The world now has more refugees and displaced persons than ever before. Many are displaced within their own countries or are living in neighbouring states, while others are making their way north. Since large numbers of refugees arrived in Germany in 2015, for the first time in many years, displacement has once again become the key topic of social and political debate.

Through our work with the Civil Peace Service (CPS) in Asia, in the Middle East and the Balkans, we have been addressing the causes of displacement and migration for many years in countries such as Nepal (pages 24–25) and Macedonia (pages 26–27). We also engage with social movements, seeking to dismantle prejudices and racist attitudes through our involvement with the Alliance against the Right and in our work with and on behalf of refugees (pages 12–13). Why do people flee? What is the current situation of refugees here in Germany and around the world? How can we address the issue sensitively and knowledgeably in our education work, taking account of the views of refugees themselves? The article about our 2015 Annual Conference on page 8 shows how.

With our new training programme for advisors in nonviolent conflict transformation and social movements, we focus not only on equipping peace workers with the skills they need for deployment in crisis regions but also on training activists for movements here in Germany (page 22).

We are also delighted by the positive response to our sponsorship programme (page 32). This has enabled us to host more volunteers and train more activists from the Global South and also to boost our support for social movements in Germany. Thank you!

We wish you an inspiring and enjoyable read.

Doris Hertle
(Board Member)

Jochen Neumann
(Director)
GEWALTFREIHEIT VERBREITEN
SPREADING NONVIOLENCE

Photo: Peter Steudteer / panphotos.org
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“... IT WAS MY FIRST VISIT TO THE KURVE HOUSE FOR YEARS – AND I WAS IMPRESSED”

In November 2014, a new Board was elected at the Annual General Meeting. Marina Schulz and Mareike Rumpf, Board members since 2010, were joined by Dieter Schaarschmidt and Doris Hertle. They both live in Wendland. Doris Hertle tells their story.

Dieter was a Board member back in 1989 until 1992 and has always felt a connection to KURVE Wustrow. I myself was a founder member; my family and I lived in the KURVE house from 1981 to 1984, although I was only peripherally involved in KURVE’s activities due to my own work commitments – I was a teacher at the Co-operative School in Clenze from 1981 to 2010. After 1987, I more or less lost contact with KURVE. It was only when my Castor group joined the gorleben365 campaign that I got involved again. Then in autumn 2014, Christiane Beyer from the Elbe-Jeetzel-Zeitung asked if Jochen Neumann, one of KURVE’s two Directors, and I would be willing to be interviewed about the latest developments in the war in the Middle East. The interview brought me back to the KURVE house – my first visit for years – and I must say, I was greatly impressed by the refurbished rooms, the professional appearance of the building, the many offices, the lively atmosphere, the friendly and approachable staff and, later, the interview that Christiane Beyer conducted with Jochen and myself. I thought to myself, I can imagine getting involved again.

At our first Board meeting, we shared out the priority areas of work among the four of us. In 2015, we held a total of six Board meetings with the Directors, preceded by a general meeting with the entire KURVE Wustrow team. We also attended the two-day working retreat in Pisselberg and were involved in the various working groups on issues such as human rights, the anniversary celebrations, building management and political movements, and the volunteer management group.

We planned the anniversary year around 8 storytelling evenings, which were open to the public, and we also helped to organise the big celebration on 11 July. Invitations were sent out to all our members, all the clubs and societies in Wustrow, our neighbours, the local citizens’ environmental initiatives and other like-minded groups and I’m pleased to say that there was an extremely good turnout. The KURVE team were excellent hosts, our neighbours provided the music and there were some very kind speeches. You got the impression that the people of Wustrow were very proud of KURVE.

Dr Rolf Meyer gave an illustrated lecture about the history of the KURVE building, and the various units gave presentations about their work. Many of the guests took part in the guided tours around the building and got to know the staff. They were amazed to see how many jobs we provide. Overall, it was a lovely anniversary celebration with many fascinating encounters.

As the Board’s representative, I also took part in the selection process of new staff. Each time, I was impressed by the applicants’ outstanding qualifications and the professionalism of the interviews, with candidates required to conduct at least half the discussion in English. My fellow Board members and I attended various staff meetings as well, and we also held two discussion sessions with the Directors. Christiane Weichsel and I were invited to the senior citizens’ afternoon at the Evangelical Church community centre, where we talked about KURVE Wustrow’s work. The ladies were very impressed; they said they had always wanted to know what KURVE was all about. They very kindly gave us a donation for the South-North volunteers. We also welcomed the Superintendent of the Protestant Church Dieter Rathling, Provost Stephan Wichert from Holten and Wustrow’s own Pastor Kai Arne Burmester during their parish visit; they were very impressed by the building and KURVE’s work.

Christiane Weichsel and I also gave a presentation about our organisation to one hundred countrywomen from rural communities, which was arranged by Board member Marina Schulz. And Dieter and I enjoyed attending the leaving party for the returning volunteers, which gave us an opportunity to find out more about their projects. We also had the pleasant task of presenting them with their certificates and farewell gifts. Mareike took on the task of providing legal advice on issues concerning the Foundation and also attended an advanced training course for voluntary board members, which provided valuable inspiration for our further work. Mareike and Marina also worked intensively on developing the new model for rewarding KURVE staff.

I do enjoy my work as a Board member. I have learned so much and I feel sure that the same goes for my three colleagues as well.

Author Doris Hertle is a founder member of KURVE Wustrow and resumed her voluntary engagement on behalf of the Association in 2014.
To celebrate our 35th anniversary, we held a garden party at the KURVE house, attended by 200 guests, which was a great success.
“HELPING REFUGEES TO BECOME MORE INDEPENDENT”

Conference on Displacement, Refugees and Support Workers

The fate of refugees and displaced persons and the underlying violence and social injustice have been an issue on our agenda for many years. During our annual meeting in November 2015, we joined voluntary and professional activists from the local area to discuss opportunities and challenges in the engagement for refugees.

We opened our annual conference with a screening of the documentary Friedland about the reception centre in Lower Saxony. Located in the centre of town, it has no wire or fences to keep in its 10,000 residents. Filmmaker Frauke Sandig was a guest at the conference and discussed how things stand with Germany’s “welcome culture” with the audience of around 20 people. After the screening, Board member Doris Hertle commented: “What impresses me most is that the refugees can live in such a safe and caring environment. Clearly, this ‘welcome culture’ has been maintained over the decades, and this impression is confirmed by the people who have moved on from Friedland into Wendland in recent months. It would be very reassuring for everyone if other centres operated along similar lines to Friedland.”

The annual conference also addressed the issue of displacement from the support workers’ perspective. Susanne Rust reported on the emergency shelter for refugees in Woltersdorf, which houses more than 300 people. “At first, the priority was to provide the basics – food, clothing and somewhere to sleep. Now childcare is being organised as well. The next task is to set up a bicycle workshop and find ways for residents to access sports facilities.”

Sascha Omari, manager of the emergency shelter in Lüchow, which houses more than 500 people, explained that the task of organising daily supplies and accommodation is now well in hand. The priority now is to help the refugees to become more independent. For example, it would really help them if they could prepare their own food. More social contact and interaction with people from Lüchow and the surrounding area would also be welcome. “We take every opportunity to make use of the local amenities,” said Sascha Omari. “For example, if I get a call to say that the sports hall is free for an hour, I let my people know right away and they make the most of it.”

Hauke Stichling-Pehlke from the local refugee initiative Zuflucht Wendland reported on the idea of building a village for 300 people in Hitzacker with the involvement of refugees and local residents. With its housing project, the initiative aims to provide work and encourages social interaction and local community engagement.

Singham Ponnampalam, a long-standing friend of KURVE Wustrow from Sri Lanka, gave the more than 40 delegates some particularly interesting insights. He arrived in Berlin as a political refugee in the 1980s and lived and worked here for 15 years. After returning to Sri Lanka, he became a peace worker for KURVE Wustrow, working with people who were displaced in their own country as a result of the civil war.

There was clearly a great need for dialogue and a sharing of experience among the guests, not only at the conference itself but more generally. Our Director Anja Petz summed it up: “There are already so many people who are taking action. What we need in the near future is some kind of forum for networking and dialogue. Many people want to know what else they can do without burning out. One idea is to organise a big Open Space for up to 300 people.”
Membership
99 members and 16 supporting members are the basis of the Association.

