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## IFGK Activity Report 2021

The IFGK still had nine active and six dormant members in the reporting period. The active employees are: Martin Arnold, Anne Dietrich, Reinhard Eismann, Albert Fuchs, Mirjam Mahler, Gudrun Knittel, Barbara Müller, Achim Schmitz, Christine Schweitzer.

Study day and general meeting 2021 of the IFGK took place on September 17th and 18th, 2021 in Essen.

The board was newly elected; all three board members remained in office for a further term: Achim Schmitz is the chairman, Martin Arnold is the co-chairman and Barbara Müller is the treasurer.

### Activities of IFGK employees

**Dr. Martin Arnold:** During the reporting period, Martin Arnold continued to be active in refugee work, at the Runden UmweltTischEssen, in the new Essen cooperation "Together for City Change", as head of the local peace circle Forum Billebrinkhöhe and in peace work groups of the Evangelical Church in the Rhineland. He supports the initiative to rethink security as a 'multiplier'. And as a member of the International Ark Community (founder: Lanza del Vasto), he is also involved in the two-year training course "Discovering the Ark". He is particularly pleased with his work on the board of the "Power of Nonviolence" foundation with the first grants in the year under review. In the summer of 2021, he got in touch with the Last Generation Uprising group, which is using a new concept of nonviolent action (hunger strikes, road blockades, maximum disruption) to try to force overdue political measures to avert the worst consequences of the climate catastrophe.

**Reinhard Eismann:** Also in 2021, Reinhard Eismann's peace policy activities were severely restricted due to the pandemic. The focus was on the newly founded foundation "Power of Nonviolence". There he took part in the joint online meeting of the Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees in February. In his function as a member of the Board of Trustees, he gave detailed opinions on submitted funding applications in the form of individual votes in November and December.

Reinhard Eismann's other peace policy activities were essentially limited to online participation in two CampaNet meetings in March and June.

**Dr. Barbara Müller:** The most work-intensive focus in 2021 was to put the Foundation Power of Nonviolence into practical work and to organize the institutional and administrative requirements for successful work. After the first projects could be included in the funding at the end of 2021, the financial investment as well as bookkeeping and accounting could be organized, the focus in 2022 will be on increased collection activities for the foundation.

The work area Counseling from a Nonviolent Perspective got going again in the course of 2021, but focused on individual counseling. It will be deepened by a further training course in somatic experiencing that started in 2021 and will continue until 2024.

The biographical research project was resumed in 2021 and will result in further publications in the blog in 2022.

**Dr. Achim Schmitz** taught various German courses in Krefeld. He continued his communication training at the University of Stuttgart and had teaching assignments at vocational schools for geriatric care in Krefeld on various conflict issues. He offered online seminars in sociology at the Fliedner University of Applied Sciences in Düsseldorf-Kaiserswerth.

He worked as a social worker in Krefeld and Kempen; His duties also included training in communication and conflict management.

**Dr Christine Schweitzer:** In addition to her work as managing director of the BSV, she is also an editorial assistant and editor for the magazine Friedensforum ([www.friedenskooperative.de](http://www.friedenskooperative.de)) as an employee of the IFGK.

Christine continued her work documenting Nonviolent Peaceforce good practice workshops during the year. The last workshop, which took place online, dealt with the "Europe" region. An online conference was then prepared and held in November 2021. Christine was part of the preparation team and also documented this conference. The reports of all workshops and the conference (forthcoming) are available online at: <https://www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org/what-we-do/developing-and-expanding-the-field>.

A larger project in the second half of the year was the viewing and compilation of materials on the Afghan war for the Peace Association. A summary has also been prepared for each of the themes by which the material will be organized. The materials will be put online on the website [www.friedenskooperative.de](http://www.friedenskooperative.de) (to be published).

Christine also wrote an article on peacekeeping for the second edition of the Peace Psychologists' Handbook.

### **Outlook**

Two study days are expected to take place in 2022. The first will be organized in cooperation with the Militarization Information Center and will take place on May 7th; the second in autumn has not yet been scheduled.