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## Activity Report 2022

The IFGK had 2022 8 active and 7 passive members. The active members are: Martin Arnold, Anne Dietrich, Reinhard Eismann, Albert Fuchs, Gudrun Knittel, Barbara Müller, Achim Schmitz, Christine Schweitzer. Anfang 2023 ist Julia Nennstiel als neues Mitglied dazu gekommen.

### Study Days

Two study days took place in 2022, each with a preceding general meeting on the evening before: on May 7th and December 3rd.

We organized the study day on May 7th together with the Information Center for Militarization (IMI). Topics were "Peace research beyond the university" (exchange between IMI and IFGK about the challenges of applied committed peace research), "Climate and War" (lecture by Jackie Andres from IMI), "Why Civil Resistance Works Differently in Democracies: The Logic of Nonviolent Resistance Extended" (dissertation project by Lea Bonasera, MPhil), "This is an uprising" by Dr. Martin Arnold (IFGK) and "Future Combat Air System - pivot for the peace movement?" by Marius Pletsch, (Information Center Militarization IMI e.V., DFG-VK ).

The motto of the study day on December 3 was "From war to defensive peace". Dr. Christine Schweitzer presented her inventory of sources on the Afghan war, which she compiled in the last quarter of 2021, with special consideration of the German role, published online by the Peace Cooperation Network: <https://www.friedenskooperative.de/monitoring-projekt-Afghanistan>.

Prof. Dr. Albert Fox. "Gradualism: Towards 'Common Security' – via detente, step by step".

Dalilah Shemia-Goeke also presented conceptual reflections online: "Strategic Nonviolence and Multinational Corporations". The background to her recently completed dissertation is the finding that in research on social movements and organizations critical of corporate activism, concepts of non-violent resistance are unknown and the usual description of factors for concepts of how to proceed are hardly relevant.

Julia Nennstiel presented her research idea online: What can be determined and considered with regard to digital communication in civil resistance in view of the possibilities of repression?

### Activities of IFGK members

**Dr. Martin Arnold:** Since the beginning of the Russia-Ukraine war, Martin Arnold is particularly concerned about the proclamation of the "turning point". Since then, politics and the published opinion of the major mass media have been largely guided by the assumption that military operations could contribute to peace - in his opinion, a misconception that is becoming increasingly fatal, with mass deadly consequences that even endangers all of humanity. In contrast, the chances of success of non-violent action for more democracy are much greater than the chances of success of armed action, as Erica Chenoweth's studies have shown. That is why Martin Arnold has been particularly active during the reporting period to advance social defense (ours first) and to spread the highly significant insights of Erica Chenoweth. The establishment, design and continuation of the new Wehrhaft ohne Waffen campaign was therefore a priority for him. He is still involved in refugee work, at the RundenUmweltTischEssen, in the Essen cooperation Together for City Change, in the local peace circle in the Billebrinkhöhe Forum, in the rethinking security initiative, in training for the Arche community (founder: Lanza del Vasto) and on the board the Foundation Power of Nonviolence.

**Reinhard Eismann:** Reinhard Eismann's general peace policy commitment in 2022 was naturally shaped by Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine, which also had an impact on the IFGK.

Reinhard Eismann took part in the three meetings of the campaign "Wehrhaft ohne Waffen" (in 2022 still under the working title "Advancing Social Defence") in early June, late July and late October and

is a member of the campaign's initiative group. In the run-up to the first meeting in early June, he took part in the content and conceptual preliminary considerations and was involved in two working groups during the founding phase.

As a member of the Board of Trustees of the Power of Non-Violence Foundation, he gave detailed statements/individual votes to the Board of Directors on the two funding applications submitted in 2022.

He also took part in several online workshops at the Nonviolent Action Workshop throughout the year.

**Godrun Knittel:** Together with a colleague, she accompanied a large housing project in 2021 and 2022 in the further development of a constructive and non-violent conflict culture.

In Schleswig-Holstein, at the end of 2022, she moderated a special general assembly of full-time municipal equal opportunities officers using the systemic consensus method, at which a new organizational and decision-making structure was decided.

**Dr. Barbara Müller:** In 2022, Barbara Müller was busy with the renaissance of social defense on several levels. On the one hand, she moderated the process in which those interested in SV came together and organized the campaign Defensive Without Weapons. In this context, the historical experience of "passive resistance in the 1923 Ruhrkampf" was reanimated in a thematically appropriate manner. For this purpose, work contacts were made with the Ruhr Museum, which honors the occupation of the Ruhr on the occasion of the 100th anniversary with an exhibition. Since strange parallels between social defense and passive resistance are still circulating, a lecture on the actual events was redesigned and given in Essen in November. With a small project, passive resistance is now being worked on more systematically in order to serve as a case study for the development of social defense. A first transfer workshop took place in February 2023.

As Managing Director, Barbara Müller is still the contact person for the IFGK and responsible for finances and association law, and is currently involved in the search for young talent and research advice.

**Dr Achim Schmitz** worked as a social worker in Kempen; His duties also included training in communication and conflict resolution. He taught various German courses in Mönchengladbach. He continued his communication training at the University of Stuttgart. He offered an online seminar in sociology at the Fliehdner University of Applied Sciences in Düsseldorf-Kaiserswerth.

After the start of the Ukraine war, he gave three speeches in Krefeld on social defense and support for conscientious objectors and deserters in the war.

**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. In the year under review, she wrote various articles on the subject of social defence, civil peacekeeping and the Ukraine war and also lectured on these topics. Her work as a consultant at Nonviolent Peaceforce as part of the good practice project, which aims to create a "community of practice", ended with the documentation of an online conference in spring 2022. But it also accompanies the preparation of a face-to-face conference in autumn 2023.

Together with Julia Nennstiel, she initiated the study on social defense mentioned below in the second half of 2022.

At the IFGK she is responsible for the administration of members and interested parties and for the website.

## Projects

For the first time, the IFGK has planned a project from its own funds: "Rethinking social defense: New findings and open questions from international research on civil resistance over the last thirty years" is the title of a project that Julia Nennstiel and Christine Schweitzer have undertaken. In this project, newer findings from research on civil resistance are to be recorded and analyzed with a focus on aspects that appear particularly relevant to the potential, the difficulties, the conditions for the effect and success of social defense. On the one hand, the project is intended to make the results of recent scientific work on civil resistance accessible and better usable for those who are committed to social swearing on a political and practical level. On the other hand, at the same time, the need for research with regard to social defense should be disclosed in order to enable and initiate further targeted studies on social defense in the future.