Board
Doris Hertle (Wendland)
Mareike Rumpf (Hamburg)
Dieter Schaarschmidt (Wendland)
Marina Schulz (Halle/Saale)

Management
Anja Petz
Jochen Neumann

Reverse Working Group
organises the exchange for Indian volunteers in Germany

Training Working Group
advises on education work in Germany and abroad, e.g. seminars, training events

Public Relations Working Group
discusses new ideas, plans and drafts, e.g. for exhibitions, publications

Human Rights Working Group
engages in networking with our international partners, shows solidarity, e.g. when violations occur

Buildings Working Group
organises the extension and modernisation of the offices and Seminar house

Head of Administration
Gabriele Graf

Public Relations
Steffi Barisch

Civil Peace Service
Benjamin Blänkner
Kirsten Hochmuth
Julia Kramer
Katrin Hermansen
Oliver Ehbrecht
Marike Blunck
Meenam Nepal
(volunteer from Bhutan)

Training Work
Jessica Belke
Ambalika Wilhelm
Allen Francis
(volunteer from India)
Omkar Godse
(volunteer from India)

Volunteer Service
Katharina Arndt
Wilma Raabe
Sandra Joel Campe
Jannes Unger
(volunteer)
Annika Rathert
(volunteer)
Cathérine Zins
(intern)

Secretariat
Christiane Weichsel

Seminar House
Monika Ilgner
Hida Sula
Michael Tillmann
Kerstin Jurk

Finances
Kristina Stein
Manuela Jung

As at: January–December 2015
PUBLIC RELATIONS IN 2015 – THE YEAR IN REVIEW

In our anniversary year, we invited everyone to get to know the KURVE team and find out more about our work. Our goal was to boost media coverage of our activities, especially in Wendland and our local area.

35 YEARS OF KURVE WUSTROW – A LOT TO REPORT!

What does KURVE Wustrow do, exactly, and who works here? Where do its many overseas visitors come from, and what brings them here? What is it like inside the former pub building today? And what does KURVE Wustrow have to do with Gorleben? Our neighbours’ questions gave us a great opportunity to raise KURVE’s profile. So we organised eight open storytelling evenings to showcase our work. Our peace worker Thimna Bunte shared her recent impressions of the Middle East and reported on peace in Israel and Palestine. Our seminar leader Björn Kunter explained how nonviolence can work in Ukraine. And participants in our international seminars talked about their work in peace and human rights initiatives in South Asia and Africa and their engagement in nonviolent social movements.

Our International Volunteer Service Coordinator Wilma Raabe provided young people with information about opportunities to spend a year abroad with us via the weltwärts programme. Katja Tempel and Jochen Neumann from the former gorleben365 campaign team recounted stories from the anti-nuclear movement, and Dr Rolf Meyer from Wustrow Museum shared his knowledge about the history of the KURVE building.

KLP IN WENDLAND: THREE EXHIBITIONS, THREE LOCATIONS

The Kulturelle Landpartie im Wendland (KLP) is a standout event in the region’s cultural calendar. Every year since 1989, artists and craftspersons have opened their doors from Ascension Day to Whitsun and showcased their work – from almost forgotten craft skills to avantgarde art. It all began with the planned nuclear site at Gorleben: “We want to show our friends and acquaintances what we do when we are not protesting,” say the organisers.

We showcased KURVE’s work for 12 days at three separate locations. Villa Wendland in Güstritz hosted our exhibition “It takes a movement” on Thimna Bunte’s work as a peace worker supporting nonviolent initiatives in Palestine. In Büllitz, visitors were welcomed by our peace worker Dominique Chasserial, who offered insights into our work in Myanmar using our new photo boards. In Mammoßel, KURVE team member Wilma Raabe showed visitors around our exhibition about the weltwärts volunteer service for young people. We also ran a taster workshop on nonviolent action and, once again, had a great deal of interest in the “Theatre of the Oppressed” workshop. A big thank you to everyone who helped to set up and staff the exhibitions.

OUR UKRAINE PROJECT
AT THE CHURCH CONGRESS AND STRATEGY CONFERENCE

At the Evangelical Church Conference in Stuttgart in June 2015, we were represented at the Peace Centre by our researcher Björn Kunter. His report on nonviolent citizens’ initiatives in Ukraine was entitled “Solidarity with Ukraine and Russia – how does it work? Supporting nonviolent initiatives in the crisis region – practical examples of the opportunities, limits and risks”.

Björn Kunter also spoke at a workshop at the 12th Strategy Conference organised by Cooperation for Peace (Kooperation für den Frieden) in Hanover in February 2015. The conference focused on “Global crises and conflicts – strategies and options for the peace movement. What are the current threat scenarios, roles and functions of wars today?”, with particular reference to three conflict regions – the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), South-East Asia and Ukraine. The conflicts were analysed in workshops and options for action were developed.

Top: Photo exhibition about Kyiv’s Maidan protests in October 2014. Photo: Sarah Roßa

OPEN DAY – “YOU ARE WUSTROW”

In May, we had a presence at the Markt der Begegnungen – the annual open day for Wustrow’s clubs, societies, local residents and Museum. This year, the theme was “You are Wustrow”. So at our information stand, we showed who else is Wustrow with a quiz about the staff in our partner organisations in Nepal, Myanmar, the Palestinian territories and the Balkans.

A high point of the open day was the “3 nach 5” discussion, which was organised by Wustrow parish and took place on the nearby Museum terrace. Moderator Thomas Albrecht kept us entertained with his lively discussion with our former weltwärts volunteer Fin Kuhl from Wustrow, who talked about his year in India. The session also featured Board member Doris Hertle, who looked back on some of the challenges that she and her family faced during the early years here in Wustrow. At that time, people working for KURVE Wustrow were subjected to mockery and derision and sometimes even open hostility. The very different experiences recounted by Fin and Doris showed how much KURVE Wustrow’s situation has changed over the decades. Nowadays, everyone here knows KURVE and with our 22-strong team, we are now one of the town’s biggest employers. After our appearance at the open day, the local newspaper published a story entitled: “Now KURVE is Wustrow”. We seem to have been accepted – after 35 years!
ON THE MOVE

In the past few years, we have been trying to provide more support for social movements in Germany and involving ourselves in local alliances. The key topics in 2015 were the anti-nuclear movement, peace, right-wing extremism, and displacement and migration. Next year, we plan to address these topics in new formats, such as training for facilitating conflicts in social movements, training in nonviolent action, and a basic course for refugees, as Jochen Neumann reports.

DISPLACEMENT AND MIGRATION

In Wendland and Altmark, as elsewhere, there are many volunteers working to support refugees. We receive a large number of enquiries about volunteering – whether it is to provide mediation in an intercultural conflict or simply to help out with translation. After the KURVE annual conference, whose theme was “Let’s help – but how?” (see page 8), the managers of the emergency shelter in Woltersdorf invited us to facilitate the refugees’ efforts to organise themselves. Björn Kunter attempted, on a voluntary basis, to move things in a different direction, but in an existing institution and with numerous bureaucratic, organisational and linguistic obstacles, this proved to be quite a challenge. Nonetheless, thanks to some grant funding, we were able to provide seminar places for two refugees from the centre in early 2016. In 2015, in response to high demand, we also ran our practical workshop on displacement and trauma for a second time. The event was targeted at volunteers. Under the guidance of our experienced trainer Dr Ruth Mischnick, participants practised self-empowerment strategies and explored ways of providing support.

ANTI-NUCLEAR: GORLEBEN DAY OF ACTION

In May 2015, the Lüchow-Dannenberg citizens’ initiative invited everyone to Gorleben for a day of action to coincide with the Kulturelle Landpartie (KLP), which attracted 100,000 visitors (see page 10). The aim was to close the exhibits in as many villages as possible with the message: “GO.R.LEBEN!” on Whit Friday, to encourage people to head straight for Gorleben. The photo shows participants in KURVE’s sit-in action training.

The theme of this element of the KLP was cultural resistance celebration, providing an opportunity for artists and activists to express their feelings about the nuclear site at Gorleben. With theatre, music, talks and guided tours around the salt dome, they demonstrated that resistance in Wendland is imaginative, creative and dynamic. Sadly, there is little sign that the Berlin-based Commission on the Storage of Highly Radioactive Materials is considering moving the facility out of Gorleben. Energy company E.ON even lodged a constitutional complaint and pushed for high-level radioactive waste from the La Hague and Sellafield reprocessing plants to be brought here.

At our taster workshop on nonviolent action, we show how to set up affinity groups and encourage participants to explore various discussion and decision-making methods through role-play. Physical activities help participants train for passive protests such as sit-ins and their removal by the authorities.
The following scenario recently occurred in Wendland. A woman was sitting on the bus from Dannen­berg to Lüchow. Behind her was an eight-year-old girl, whom she knew. The girl was sitting with her father. Along the way, the girl started to recite a poem: “Christmas is coming, time to burn a Jew...”. The father started to laugh. The woman was shocked. But what can you do in that situation? How should you respond?

