Frida Sundberg participated in dialogues and seminars in London in November 2004 and in Brussels in February 2005.

#### International student programs and the Nuclear Weapons Inheritance Project, NWIP.

Originating from an idea from Hans Levander and students at a meeting in Uppsala in 2001, the NWIP has grown to become one of the most successful student projects of IPPNW. Small delegations of students go to meet groups of students in the nuclear weapon states in seminars and workshops and make them reflect on how they feel about inheriting the nuclear weapons.

Richard Fristedt, Sweden, was a coordinator of this programme until sept 2004, when Camilla

Mattsson, Sweden and Inga Blum, Germany, took over.

At the World Congress in Beijing, the NWIP team held a workshop for 22 Chinese students.

In November 2004 a NWIP delegation met with students of five universities in USA. Again in March 2005, Camilla Mattsson and Thomas Silfverberg, Sweden, held several workshops with PSR-students. In August 2005 a NWIP delegation travelled to India and held dialogue

meetings in several cities. They received a strong response from the Indian students. They went on to Pakistan, where they had meetings in Karachi and Islamabad. Both in India and

Pakistan they had a good media attention. See also [www.ipnw-students.org/NWIP](http://www.ipnw-students.org/NWIP)

SLMK has sponsored the NWIP project, both through grants from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and through fundraising from its members.

The student members of SLMK have their focus on international activities. SLMK sent 10 students to the IPPNW European student meeting in St Petersburg in April 2005.

## **Domestic activities**

An international NGO conference called "Reaching Nuclear Disarmament: New Challenges and Possibilities" was held in Stockholm in February 2005. Key-note speaker was Hans Blix, the Swedish chairman of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission. SLMK participated in the organizing committee and took the economical responsibility for the project.

Embassy visits. The Russian Embassy was visited in April 2005 and the American Embassy was visited in May 2005 by small SLMK delegations.

Life-Link Friendships-Schools [www.life-link.org](http://www.life-link.org) is a program for peace education in schools, created by Hans Levander who is also an active member of SLMK. The program has been endorsed by SLMK. The Life-Link program has reached many countries world-wide.

Media. Several articles written by SLMK-members have been published in national and local newspapers and journals. Gunnar Westberg was interviewed in TV4 on August 6, 2005.

The Mayors for Peace Project has not been successful in Sweden. Only two cities are members of the M4P, Stockholm and Malmo.

Local activities were reported by seven chapters/ local SLMK groups. Many SLMK members have been participating in out-going activities, especially in connection with the Hiroshima Day, and as speakers at meetings and seminars concerning various nuclear weapons issues.

## **Projects**

Two major projects ought to be mentioned. SLMK received grants for both projects.

Human Factor and the Risk of Nuclear War. Based on several dialogues and seminars in Sweden and in Russia, a publication was made in English and in Russian. You can download it in both languages from the website of SLMK.

The Nepal project. SLMK supports a regional office for IPPNW in Kathmandu, Nepal. By way of this office, the Indian and the Pakistani affiliates are able to stay in contact. The project has been troubled by the political instability in Nepal lately.

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## Switzerland

### PSR/IPPNW Switzerland, annual report 2005-2006

Here is a short summary of some of the activities of the Board of PSR/IPPNW Switzerland in 2005 and early 2006. A more detailed report in German for the year 2005 may be found on the following internet site:

[http://www.ippnw.ch/ippnw\\_php\\_files/Jahresbericht\\_einz.php?recordID=10](http://www.ippnw.ch/ippnw_php_files/Jahresbericht_einz.php?recordID=10).

A scientific meeting entitled "Health of Liquidators (Clean-up Workers), 20 Years after the Chernobyl Explosion" was organized at the University of Bern in November 2005. Prominent researchers from Belarus, Ukraine and Russia presented results of their studies. A detailed program and the abstracts book can be found on the following internet site:

[http://www.ippnw.ch/content/pdf/06\\_0233\\_PSR\\_Abstracts.pdf](http://www.ippnw.ch/content/pdf/06_0233_PSR_Abstracts.pdf).

PSR/IPPNW together with the NGO "Children of Belarus" is actively supporting a research and clinical program in Belarus in order to alleviate the effects of Cs-137 on the health of children. The financial help goes through the Institute Belrad in Minsk and supports the use of pectin to reduce the load of radionuclides in the human body. Furthermore the Board is actively supporting the research work of the group directed by Rose Goncharova, Head of the Genetic Safety Laboratory, Institute of Genetics and Cytology, National Academy of Sciences, Minsk.

Two articles entitled "Radioprotection in Switzerland endangered" and "Radioprotection: Arguments against a possible relaxing of the ICRP rules" appeared in the journal for the Swiss physicians (Schweizerische Ärztezeitung / Bulletin des médecins suisses). The two papers found a great echo. After publication of the first paper in January 2005, members of the Board were received by members the Federal Office of Public Health in order to discuss the dispute.

Several cities were gained in the frame of the action of the NGO Mayors for Peace.

Several actions were taken to further the idea of nuclear free zones around the world with a focus on the Middle East.

PSR/IPPNW Switzerland actively participated in several major Swiss cities in the organisation of event and seminars to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chernobyl accident.