

Institute for Peacework and Nonviolent Conflict Transformation (Institut für Friedensarbeit und Gewaltfreie Konfliktaustragung -IFGK)

Section report 2007-2008

For the War Resisters' International Council 2008

The IFGK presently has eight active members, and five currently 'dormant'. Members of the IFGK are working on different research and other projects. Here only a few are listed that may be of special interest for WRI members – a full list of all activities can be found on our webpage:

- Achim Schmitz finished this year his doctoral thesis on trainings in nonviolence. It will be published in 2009.
- Martin Arnold continues to work on his thesis on *The way nonviolent practice works: Core Concepts of dealing with conflict in an intercultural comparison* where he studies the concepts of nonviolence of Gandhi, Goss-Mayr and Bart de Ligt. He hopes to finish this voluminous study around the end of this year.
- Christine Schweitzer will probably finish her thesis with the title *Strategies of Intervention in Protracted Violent Conflicts by Civil Society Actors. The Example of Interventions in the Violent Conflicts in the Area of Former Yugoslavia, 1990 – 2004* also in early 2009.

Aside from these research projects, a regular activity of the IFGK are so-called 'study days' held twice a year where researchers are invited to present their ongoing work; evaluations, support in strategic planning for NGOs, and courses given by some of its members at universities. The most recent such study day for example included presentations on the concept of forgiveness, training work in Sudan and on conflict-solving workshops in Georgia-Abkhazia.

As to cooperation with WRI:

- Of the WRI programmes, the training one is probably the one which meets most interest with members of IFGK – besides Achim Schmitz there are at least two other people actively working as nonviolence trainers and/or facilitators for group processes.
- As an editor for a German peace movement magazine (Friedensforum), Christine has also sought to include contributions by WRI members in that magazine, either through translating articles published elsewhere, or by soliciting articles from WRI contacts.
- If there are any needs in WRI for research or evaluation, the IFGK would gladly consider to offer its services, but this has not occurred so far.
- The IFGK does not do much merchandizing other than bringing our publications to conferences and selling them. It would be possible for us to include WRI publications.

General Contact:

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