“There are various options,” says Jochen Neumann from the KURVE Wustrow Centre for Training and Networking in Nonviolent Action in Wendland. His organisation recently ran a workshop on “civic courage” to give people the skills they need to deal with this type of situation. The workshop focused on scenarios which the participants themselves had experienced and which then formed the basis for role-play. “We wanted to answer the question which always arise: What happened there? How should I have reacted?” Jochen explains. “With the poem, you could have asked the girl if she knew what the word ‘Jew’ means. Or you could have pointed out that Jews are people and that it hurts them if you set them alight. Or there’s always ‘paradoxical intervention’. For example, you could turn the poem around and make it about a Nazi instead.”

As Jochen explains, “This disrupts the interaction and unsettles the other person.” The aim is to prevent the far right from controlling the public space. If the situation threatens to become heated, the best tactic is to keep calm, draw attention to yourself and seek help. “It may be better to shout ‘fire’ to attract attention than to call someone a Nazi.” His advice: “Don’t be a hero, but do stick to your principles.”

The workshop was prompted by the relaunch of the Emergency Entrance Campaign in Altmark and Wendland. An easy-to-spot sticker on a shop door signals that the owner provides a safe space for anyone experiencing violent, anti-Semitic, racist or discriminatory abuse while out and about. “The sticker signals a willingness to help – and this raises awareness of this type of abuse.” Quoted from an article (Zu Überzeugungen stehen) in the Generalanzeiger on 10 January 2016.

The Ukraine crisis has shown that dangerous stand-offs between nuclear powers are certainly not over. The German government’s role in this context is shameful, for it is still involved in nuclear sharing, allows the upgrading of nuclear weapons on German territory and blocks international disarmament initiatives at UN level. So peace and anti-nuclear activists with many years of experience in nonviolent resistance set up an initiative in preparation for the Büchel65 campaign. The aim was to organise passive protests to block the access routes to Büchel air base – where US nuclear weapons have been stored since 2004 – for 65 days between March and May 2015. KURVE Wustrow supported the campaign by offering "train the trainer" workshops and action training at several locations. A number of people with links to KURVE also participated in a successful passive protest at Büchel on 5 May 2015.
I am doing my voluntary service at CEE’s North-East Regional Office (CEE NE), which is located in Guwahati in Assam state and is responsible for CEE’s activities in the north-eastern region of India.

CEE NE’s biggest project at present is DHaAL+, which stands for “Daily Handwashing for an Ailment-Free Life”. The plus sign shows that in addition to handwashing, other aspects of WASH – water, sanitation and hygiene – feature in the project, which aims to create a clean learning environment in schools. Another project in which I am involved is the National Green Corps (NGC) Programme, which sets up Eco Clubs at schools in India. The students participate on a voluntary basis in activities related to the environment and nature conservation. As a Resource Agency, CEE coordinates NGC activities across much of the country.

On arriving in Guwahati in North-East India, I was picked up at the airport by CEE NE staff members Faruque and Kuldeep. Then the CEE NE Programme Coordinator, Dr Simanta Kalita, welcomed me to my new home and workplace. On my first day in the office, there was a meeting with Simanta and three Indian volunteers – students in Guwahati who are also working with CEE twice a week. This was their first day with CEE as well, and they will be staying for several months. During the meeting, we had an opportunity to outline our skills and fields of interest and, with Simanta, to think about possible areas of work.

I found it quite difficult, at that early stage, to identify any specific areas of work that interested me as I hadn’t had a chance to get to know CEE NE properly. However, I knew that I was keen to explore new areas that were different from my day-to-day work in Germany. But Simanta had some good ideas, some of which I am working on now. For example, I immediately began to design new layouts for the e-newsletters for the NGC and DHaAL projects and to help edit the articles for the monthly NGC newsletter.

My office has three windows so it is very light. The door leads out onto a balcony from which I have a perfect view of the temple on the green Nava-graha Hill.

I soon got used to only having running water once or twice a day – there are large containers available so you can keep a supply to hand the rest of the time. And now we even have WLAN – it’s very slow, admittedly, but it’s fairly reliable, other than during power outages, which happen quite frequently but rarely last for long.

Assamese is the local people’s first language and tends to be spoken in the office, although almost all the staff have a good command of English as well. I very rarely hear anyone speak Hindi. I haven’t found an Assamese class yet so I am teaching myself. In my room, I found three books left by my predecessors – one in German, about the Bengali alphabet, and two Assamese language courses taught in English. I don’t find their structure very helpful, though. So using the Internet, I choose topics and points of grammar that interest me and every day, I ask one of my colleagues to explain the pronunciation or grammatical rules.
I made friends very quickly in Guwahati, not only at CEE, and I have a very varied social life, which I find very rewarding. I am hardly ever bored or lonely in my room – on the contrary, I have to make an effort to keep an evening or weekend free to write a new article for my blog, for example. I got to know Kishur Deka, an electrical engineer who lives in the neighbourhood, quite by chance. We used to meet up almost every evening for tea and a few jilebi – a deep-fried sweet that is soaked in sugar syrup. We get on well and we spend quite a bit of time together. We often get together to cook dinner. He has taught me how to use some of the local vegetables and in return, I showed him how to make an authentic German potato salad.

Kishur took on the role of mentor and is now a good friend. He also helps me with all kinds of practical issues. For example, he gives me tips for doing my laundry, shopping, cooking, eating out, taking the bus and travelling, to mention but a few. We talk about everything under the sun, and we go on trips and excursions together. I’ve had several opportunities to travel outside Guwahati and get to know the lush green landscape with its rivers, verdant hills, rice fields and tea plantations and I’ve visited other towns and villages. And I have also gained an impression of what Assamese family life is like. As typically Assamese; at least, that’s how I see it. I haven’t seen much evidence of any “Indian” national pride. In my view, this is all very positive, as it was my preconceptions which initially discouraged me from doing voluntary service in India at all.

Author Malte Lautzas spent 12 months – from August 2015 to July 2016 – as a weltwärts volunteer in India. His report describes his first three months in the country.

In 2004, KURVE Wustrow gained the Seal of Quality for Voluntary Services for its volunteer deployment scheme.

KURVE Wustrow is one of 180 non-profit organisations sending volunteers to other countries under the weltwärts programme launched by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in 2008. KURVE sends volunteers to India, Macedonia and Nepal. www.weltwaerts.de
**REVERSE – FROM SOUTH TO NORTH**

We are a group of former volunteers who spent a year in India, Nepal, Macedonia or Cameroon with the weltwärts programme. During our year abroad, which was organised by KURVE Wustrow, we realised that we wanted to do something to tackle the injustices in our world, so we started planning a South-North volunteer programme for young people from India. We set up a working group, which is now firmly integrated in KURVE’s organisational structure. Our aim, over the coming years, is to do even more to shake the foundations of the North-South divide.

The weltwärts programme for development volunteers has existed since 2008 and is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Under the programme, young volunteers from the Global North have the chance to spend a year in a country of the Global South. That is very positive, but it is a one-way street which replicates the same old (post-)colonial paradigm: people from the “developed” Global North come to the aid of the “needy” Global South to work, not least on their own personal development. We wanted to turn it around.

The BMZ itself has now recognised that this North-South divide fails to match up to the development policy principles of shared learning and exchange among equals. So in 2013, weltwärts set up its South-North component. After a successful pilot phase lasting several years, it is now being expanded, enabling us to host four volunteers, instead of the previous two, from autumn 2016. The aim is to offer committed young people from the countries of the Global South the same learning opportunities during their voluntary year in Germany as those available to German volunteers during their year abroad, thus facilitating a learning experience on equal terms.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

The South-North exchange is similar in structure to the voluntary service that we ourselves experienced via KURVE Wustrow: the volunteers are assigned to an organisation for a year and work on a variety of topics, including their own projects. The host might be an environmental or peace organisation or a housing project, for example.

South-North volunteers also attend a series of seminars, enabling them to explore social and cultural issues, build their transcultural communication skills, and discuss topics such as sustainable development, nonviolence, racism and language barriers.

**THE SPONSORSHIP SCHEME**

The financial support from the BMZ only covers a proportion of the South-North volunteers’ costs. We need an additional 300 euros a month on average for each South-North volunteer to cover their accommodation, flights and seminar fees. Our sponsorship scheme gives people the opportunity to make a regular contribution to the Reverse Programme or to support it with a one-off donation. Sponsors are sent regular updates on the progress of the South-North component, along with news of the new volunteers from India.

