

NORDIC PEACE ALLIANCE - A PEACE NETWORK

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Background

There is an urgent need for further cooperation between Nordic peace organisations because of new global geopolitical shifts, the present war of aggression in Ukraine, the Swedish and Finnish NATO applications as well as increased armament and militarization in our countries.

As part of the Nordic civil societies, we believe that the Nordic peace organizations have sufficient common interest, organizational capacity and core values to make it possible for a Nordic Peace Alliance to agree on alternatives to armament and militarism in our part of the world.

We saw an increased informal contact through zoom and email during the pandemic, now representatives of peace organisations in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden see the need for a formal Nordic network.

Below you find our thoughts regarding a Nordic Peace Alliance as a basis for further discussions.

Purpose

The overall purpose is to increase the contact and cooperation between Nordic peace organizations and thereby develop and promote a Nordic non-military sustainable peace and security policy.

The alliance strives to enable our member organisations to join forces and increase our joint strength and effectiveness concerning peace issues.

Members

Member organisations are non-governmental organisations and networks within the peace field in their home countries. Membership is presently open to Nordic organizations from Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland Norway, Sweden and the Åland Island that define peace as one of their main focus areas and agree with the purpose.

We hope that we will later be able to include environmental organizations – as well as organisations in the Baltic States, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Activities

The Nordic Peace Alliance will undertake exchange of analysis and information between member organizations on national initiatives, as well as develop joint projects and initiatives.

The alliance will formulate joint policy statements and resolutions addressed to relevant decision makers, i.e. the Nordic Council, the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Baltic Sea Council and the Arctic Council, as these institutions represent a joint channel to our Nordic politicians in Parliament and Government.

The alliance will organize meetings and seminars, online as well as physical. Member organisations are free to suggest the establishment of working groups and committees, as well as joint initiatives, conferences, webinars, policy statements and resolutions to be discussed and adopted at member organisation meetings.

The alliance aims to organize an annual conference to exchange good practices, discuss current issues and promote a broad and public debate on peace.

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Organization

The Nordic Peace Alliance is organized as a network, with a coordination committee

The coordination committee is responsible for the management of the network and consists of two representatives from each country, selected by the member organizations from that country and appointed at the biannual meeting.

Decisions will be based on consensus.

The responsibility for practical tasks, including finances, will be discussed and shared by the coordinating committee

Media

The Nordic Peace Alliance will develop a website as its centrepiece containing all relevant information and presentations.

An appointed media-group will be responsible for press releases and the presence on relevant social media platforms

Funding

The economy should first and foremost rely on voluntary work and voluntary contributions from member organizations. Media work, webinars and conferences need external co-funding through relevant sources.