

Notes on the Round Table on the De-legitimisation of War, Bertha von Suttner Building, The Hague, October 18th and 19th 2014

The Round Table brought together 14 members of 12 international NGOs with 8 practising female lawyers working in international law in The Hague. It was organised by Maja Groff, a lawyer currently working in The Hague, with the support of Canadian Voices of Women for Peace.

The subject was the de-legitimisation of war, from legal, socio-political and cultural perspectives, including learning about the important international legal institutions in The Hague.

I represented MAW. We were asked to upload key documents to the shared dropbox for the event in advance, and I uploaded [The Hague Agenda for Peace & Justice in the 21st Century](#) (HAP2000) and the [2000 Hague Youth Agenda, Time to Abolish War](#). As these were 14 years old and international, I also uploaded the QPSW report by Sam Walton, [The New Tide of Militarisation, QPSW March 2014](#). What would you have uploaded from MAW??

In the first session the NGOs were asked to present the key aims of our organisation. I reported that MAW was formed as a direct outcome of the 1999 Hague Conference, to further the 50th & final aim, "To Build a Civil Society Movement for the Abolition of War", and that we are a UK-based citizens movement with the aim of spreading the belief that the abolition of war is both desirable and possible. I showed a little Powerpoint on MAW.

I found the analysis of the institutions needed to support war on p4 of the QPSW report very useful, and shared its analysis with the Round Table in the discussion. Participants from other countries, especially Canada, confirmed that Britain is not unique in seeing a rising tide of militarisation, although they were shocked at the scale of investment our government is putting into introducing Cadet Corps into schools, and horrified by the idea of using returning soldiers as teachers.

One nice surprise was that all the lawyers were relatively young women. There were 4 men present: Keith Best of the World Federalist Movement based in UK, Peter van der Dungen of Bradford School of Peace Studies and the Peace Museum, a business entrepreneur from "Businesses for Peace" based in The Hague, and Johan Galtung.

The networking was the main thing, and most people were working in peace education, in schools and women's groups. A few ideas I plan to follow up:

- Hague Appeal for Peace: has an International Campaign for Peace Education, housed in the World Federalist Office in New York, and a good on-line newsletter.
- IPB has a "Making Peace" travelling exhibition and their current campaign is "Demilitarisation for Deep Decarbonisation".
- WILPF has the "Peacewomen" programme. We should send someone to their centennial conference in The Hague 27-29 April 2015 - book at www.womenstopwar.org
- VOW Canada run summer camps for women age 18-35 to teach feminist ideology and active non-violence. 20 participants, 4 days, external trainers. They also provide non-violence training to Girl Guides!!

We finished with a statement which Maja will compile and will be agreed by email during November. We will all then send this to any organisation in our own country or abroad which we think might be interested, (not necessarily Peace-related) asking for comments. Further steps will depend on responses.

Sally Reynolds 25.10.14

Here is the Dropbox link, which is working on my computer. Ctrl + click, or paste the link address below into the web browser:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/gedab0g6ahakxdh/AACKdS-ZnrVieFpDEtJWxfs8a?n=201379177>

Documents I could send you on request:

My Powerpoint on MAW

My full notes on the Round Table

Email list of participants when I get it.

The Hague Appeal for Peace and Youth Agenda (they are also in the dropbox)