*The REVERSE WORKING GROUP can be contacted at exchange@kurvwustrow.org*

![Reverse Working Group](image.png)

The Reverse Working Group in September 2015 with our first two weltwärts volunteers Hiren Panchal (fourth from left) and Allen Francis (fifth from left), both from India. Their year of volunteering ended in autumn 2015. Also shown are South-North volunteers from Circle of Peace (Friedenskreis) Halle, Nimisha Desai (sixth from left), from our Indian host organisation Olakh and former members of the Reverse Working Group (from left): Anastasia Sibirtsava, Torsten Klemmstein, Eva Bohner, Verena Dillenberger, Fin Kuhl, Mareike Michaelis and coordinator Sandra Joel Campe.
How are you getting on in Germany?

Meenam: Very well!

Omkar: I’m enjoying it. I’m gaining good experience at work, at home in my flatshare, at Sieben Linden Ecovillage and at the training sessions: I’ve attended a seminar on project management.

Did you find it easy to settle in?

Meenam: I felt at home from day one. I had no particular expectations: I kept an open mind and was keen to make the most of the experience.

What was your most enjoyable experience during these first few months of your voluntary service?

Meenam: I have met so many nice people at one place – being here really is something special. I have also done a lot of travelling – all over Germany. I’ve been to Bremen, Freiburg, Munich, Berlin, Kassel and Celle. I’ve visited the Teutoburg Forest, Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, Halle, Lake Constance, the Black Forest, and Neuschwanstein. And I’ve ventured further afield – to Amsterdam and Greece. I also visited Cologne and Bonn during Carnival ...

Omkar: I really enjoyed Ascension Day at Sieben Linden; a big group of us built a campfire and baked bread twists. Here at KURVE, I particularly enjoyed the seminar series in the Winter. I got on very well with all the other participants. I was often able to help them out in the evenings, even if it was just to explain how to use the washing machine, or I’d take them out shopping or on short excursions by bike, or give them a hand buying rail tickets.

Is there anything you would like to mention?

Meenam: I am very inspired by the fact that so many people here in the KURVE team are so committed to working for peace. And of course, I should mention the people who attended the training – there was so much diversity.

Omkar: I like the positive working atmosphere at KURVE – it is quite open and easy-going, not restrictive at all.

How do you think you personally have changed?

Meenam: I think there have been quite a few changes, for example, in the way I communicate with others. Now I challenge my own responses. Am I being a good listener? How do I find a positive solution? Apart from that, I have learned how to ride a bike and paddle a canoe! And I can speak, read, write and understand German. That mainly came about because I listen carefully to the language being spoken around me. I learned Farsi last year in India and now, I translate from Farsi into German for the refugee group here in Wustrow. In Bhutan, my family and I speak three languages: Dzongkha, Lhotshamkha (Nepali) and English.

Omkar: I have learned to be more patient.

Why did you decide to become a volunteer?

Meenam: That wasn’t part of my plan! Volunteering found me. Back in India, I was an intern with your partner organisation, the Centre for Environment Education (CEE). They told me about the volunteer programme and I thought it sounded very interesting. I thought, I could learn a lot from that, but I never imagined that I would get to know so many people as well.

Omkar: I heard about it from Allen, who was here last year. He encouraged me to apply, but I didn’t really know what to expect.

Any other plans?

Omkar: I’d like to spend another month at Sieben Linden and work in the garden. And I’d like to take a holiday. I have a friend in Zurich and another in Sweden, and it would be nice to go and see them. I would also like to visit Kraków and Auschwitz.

What will you do back in Bhutan?

Meenam: Being here has shown me that I would like to use my engineering skills in a humanitarian context, such as constructing water treatment plants or stabilising buildings in earthquake regions – anything that helps people in need.
As part of the current project for former volunteers, which is funded by the Association of Peace Service Initiatives (AGDF), Bread for the World and weltwärts, we have produced a flyer and the short film, mentioned in the last annual report, about our work with returnees. We have expanded our Peace Library to include education materials about global learning and development education and, at the end of 2015, sent our manual “1 × 1 Project Planning” to be printed! This 48-page A4 manual provides insights into successful project planning, funding and management. The “do no harm” check helps to ensure that possible negative impacts are considered and, as far as possible, avoided in the context of the partnership. Quotes from former volunteers bring the material to life. The manual can be downloaded from KURVE Wustrow’s website or a print copy can be ordered from us free of charge.

For many years, our ex-volunteers who have come back from India, Nepal, Macedonia and Cameroon have played an active role in our work here in Wustrow, representing KURVE’s Board members, taking part in multiplier training, organising visits for a few weeks for young adults from their host countries or even setting up a volunteer programme (see article about the Reverse Working Group, p. 16).
VOLUNTEER TRAINING

We run seminars for young volunteers, former volunteers, trainers and staff from other organisations.

THE WELTWÄRTS VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME (WW)

Since 2008, KURVE Wustrow has offered all four types of support seminars: orientation, pre-departure, an interim seminar in India and a seminar for returning volunteers.

TRAINING IN DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION: MULTIPLIERS FOR GLOBAL LEARNING

Together with seven organisations within the Evangelical Forum for Voluntary Service in the Area of Development Policy (eFeF), KURVE Wustrow offers training for former volunteers. Comprising four optional thematic and methodological seminars and a short practical project of their own choice, the training enables former volunteers to deepen their development skills and learn creative ways of passing their practical knowledge on to others. They learn how to analyse the experience gained during their time as volunteers and share it with others, e.g. in workshops, creative activities or networking.

In 2015, KURVE Wustrow offered five training courses on the following topics:

- Initiating Prejudice-Conscious Change – the Anti-Bias-Approach
- Refugees and Asylum – Lived Realities of Refugees in Germany
- Inter-Faith Education – Positions and Methods
- Equal Educational Opportunities for All? Education and Critical Whiteness
- Rethinking the Economy – Doing It Differently

TRAINING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CONFERENCE OF EVANGELICAL VOLUNTARY SERVICES (KEF)

Since 2010, KURVE Wustrow has offered thematic and methodological training for professionals and volunteers in the field of international voluntary service.

This year, two training courses were held:

- “Dealing with psychological crises in volunteer support”
- “Emergency management (crisis and security)”

Training work at KURVE Wustrow – Overview of all seminars for volunteers in 2015

weltwärts volunteer programme
weltwärts volunteer programme
Volunteers hosted (ww): 7 (2015)
Total: 60 seminar days in 2015 (2014: 73)
Restrictive visa regulations and their interpretation by German embassies are making it increasingly difficult for applicants from Asian and African countries to participate in KURVE Wustrow’s International Training on Nonviolence in the Context of War or Armed Conflict (IT). Due to the lack of travel grants, the high costs of travelling to Germany are another obstacle. After holding two successful regional ITs in South Asia (Nepal) in 2012 and 2014, we have now made a start in East Africa as well: here, the first International Training took place in Kenya in late 2015 in partnership with Local Capacities for Peace International (LCPI).

**LCPI – OUR PARTNER IN KENYA**

Millicent Otieno, Founder and CEO of Local Capacities for Peace International (www.localcapacities.org) was herself a participant in the IT at KURVE Wustrow in 2006 and has stayed in touch with us ever since. Millicent Otieno founded LCPI as a “do no harm”-oriented organisation in response to the violence sparked by the 2007 Kenyan elections. With her colleagues, Millicent focuses, firstly, on the application of the “do no harm” principle by local peace organisations in regions affected by ethnic divides, and secondly, on conflict-sensitive journalism, especially around Kisumu on Lake Victoria. LCPI funds itself by providing “do no harm” training and advisory services for other organisations in Kenya and around the world.

The first East African Regional International Training on Nonviolence in the Context of War or Armed Conflict (RIT) was held, after extensive preparations, in Kisumu from 21 November to 11 December 2015. Due to financial and logistical difficulties, only non-local participants and the trainers themselves could be accommodated at Tom Mboya Labour College, which meant that the 10 local participants had to travel to the venue every day. These participants were either engaged in peace committees on a voluntary basis or worked as conflict-sensitive journalists in the border areas which separate the districts but often mark the boundaries between ethnic groups as well. What’s more, throughout the training, these participants were often called out to deal with violent incidents and unrest, especially at night. As a result, the local activists had a great many questions and were able to share their practical experience during the training sessions. They were also highly receptive to new ideas and methods that they felt might be useful in their work. So the course had great practical relevance.

