

# Varberg Peace Conference 2015

9<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> of June 2015

Varberg, Sweden



By initiative of the local association of the Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society a peace conference was held in Varberg in 1915. The First World War was affecting large parts of the population and a need for a space to come together and talk about the international peace process was very much in need. The participants during the conference together managed to formulate ten resolutions for lasting world peace. In one of the ten resolutions a proposal to create a world parliament where conflicts between nations should be solved without war and weapons was given. These resolutions were remarkably similar to the initiative three years later created the League of Nations, which later became the United Nations.

In 2015, as part of the 100-year jubilee celebration of this peace conference, the Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society together with PeaceWorks Sweden and Varberg Municipality decided to arrange a new conference with a focus on young people. 26 youths from Sweden, Colombia, Syria, Uganda, Lebanon and Bulgaria met during five days in Rosenfredsskolan in Varberg (the same school where the conference was held 100 years ago) to once again discuss global peace. The result of the Varberg Peace Conference 2015 is presented in ten resolutions for lasting peace that are presented in its full content in this official compendium.

Below you find the ten resolutions decided upon during Varberg Peace Conference 2015 by delegates from numerous countries, ages, and background.



Emelie Petersson  
**PeaceWorks Sweden**



Anna Ek  
**Swedish Peace and  
Arbitration Society**

## 1. Disarm the world.

### Aim

Change the norm where weapons are equated to security and power.

### Solutions

- i. Form international treaties of arms reduction.
- ii. Form international security alliances whose aim is to secure regions through disarmament and non-violent methods as an alternative to military alliances.
- iii. Develop a court of law and repercussions in case of breach of contract.
- iv. Create a position as "Disarmament Minister" and form a department of government working explicitly for peace as an alternative to the defence department.
- v. Support organizations that are helping conscientious objectors.
- vi. Use the United Nations as a supervisory body observing arms production.

## 2. Change the gender power order.

### Aim

By using an intersectional perspective create a sustainable positive peace where all people are treated as equals.

### Solutions

- i. Develop resolution 1325 to include all gender identities.
- ii. Investments in institutions to stop discrimination.
- iii. Include people of a higher variety than "cis-men" in peace building, democracy processes and on high power positions in society.
- iv. Change norms and attitudes by education about gender inequality and power structures in schools, workplaces and municipalities.

## 3. Support grassroots organizations.

### Aim

- i. Engage and include more people in politics.
- ii. Connect more people to power and politics.
- iii. Create diversity and make sure everyone is represented in politics.
- iv. All for a better democracy.

### Solution

- i. Create platforms for grassroots organizations where the organizations can present their work to politicians to gain more publicity.
- ii. Financial support by increasing the aid to help grassroots organizations to continue their work.
- iii. Politicians must engage grassroots organizations in decision making.
- iv. Form a union, which help grassroots organizations to protect themselves when the grassroots are threatened. The union must be independent and international.

#### 4. Equal and democratic distribution of resources such as money, education, health care and land.

##### Aim

A world where all people have equal access to resources to prevent poverty.

##### Solutions

- i. Redistributive taxation.
- ii. Maximum and minimum wage.
- iii. Nationalized public services.
- iv. Public influence of military expenditure.

#### 5. Free access to quality education for all.

##### Aim

- i. Enforce the right for education.
- ii. Use education to create independence amongst individuals, groups, and states.

##### Solution

- i. Increased financial aid to education from countries who are able to donate.
- ii. Financial aid should support free school meals, free school transport, school fees, and housing.
- iii. Mandatory school attendance between the age of 7-16.
- iv. Free higher education which is available to everyone over 16 years.
- v. Integrate the school with the society and culture.
- vi. Increase the status of teachers.
- vii. International exchange programme for both teachers, and students.

## 6. Transparent and democratic political and socio-economic systems.

### Aim

People should have access to information regarding political, financial and social decisions that have impact on their lives.

### Solutions

- i. Public and open meetings.
- ii. Sharing of information and open dialogue.
- iii. Information on websites.
- iv. Legislation.
- v. Accountable representatives.

## 7. A world where animals are treated with respect.

### Aim

Change treatment of animals as well as attitudes regarding their value; from currently existing to our benefit to realising and accepting their intrinsic value.

### Solutions

- i. Legal framework stipulating an international regulation regarding animal treatment, e.g.: reducing animal suffering, limit usage of harmful products in meat-production, and assisting countries in combating poaching.
- ii. Spreading information and educating people about animal suffering.
- iii. Make it easier to choose meat-free products and/or ecologically produced meat.

## 8. A world where people have more power than multinational corporations.

### Aim

Regulate multinational corporation's power and influence, hold them accountable for their actions, and increase corporate social responsibility.

### Solutions

- i. Stronger national regulations regarding production.
- ii. Create awareness surrounding the process of production in order to strengthen consumer's knowledge, and consequently their power.
- iii. Regulate the corporate lobby-industry in order to decrease their influence on policy-makers.

- iv. Encourage and strengthen companies taking their corporate social responsibility.

## 9. Root a mentality of green living.

### Aim

Spread knowledge of ecologically sustainable consumption globally and promote ideas of sustainability in production systems, harvest processes and working conditions.

### Solutions

- i. Raise awareness about consequences of our consumption through global campaigns.
- ii. Create more work opportunities in rural areas.
- iii. Support ecological development.
- iv. Include education in green consumption in the school curriculum.

## 10. Restore security and respect differences.

### Aim

Decrease the fear of being marginalised, discriminated or segregated due to ones believes or any other status such as sex, ethnicity, age, functionality, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

### Solutions

- i. Support possibilities to exchange ideas and cultural knowledge.
- ii. Spread information on consequences of reproducing and acting upon stereotypical believes.
- iii. Change the social stigmas created by stereotypes.



*The participants along with the facilitators.*

#### **List of participants**

Ajax Camilo Bastidas Ruiz, Bogotá Colombia

Alexander Rosén, Stockholm Sweden

Amanda Grabowski, Västerås Sweden

Anas Al-nafi, Damascus Syria

Beatrice Tillgren, Stockholm Sweden

Billy Mahmoud Haydar, Beirut Lebanon

Caroline Wann, Göteborg Sweden

David Hedqvist, Stockholm Sweden

Diego Carreño, Bogotá Colombia

Edith Almqvist, Halmstad Sweden

Ellen Kasimir, Malmö Sweden

Ewa Axelsson, Hässleholm Sweden

Fanny Thörnberg Nylund, Härnösand Sweden

Haroon Bayani, Stockholm Sweden

Helena Blomqvist, Stockholm Sweden

Ida Arnesson, Göteborg Sweden

Isabella Björkman, Uppsala Sweden

Laura Frida Weinstein Nisenbon, Bogotá Colombia

Linnea Ramström, Kumla Sweden

Matthew Ssemakula, Kampala Uganda

Mohammed Al-nafi, Damascus Syria

Rosa María Ballesteros Cárdenas, Bogotá Colombia

Sofia Ekarv, Uppsala Sweden

Stefan Mihaylovski, Sliven Bulgaria

Suzanne Gezelius, Östersund Sweden

Thea Pettersson, Göteborg Sweden

#### **Facilitators**

Anna Ek, Svenska Freds

Anwhar Athahb, Svenska Freds

Emelie Petersson, PeaceWorks

Niklas Andersson, PeaceWorks