

---

## **Press Release - Berlin 21.09.2018**

### **Young Activists for Peace and a World we Want!**

#### **Training, Evaluation and Planning Seminar for Youth Workers, Berlin / 30.10. - 05.11 2018**

Despite recent setbacks, a growing number of young people and youth workers from across Europe still believe that **peace is the option for the world we want** and are ready to engage actively in Peace Education!

#### **The seminar**

After a series of 4 yearly peace education projects, representatives from partner organizations from Azerbaijan, Belgium, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Israel, Russia, Turkey and Palestine will meet for one week in Berlin, to evaluate the work and impact of the Young Activists for Peace projects that have been run since 2015. They will analyze the current situation of peace work and design concepts dealing with current challenges and threats to peace in their countries as well as at the European and Global level. The seminar will be held at the "Youth Hostel Ostkreuz" a historical school building situated near the well-known urban district "Friedrichshain".

#### **The programme**

The 6-day programme will provide participants with opportunities to learn and reflect about the concept "Friedensstifter" (youth as agents of peace) and other peace and democracy oriented concepts and methods, as well as to assess the impact of such activities. They will reflect on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the contribution their achievement could make to lasting peace at both society and global levels. They will discuss what is needed to encourage more young people to stand up against racism and intolerance and for the utopia of a better world based on peaceful dialogue. Highlights will include a project visit to the "Berlin Global Village" association <http://www.berlin-global-village.de/eine-welt-zentrum/> in Neukölln district. This will enable participants to learn from their practice and experience in running campaigns and education activities for global transformation. There will also be a workshop by a "one world promoter" on SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>

#### **The results**

The participants will learn about methods and gain know-how for their future peace oriented youth work activities. They will work in a structured way on approaches and ideas for future youth exchanges and education activities which foster democratic values, peace orientation, and active citizenship of young people and will establish cooperation agreements for joint projects and campaigns.

## Background

**Young Activists for Peace** is a project series developed by ICJA Freiwilligenaustausch weltweit and around 20 partner organizations in EU and neighboring partner countries. The project receives financial support from the Erasmus+ Youth in Action Programme of the European Union and the Children and Youth plan of the German Federal Government (BMFSFJ). Activities implemented since 2015 included 5 training courses for youth workers and 7 youth exchanges offering a wide range of activities, topics and pedagogical concepts in the field of peace and democracy education, racism sensitization and empowerment for young people with fewer opportunities, in particular refugees. Over 300 young participants coming from different corners of the European Union, Eastern Europe and Caucasus, as well as the Mediterranean Region have been reached and many of them have started to promote and defend peace after their participation. The committed feedback of participants and their local communities shows that there has been an impact on them which makes us believe that in the long run there will be stronger democratic and peaceful societies.

**ICJA Volunteer Exchange Worldwide** is an educational institution that organizes long-term volunteer services or short-term work camps for young people to raise their awareness about the effects of globalization. The educational activities focus on topic such as peace and non-violent conflict resolution, the North-South divide and colonial continuities, discrimination, racism and xenophobia, intercultural competence and sustainability.

Further Information on the **“Young Activists for Peace and a World we Want”** project:

In English language:

<https://www.icja.de/en/content/Workcamps/Jugendbegegnungen/Young-Activists-for-Peace/>

In German Language:

<https://www.icja.de/content/Workcamps/Jugendbegegnungen/Internationale-Jugendbegegnungen/>

-----  
Inquiries about this project: Andreas Schwab [aschwab@icja.de](mailto:aschwab@icja.de) - 030 200071631

For photos, interviews or the ICJA association pl. contact: Dr. Andrea Schwieger Hiepko, [aschwieger@icja.de](mailto:aschwieger@icja.de), 030 200071623

Comprehensive data and information about the publisher on [www.icja.de](http://www.icja.de)  
-----



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