In addition to looking at the local conflict situation, the RIT dedicated three days to exploring the “do no harm” approach. Local reporters had lively stories to recount about their own conversion to conflict-sensitive journalism, and the participants had plenty of time to apply the “do no harm” steps to their own situations.

Unfortunately, apart from the 13 participants from Kenya, only four others – from Sudan, Burundi and Tanzania – were able to attend the RIT, mainly due to a lack of funding. Nonetheless, they and their Kenyan colleagues held intensive discussions on issues such as human rights and nonviolence, nonviolent action in various regional conflicts and, in particular, violence prevention and conflict transformation at the local and regional level.

The integrated security training for human rights activists was a key element of the programme for many of the participants and included emotional, physical and digital security.

The training was rounded off by three exposure trips, including a visit to a local slum, where we gave a talk at the community centre and, on Human Rights Day, joined community leaders in planting trees as a symbol of remembrance of the victims of human rights abuses. Another excursion took participants to the border areas for discussions with local peace committees and initiatives – an enriching experience for all sides.
THE INTERNATIONAL TEAM

The two trainers – Roselyne Onunga from LCPI Kisumu, who specialises in “do no harm” and psychosocial support for survivors of violence, and Peter Steudtner, who focuses on nonviolent conflict transformation and integrated security for activists – were supported by Mai Ali (social media activism and digital security), and Millicent Otieno (do no harm). LCPI dealt with most of the logistical arrangements for the RIT. The training was funded by grants provided by Bread for the World and Quaker-Hilfe e.V. (Quaker Relief) and by participants’ contributions. RIT Kenya had its own specific regional focus and presented major challenges for all the participants. In addition to various experiences which we will bear in mind when planning future RITs, the main message that we will take away is that KURVE Wustrow and LCPI have finally succeeded in implementing a project that had been long in the making – Africa’s first RIT.

Author Peter Steudtner has worked for many years as a trainer on the IT programme (described above) at KURVE Wustrow and in Nepal and Kenya and leads our new training course (see next page).

Millicent Otieno (centre) took part in the International Training for Nonviolence in Wustrow in 2006. This inspired her to set up Local Capacities for Peace International (LCPI), which is committed to the “do no harm” principle and has now run a nonviolence training course in Kenya in cooperation with KURVE Wustrow.

Photos: Peter Steudtner / panphotos.org
This year, KURVE Wustrow broke new ground with the launch of its training work for peace and movement workers. As one of the few organisations in Germany offering this type of training, we add an innovative component: nonviolent action, which we believe plays a key role in the transformation of social and political conflicts. Social movements are driving forces in democratisation and peace processes, so we consider it essential to include these movements, as agents of peace and change, as a topic in our training programme.

These movements are increasingly acting as our partners in relation to the Civil Peace Service as well. We need more professionals in this exciting field, so the training provided by KURVE Wustrow enables us to ensure that we have access to a new generation of professionals for our own work while strengthening the nonviolent movement in Germany at the same time.

THE FRAMEWORK: SEMINARS, PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE AND COACHING AND INTERVISION

The training lasts 16 months and consists of 25 full-day seminars, a practical placement lasting three to six months, three coaching sessions and two intervision weekends. The full-day seminars are chosen by the participants themselves, according to their own interests, from KURVE’s seminar programme. As well as exploring specific roles and attitudes, such as anti-bias and “do no harm”, the training focuses on developing the skills needed in group work, with courses such as “Facilitation and Training Skills” and “Facilitating Conflicts in Social Movements”. Other KURVE-Practitioner Trainings can be used as an opportunity for the participants to analyse their own (or another) organisation or campaign and support change and decision-making processes; examples are “Organisational Change”, “Digital Security” and “Strategising Change”.

For their practical placement, trainees are sent to organisations around Germany which are engaged in international peacebuilding (such as Weltfriedensdienst and pbi) or to similar organisations in other countries or social movements. The coaching and interventions are intended to encourage participants to define and review their goals for their personal development as activists or professionals in the field of peacebuilding/social movements and to reflect on their own self-image as peace workers or counsellors.

THE FIRST YEAR GROUP: COMMITTED AND KEEN TO LEARN

The training programme began in September 2015 with a first coaching session and involved eight participants, including one of KURVE’s own trainee junior peace workers for Macedonia. Participants were open, engaged and keen to learn and had plenty of questions. What is the roadmap for my own specific training? What kind of skills will I have when I am a fully-fledged peace and movement worker? And how can I put them to good use later on?

In order to answer these and other questions, the participants worked hard with their two coaches, Marianne Koch and Peter Steudtner, over an intensive three-day training session, learning on their own and in the group. The key message from the training? There are no ready-made answers, only a skill set and a positive attitude that enable participants to find their own way forward.

Authors Marianne Koch and Peter Steudtner lead KURVE’s new training programme.
PRACTITIONER TRAININGS AND INTERNATIONAL TRAININGS 2015

“Utilising the Media for Campaigning and Advocacy”
09.02.–13.02.2015
Trainers: Annedore Smith, Moritz Tschermak
Participants: 12
Asia 5 (Myanmar 2, Nepal 1, Georgia 2)
Europe 3 (Germany 2, Macedonia 1)
Middle east 1 (Pakistan 1)
East Africa 3 (Sudan 1, Kenya 2)

“Introduction to Security”
16.02.–20.02.2015
Trainers: Daniel O’Clunaigh, Peter Steudtner
Participants: 8
Asia 2 (Myanmar 1, Nepal 1)
Europe 2 (Germany 2)
Middle East 1 (Palestine 1)
East Africa 3 (Kenya 1, Sudan 2)

“Digital Security”
23.02.–27.02.2015
Trainers: Daniel O’Clunaigh, Peter Steudtner
Participants: 7
Asia 1 (Bangladesh 1)
East Africa 4 (Sudan 3, Kenya 1)
Middle east 2 (Palestine 2)

“Strategising Change for Social Movements”
02.03.–06.03.2015
Trainers: Julia Kramer, Björn Kunter, Thimna Bunte
Participants: 22
East Africa 1 (Kenya 1)
Asia 12 (Myanmar 3, Sudan 3, Georgia 1, Nepal 3, Bangladesh 1, India 1)
Europe 7 (Germany 4, Kosovo 2, Bosnia and Herzegovina 1)
South America 1 (Columbia 1)
Middle East 1 (Palestine 1)

“Project Management for Peace Work – Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation”
09.03.–13.03.2015
Trainers: Jochen Neumann, Anja Petz
Participants: 23
Europe 8 (Macedonia 2, Germany 4, Bosnia and Herzegovina 2)
East Africa 3 (Sudan 2, Kenya 1)
Asia 9 (Myanmar 4, Nepal 3, Georgia 1, Bangladesh 1)
Middle east 3 (Palestine 3)

International Training
“Nonviolence in the Context of War or Armed Conflict”
05.06.–24.06.2015
Trainers: Stella Tamang, Spino Fante, Peter Steudtner
Participants: 12
East Africa 3 (Sudan 1, Kenya 2)
Middle East 1 (Pakistan 1)
Europe 3 (Germany 2, Macedonia 1)
Asia 5 (Myanmar 2, Nepal 1, Georgia 2)

“Introduction to Security”
05.10.–09.10.2015
Trainers: Daniel O’Clunaigh, Peter Steudtner
Participants: 9
East Africa 2 (Kenya 1, Sudan 1)
Middle East 1 (Israel 1)
Asia 2 (Nepal 1, Georgia 1)
Europe 4 (Germany 3, Portugal 1)

“Security Management for Peace Work in Conflict Zones”
12.10.–16.10.15
Trainer: Tanya Spencer
Participants: 15 Personen
Asia 3 (Nepal 1, Georgia 1, Myanmar 1)
East Africa 3 (Kenya 2, Sudan 1)
Middle east 2 (Palestine 2)
Europe 7 (Germany 7)

“Anti-Bias and Social Inclusion – Prejudice Awareness for Peace Work”
19.10.–23.10.2015
Trainers: Cvetka Bovha, Prasad Reddy
Participants: 17
Asia 7 (Nepal 5, Myanmar 1, Georgia 1)
Europe 8 (Germany 8)
East Africa 2 (Kenya 1, Sudan 1)

“Managing Organisational Change in Non-Governmental Organisations”
26.10.–30.10.2015
Trainers: Christian Baier, Barbara Thimm
Participants: 22
Middle East 4 (Palestine 2, Sudan 2)
Asia 10 (Myanmar 2, Georgia 1, Nepal 6, Bangladesh 1)
East Africa 1 (Kenya 1)
Europe 7 (Germany 7)

“Project Management for Peace Work – Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation”
02.11.–06.11.2015
Trainers: Jochen Neumann, Anja Petz
Participants: 16
Europe 7 (Germany 6, Macedonia 1)
Asia 6 (Nepal 5, Georgia 1)
East Africa 3 (Sudan 2, Kenya 1)
AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE, A CLEAR MESSAGE OF SUPPORT

Chris Hartmann talks about his work with the Civil Peace Service in Nepal and the past two years as Regional Coordinator of our peace workers in Kathmandu.

Chris, looking back on when you joined the project in 2014, what were conditions like, back then?

When I arrived, the previous programme, which ran from 2012 to 2014 and involved two local partner organisations, was still under way. The political situation had stalled for years and there was very little progress on transitional justice and dealing with the past. Over the past few months, there has been far more movement in many of the political processes compared with the previous years, but this has happened without any proper consideration of the needs of minority groups and the socio-economic inequalities that were partly responsible for the civil war. That creates the risk of fresh conflict.

We began implementing the follow-up programme in early 2015. Within this framework, we have expanded the programme to a total of five partners and have introduced a training component, focusing on psychosocial support for displaced persons, as part of the BMZ's refugee initiative.

In April 2015, a massive earthquake in Nepal killed around 9,000 people and injured a further 22,000. Some 800,000 people lost their homes. In Germany, there was an outpouring of support. We were one of the organisations which appealed for donations, with more than 13,000 Euros donated for initial emergency relief, which you and your colleagues organised at the local level. What was your approach early on?

The support from Germany was extremely helpful as no one was able to accurately assess the scale of the damage in the first few days, especially given that so many remote regions were affected. The news coverage gave conflicting reports. When the earthquake struck, there were two of us here in Nepal: Johanna Sell, a peace worker working with our partner organisation Nagarik Aawaz, and myself as country coordinator. For the first few nights, we slept in the open air or in tents. Despite the initial chaos, we soon realised that we could not continue with the planned project work. Almost all our co-workers were affected directly or indirectly by the earthquake and there was a tremendous desire to help. Voluntary initiatives with teams of Nepalese and foreign nationals were soon set up and began to organise private relief measures. They also attempted to gain an overview of the general situation. After consulting with KURVE Wustrow in Germany, we were soon able to send a clear message to our partners that we would be able to provide support within the existing project frameworks and that we were also appealing for donations via the platform betterplace.org. Within the current project framework, we were able to provide up to 10,000 euros for each partner organisation, to be spent on support measures in affected project areas. And via the betterplace platform and direct donations to KURVE Wustrow, we secured a total of 13,577.80 Euros, which we put to good use in conjunction with our partner organisation Bikalpa. In addition to initial distributions of vital food supplies, we were able to provide corrugated iron for the construction of makeshift emergency accommodation in villages in the Ghorka region, close to the epicentre. The rest of the donations went to the Restoring Lives project through which Bikalpa supports internally displaced persons and children during the reconstruction process. All the various relief measures have now been implemented to a large extent and despite an ongoing political crisis, the partners were able to fully resume their work early this year.

One year on, how are things looking in the villages around Kathmandu today? That’s one of the questions we are always asked.

Unfortunately, apart from the initial emergency relief, not much has happened. There have been intermittent attempts at reconstruction, but red tape, political wrangling and violent protests in the south and the resulting border blockade have caused massive delays. Another problem is that many of the affected regions are extremely remote and inaccessible, taking several days to reach on foot.
The reconstruction of homes is getting off to a very slow start. People have now begun to take matters into their own hands and are attempting to rebuild their homes with the very limited resources that have been distributed. Comprehensive aid programmes were announced but have not yet been implemented to an adequate extent. And only part of the compensation that was pledged has reached affected communities. Marginalised minorities are at particular risk of being excluded from the relief programmes. The delays in the reconstruction process threaten to increase the affected communities’ feelings of frustration, so conflict-sensitive planning – also by humanitarian organisations – is extremely important in ensuring that disadvantaged groups are not excluded from access to relief. This will help to defuse the potential for conflict.

Author Chris Hartmann graduated with a Diploma in Geography and then went on to do a Master’s in International Humanitarian Action, followed by training as a consultant in civil conflict management. He is currently KURVE Wustrow’s Regional Coordinator in Nepal.

Within the framework of the Civil Peace Service, we support our local partners in Myanmar in expanding and consolidating conflict transformation capacities in the adult education sector, strengthening the participation of women in the transformation and reintegrating internally displaced persons.

Partner organisations: Mote Oo; Gender and Development Initiative (GDI), Kalayana Mitta Foundation (KMF), Ar Yone Oo

International Peace Workers 2015: Daniel Korth (Mote Oo), Dominique Chasseriaud (Ar Yone Oo), Andrea Ohloff (GDI), Anna-Lena Schulz (KMF), Karen Watermann (Special Initiative – Refugees), Kristin Czernietzki (Regional Coordinator)

In Nepal, the focus of our engagement is strengthening marginalised groups in the peace process. We work with our partner organisations on empowering survivors of violence, widows, displaced persons and specific ethnic and religious groups so that they are able to play a stronger role in politics and society in Nepal.

Partner organisations: Asian Academy for Peace Research and Development; Collective Campaign for Peace (COCAP), Nagarik Aawaz, Support Nepal, WHR (Women for Human Rights)
Project term: 2015–2017

International Peace Workers 2015: Hauke Steg-Böttcher (COCAP), Johanna Sell (Nagarik Aawaz), Lisa Bausch (Support Nepal), Chris Hartmann (Regional Coordinator), Jennifer Schönsee (WHR)
Under different circumstances, the friendship between Zana and Enver would be nothing out of the ordinary. After all, they have known each other a long time and work together as teachers at a high school in northwest Skopje. Zana teaches English and Enver economics. During the breaks, they can usually be found outside the school gate, enjoying a quiet cigarette. Sometimes, they meet up in the afternoon as well and go to the cinema or grab a bite to eat. It’s a perfectly normal friendship between two workmates. And yet the two of them are often treated as if their friendship were something quite exotic. That’s because Zana’s parents come from Macedonia and Serbia and Enver’s family speaks Albanian. It’s so unusual, in fact, that even an OECD observer was keen to meet and interview them. In a country like Macedonia, where there is very little contact between the Macedonian majority and the Albanian minority and the number of mixed marriages between the two groups is statistically insignificant, these friendships, sadly, are certainly not the norm.

Even at the Arseni Jovkov High School, where the two teachers work, they are something of a rarity. Although the school is one of the few in Skopje to admit students from both communities – around 2,000 in total – they are taught in separate classes and rarely come into contact with one another during school hours, even though they share a building. Enver chooses his words carefully: “We say hello, it’s all quite civil, but otherwise, we tend to ignore each other.” But Zana and Enver recognise that a society’s future is shaped where its young people are educated. The two are attempting to lead by example – “by creating cracks in the invisible wall” – and are encouraging their students to do the same. And generally, it works very well. Just occasionally, they run up against opposition from their colleagues. Only recently, there was something of an uproar at school when a young Macedonian girl fell in love with a fellow student from a Roma family. Zana and Enver were already aware of the situation because the young couple had confided in them, but when some of their colleagues found out, they insisted on alerting the young people’s parents, who refused to accept the relationship. There was a huge row. As she tells the story, Zana twirls her dark dreadlocks around her fingers. She is still upset about it: “There was a massive overreaction at school, and I think that’s absolutely appalling. The two of us felt completely powerless. Sadly, most people think that the two young people should not be in a relationship.” For just over a year, Zana has been organising workshops at school for young people from the two communities – safe spaces where they can talk about their fears and prejudice in a non-judgmental way without social constraints and also reach out to the other community.

At these events, Zana applies the methods she learned at a training workshop run by KURVE Wustrow’s partner organisation First Children’s Embassy in the World – Megjashi. This non-governmental organisation, set up in 1992, is engaged in advocacy for child rights and has set up a 24-hour SOS helpline for children in need. It cooperates with KURVE Wustrow through the Civil Peace Service (CPS), with a focus on peace education. The partnership initiates projects that equip teachers and students in Macedonian schools with the tools they need to address the roots of violence and discrimination and thus contribute to better inter-community understanding.

What Megjashi project coordinators Albulena Karaga and Ana Bitola particularly like about the cooperation with KURVE Wustrow is its commitment to the values that they themselves hold dear. “KURVE does not pursue a neo-colonialist approach, unlike certain other international organisations that come here, open an office and then leave as soon as the project ends. KURVE is interested in long-term change and sees us as equal partners.” The two pleasant young women are sitting in a trendy café in downtown Skopje. They look rather tired. They have just got back from a seven-day training workshop with a group of teachers, including Zana and...
Enver. “The training was a great success,” says Albuleña over a hot pumpkin soup. It’s minus 15 outside and the chill January wind is merciless. As a matter of principle, Megjashi works with mixed groups of Albanian and Macedonian teachers and sometimes with students as well. The two activists and their team of trainers have succeeded, over the past week, in creating a safe space for participants to begin exploring and challenging their own identities through exercises and role-play. The method aims to empower the participants to speak their minds, rather than simply saying what they think is expected of them. “It’s about recognising that political correctness is not always the solution to our problems. We want to find out which stereotypes we are dealing with and see how we ourselves react when our group talks about the community,” says Ana. Language is a big issue and is discussed with participants at the start of every training session. The question of whether or not Albanian should be spoken in addition to Macedonian during training is a sensitive topic. But if people are given space in which to explore these questions, they begin to build trust, and political obstacles fade into the background – Albuleña and Ana are certain of that.

Through the Civil Peace Service, we support our local partners in the Balkans in rebuilding social relations based on mutual trust, and establishing a peace-supporting and responsible approach to dealing with the violent past.

**Partner organisations:** Action for Nonviolence and Peacebuilding (ANP); Centre for Nonviolent Action (CNA); Center for Balkan Cooperation (LOJA); First Childrens’ Embassy in the World – MEGJASHI; Peace Action (PA); Sezam

**Title:** Dealing with the past and strengthening inter-ethnic relations in the education system

**International Peace Workers 2015:** Stefan Schneider (ANP), Davorka Turk (CNA), Nenad Vukosavljevic (CNA), Daniel Bernhardt (Megjashi), Laura Vollmann (Sezam), Helga Saathoff (Regional Coordinator)

**Project term:** 2013–2015
To have any prospect of success, many stakeholders believe that what is needed is broad popular participation, as in the first intifada, for example, with individual action groups evolving into a genuine movement again. But support from Israeli and international activists in reaching out to their respective publics also has a vital role to play. In the current situation, their shared nonviolent resistance to the occupation (co-resistance) is one of the few areas where Jewish (and Palestinian) Israelis can join with Palestinians from the occupied territories to build trust and work for fair and peaceful prospects of a shared life in the region, based on the principle of equal rights for all.

This encouraged KURVE Wustrow to focus its CPS programme in Palestine and Israel on assisting these nonviolent activists and their movement. For KURVE Wustrow, there are two key priorities: to advocate for nonviolence as a political strategy, and to provide support, training and capacity building to strengthen nonviolent initiatives and the movement as a whole.

Al Walajeh, 2015. On the right is the entrance to the settlement. On the left, the road leads to the settler checkpoint in the direction of Jerusalem. Straight ahead is the Palestinian village of Al Walajeh. The road to KURVE Wustrow’s Palestine office runs parallel to the wall, several metres high, which in future will completely surround the village. KURVE Wustrow’s peace workers at the office have been working with nonviolent initiatives in Palestine and Israel since 2012.

Bil’in, 2004. Israel’s barrier will separate the Palestinian village of Bil’in from much of its farmland, sparking years of nonviolent protest by women and men of all ages. They block the construction work and replant uprooted olive trees by night. Due to the protests, combined with a PR campaign and court cases, pressure builds up and finally, the route of the wall is changed. The example of Bil’in spreads like wildlife, with more and more nonviolence committees being set up in villages along the wall and near the settlements. In order to underline that these are pro-active grassroots protests, they are referred to as a “popular struggle” or “civil resistance”.

Al Ma’asara, 2013. At a weekly demonstration, 17 Palestinian and five Israeli activists approach an army road block, accompanied by 15 foreign nationals. As in Bil’in, Nabi Saleh, Hebron, Ni’lin and other villages, they are demanding an end to the Israeli military occupation and calling for guaranteed respect for human and civil rights and compliance with international law by all sides as the basis for a just peace in the Middle East. But nowadays, the number of people engaged in these activities is steadily declining. Not enough visible successes have been achieved, and the brutal repression by the Israeli military against nonviolent activists are a further deterrent. Many of the activists are suffering from burnout. So what can be done?
STRATEGY

Ramallah, 2014. The Popular Struggle Coordination Committee (PSCC) is an umbrella organisation of popular struggle committees. It is keen to develop a joint strategy with the nonviolence movement. A strategic development process is initiated. Various members of the movement meet at multi-day workshops and identify the bases for the strategy. It is a unique – and challenging – process. In 2015, the strategic development process continues on a decentralised basis with support from KURVE Wustrow peace workers.

MEDIA RELATIONS AND ADVOCACY

Ramallah, 2014. Accurate media coverage of the activities of nonviolent initiatives in Palestine and Israel is a rarity. Youth Against Settlements (YAS), a nonviolent action group in Hebron, and PSCC are therefore working with KURVE Wustrow on developing a professional media strategy. In 2015, two YAS activists meet parliamentary and ministerial representatives in Berlin. They also give talks in cafés and institutes and perform street theatre in the metro stations. Like all KURVE Wustrow’s partners, they want to encourage the public and policy-makers in other countries to work for a just peace in the Middle East. It’s just one example of advocacy.

PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Hebron, 2013. It’s Ramadan. YAS activists gather in the evening to break their fast together. Suddenly, out of the darkness, they hear a gunshot from the direction of the olive grove. No one is hurt, but there’s a bullet hole in the wall of the building.

Nonviolent activists and their families are often the target of violence and human rights abuses by the Israeli military and settlers. They have all experienced the violent breakup of nonviolent protests, nightly house searches and arbitrary arrests – and they all know activists who have been killed for their nonviolent engagement.

Protecting human rights defenders is therefore an important field of work for KURVE Wustrow and its partners.

RESISTANCE IN ISRAEL

Tel Aviv, 2014. More than 350 Israelis listen attentively to activists and researchers from Israel, the Palestinian territories and other countries. In workshops, they discuss what nonviolence means, how it can be effective and how feminism and nonviolence are connected. The Coalition of Women for Peace (CWP) in Tel Aviv-Yafo is a feminist organisation, founded in 2000, which works nonviolently to end the Israeli occupation and the oppression of women. Israeli activists play an important role in nonviolent resistance in the Middle East. Through their involvement in nonviolent action in the occupied territories, they show solidarity with Palestinians and their presence reduces the intensity of the repressive measures taken against Palestinian activists.

Strategic development, media and advocacy, human rights protection and nonviolent co-resistance are key dimensions of effective, creative and sustainable nonviolent movements. Through our cooperation with YAS, PSCC and CWP, our aim is to play our part in bringing the occupation to an end, promoting respect for human and civil rights, and achieving a just peace in the Middle East.

Author Thimna Bunte has worked as a KURVE Wustrow peace worker in Palestine since 2011.

Partners in Palestine: Youth Against Settlements, Center for Freedom and Justice, Popular Struggle Coordination Committee
Partner organisation in Israel: Coalition of Women for Peace
Title: Strengthening nonviolent initiatives
Peace workers 2015: Christina Bermann-Harms, Thimna Bunte, Kerstin Gollembiewski, Katja Volkenant, Fee Schreier, Nicola Busse
Three seminars with 70 participants took place in the nearby Ganesha guest house in Königshorst, simply because KURVE’s own premises were too small to accommodate them all plus our 22-member team. The need to find a solution to the overcrowding is becoming increasingly urgent.

At the working retreat for the team and Board in February 2015, the Buildings Working Group was set up, initially to answer one key question: should KURVE Wustrow relocate – and if so, should it move to the outskirts of Wustrow or leave Wustrow once and for all? After a lively discussion, there was a clear vote in favour of keeping KURVE in Wustrow where it belongs and where it has its roots, rather than moving out of town or even to a big city. The option of separating the offices and the Seminar house operations was also ruled out.

As the next step, the management and Board were asked to meet with the mayor, local residents and businesses to discuss options and sound out opinion. The discussions were very positive, with all those involved welcoming the new developments. As a start, there are plans to rent conference space in the neighbourhood, adjacent to the Plette bakery, in 2016. Future progress will depend on KURVE’s remaining in good financial shape and on the availability of premises in the centre of Wustrow.

We invited all the local associations in Wustrow to our garden party on 11 July to celebrate KURVE’s 35th anniversary. Many local people came and were keen to look round the house and garden, in some cases for the first time in years, to get to know the team and appreciate the conference team’s culinary skills. All in all, the event was a great opportunity for us to show that we belong here in Wustrow.

We also welcomed some new faces to the seminar house team in 2015: Monika Ilgner and Hida Sula were joined by Kerstin Jurk (housekeeping and catering) and Michael Tillmann (caretaker). Volunteers Jannes Unger and Allen Francis, who stayed until autumn 2015, and then Meenam Nepal, Omkar Godse and Annika Rathert all made a major contribution to its smooth operation. As an instant solution, it was decided to limit the number of participants in training workshops to 18 in 2016. This eases the burden on trainers and makes for a less crowded seminar room, kitchen and cafeteria.

Everyone is working hard to ensure that despite the challenging situation in the seminar house, all the guests feel welcome and are well looked after. The feedback from the seminars and training workshops bears this out: “You really made us feel at home.”

Author Christiane Weichsel is our Seminar House Coordinator.
We are delighted that so many people were willing to support us financially or were kind enough to increase their contributions. We are especially pleased to see the three sponsorship programmes getting off to such a good start. We wanted to find sponsors for our volunteers and activists from the Global South and for movement work – and we found them! We also received more general-purpose donations, and more people signed up to become KURVE Wustrow supporters. The donations for general purposes and for the three sponsorship programmes increased by a staggering 51 per cent compared with the previous year. We are very grateful to everyone who made this possible.

This meant that we were finally able to turn the one-way into a two-way street and invite young people from India to spend a year in Germany as Global South volunteers. We were also able to support and train more activists from the Global South. And we now have more scope to work with social movements in Germany.

Please consider making a donation so that we can make full use of this new scope for our important political work.

The differences between donations received and donation figures shown on the balance sheet result from deferrals between the budget years.
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31.12.2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Fixed assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tangible assets</td>
<td>7,133,24 €</td>
<td>5,623,35 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables and other assets</td>
<td>163,280,38 €</td>
<td>174,007,46 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash in hand, bank balances</td>
<td>556,675,96 €</td>
<td>744,811,31 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Deferred expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>884,34 €</td>
<td>6,708,31 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>727,973,92 €</td>
<td>931,150,43 €</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Equity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit and loss brought forward</td>
<td>-12,527,63 €</td>
<td>6,722,58 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net income (loss)</td>
<td>19,250,21 €</td>
<td>2,383,34 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total A. Equity</td>
<td>6,722,58 €</td>
<td>9,105,92 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Provisions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>124,585,72 €</td>
<td>110,700,00 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>114,786,13 €</td>
<td>99,071,05 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Deferred income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>481,879,49 €</td>
<td>712,273,46 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>727,973,92 €</td>
<td>931,150,43 €</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fixed assets:
Intangible assets: concessions, licences, trademarks, software.
Tangible assets:
Business and office equipment: business equipment, office furnishings, low-value assets up to and including EUR 150 and between EUR 151.00 and EUR 1,000.00.
Current assets:
Receivables and other assets: other receivables, receivables from settlements with donors, receivables from cash and bank balances of overseas projects, and receivables from health insurance schemes, cash in hand, bank balances, post office giro: cash, Postbank donations account and savings bank accounts.
Deferred income and expenses:
Deferrals and accruals: advance payments made for the following year.
Equity:
Profit and loss brought forward.
Net income (loss) for the year:
annual financial statement
Provisions:
Other provisions in projects: repayments from settlements of projects/seminars in the following year.
Liabilities:
Other liabilities: accounts payable the following year, e.g. fees, repayments to funding providers, staff costs (peace workers), travel costs, etc.
Deferred income and expenses:
Operating costs brought forward for projects/seminars, advance payments to KURVE Wustrow for the following year.
### PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD 1.1.2015 TO 31.12.2015: EXPENDITURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Projects</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace services</td>
<td>2.397.171,00 €</td>
<td>71,11%</td>
<td>2.593.225,65 €</td>
<td>70,58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary services</td>
<td>233.647,62 €</td>
<td>6,93%</td>
<td>307.279,76 €</td>
<td>8,36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International training work</td>
<td>212.542,72 €</td>
<td>6,30%</td>
<td>191.243,44 €</td>
<td>5,20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects in Germany</td>
<td>0,00 €</td>
<td>0,00%</td>
<td>815,24 €</td>
<td>0,02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Administration and staff costs</strong></td>
<td><strong>477.745,97 €</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,17%</strong></td>
<td><strong>502.966,82 €</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,69%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Building and office maintenance</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.363,91 €</strong></td>
<td><strong>0,31%</strong></td>
<td><strong>36.133,02 €</strong></td>
<td><strong>0,98%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4. Miscellaneous costs</strong></td>
<td><strong>24.111,53 €</strong></td>
<td><strong>0,72%</strong></td>
<td><strong>19.650,92 €</strong></td>
<td><strong>0,53%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5. Seminar house</strong></td>
<td><strong>15.561,97 €</strong></td>
<td><strong>0,46%</strong></td>
<td><strong>22.989,28 €</strong></td>
<td><strong>0,63%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3.371.144,72 €</strong></td>
<td><strong>100,00%</strong></td>
<td><strong>3.674.304,13 €</strong></td>
<td><strong>100,00%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Projects:**
Adjustments on deferrals/accruals from previous year, IT and software, draw-down of funds for peace workers, office rental, management and staff costs for CPS projects, administration, fees, materials and equipment, postage PR, communications, room hire, food and accommodation, per diem and food allowances, seminar/admission fees, DHL etc., declarations of commitment and visas, overseas health insurance, financial transaction costs, volunteers’ travel costs/food/accommodation and allowances, other travel costs.

**Administration and staff costs:**
Office premises, insurance, taxes and contributions, advertising and travel, staff costs.

**Building/office maintenance and repair**
Building and associated costs, building maintenance, repair and maintenance of operating and business equipment, depreciations.

**Other costs:**
Fees, food and accommodation, hospitality, postage, telephone, Internet, books and journals, training, legal fees and counsel, accountancy and audit, financial transaction costs.

**Seminar house:**
Food, Seminar house supplies and materials, replacement of defective items of equipment, decoration, fees.
**PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD 1.1.2015 TO 31.12.2015: REVENUE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Grants</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public sector</td>
<td>2.686.268,17 €</td>
<td>79,23 %</td>
<td>2.716.976,81 €</td>
<td>73,99 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Churches</td>
<td>39.275,00 €</td>
<td>1,16 %</td>
<td>46.600,00 €</td>
<td>1,27 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private sources</td>
<td>0,00 €</td>
<td>0,00 %</td>
<td>5.400,00 €</td>
<td>0,15 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Donations</strong></td>
<td>74.688,60 €</td>
<td>2,20 %</td>
<td>56.880,20 €</td>
<td>1,55 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Membership subscriptions</strong></td>
<td>5.140,96 €</td>
<td>0,15 %</td>
<td>5.602,02 €</td>
<td>0,15 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4. Seminar/training fees</strong></td>
<td>128.918,75 €</td>
<td>3,80 %</td>
<td>195.349,28 €</td>
<td>5,32 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5. Miscellaneous</strong></td>
<td>455.932,57 €</td>
<td>13,45 %</td>
<td>644.932,78 €</td>
<td>17,56 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6. Interest</strong></td>
<td>170,88 €</td>
<td>0,01 %</td>
<td>179,70 €</td>
<td>0,01 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>3.390.394,93 €</td>
<td>100,00 %</td>
<td>3.671.920,79 €</td>
<td>100,00 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grants:**
Project-related grants for development education and PR in Germany and support for projects abroad, provided by public institutions (primarily the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the European Union), Church-based agencies (mainly the Evangelical Church in Germany, Church Development Service, Misereor and Diakonisches Werk) and private donors (mainly Stiftung Umverteilen, Environmental Foundation of Lower Saxony and SCI Germany).

**Donations:**
Donations for projects in Germany and other countries, voluntary services abroad and donations for KURVE Wustrow’s development education, awareness-raising and networking activities in Germany.

**Membership subscriptions:**
Membership subscriptions from ordinary members of the Association.

**Seminar/training fees:**
Contributions from participants in events and seminars.

**Miscellaneous:**
Insurance pay-outs after water damage, project-related subsidies for staff costs and administration, adjustments on deferrals/accruals from previous year, use of Seminar house and buildings for seminars, revenue from current business operations.

**Interest:**
Interest on short-term financial investments.
SPREADING NONVIOLENCE

Our heartfelt thanks go to all our donors for supporting our work in 2015.

Our 2016/2017 Seminar Programme offers you more than 40 pages of information about all our training courses and seminars over the next two years. Published in German and English, the programme can be downloaded from the KURVE Wustrow website or ordered from our office.