

international peace bureau  
bureau international de la paix  
internationales friedensbüro AB12

Founded in Rome 1892 Nobel Peace Prize 1910 Consultative Status with ECOSOC

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YOUTH AND CONSCRIPTION SYMPOSIUM

Place: Helsinki, 29.11. - 1.12.1985

Organisers: International Peace Bureau (IPB)  
War Resisters' International (WRI)

Background: In 1983 IPB organised in collaboration with the Finnish Peace Union the first international symposium on Children and War. As a result a book was published with over 25 contributions on different aspects of relations between children and war. Now in the occasion of the International Youth Year the aim is to continue elaborating a civil perception on war.

Conscription forms a mechanism via which the youth meets the military system in the society both in the conditions of war and peace. Despite its significance the conscription has not been a popular subject of social or historical investigation. Youth and conscription symposium aims to focus on the origin and expansion of conscription and on its effects. Furthermore, the goal is to examine the social and cultural effects of conscription in particular from the point of view of the youth.

Content: The draft outline of the symposium is the following:

Theme 1 Social history of conscription

- Military system and the evolution of conscription
- Conscription vis-à-vis professional army

Theme 2 Social history of conscientious objection

- Conscientious objection as a political act of individual youth
- Conscientious objection and political strategy
- The right of youth to alternative service
- Conscientious objection as a human right
- Country case studies (The UK, France, Germany, Finland etc.)

Theme 3 Imposition of youth by military system

- Conscription - heritage of the past for youth
- Impact of conscription on social attitudes
- Military system and youth culture
- Military force and subordination of youth
- Social ritualism of conscription

Theme 4 Sexual roles and conscription

- Women and military system
- Impact of militarisation on girls' life

Participation: The symposium will bring together some one hundred participants from different countries. These will largely consist of scholars and peace activists as well as other interested people.

Contacts: Further information is obtainable from Helsinki, Kimmo Kiljunen, c/o Peace Union of Finland or Jouko Väänänen, CO Union of Finland  
address: Sähköttäjänkatu 6  
00520 Helsinki 52  
Also the IPB Office in Geneva and the WRI Office in London are able to give further information.

Place: Työväen akatemia, Kauniainen

Draft Programme:

INTRODUCTION

- Right to refuse to kill  
Speaker: Sean MacBride, Nobel laureate, president,  
International Peace Bureau

THEME 1

SOCIAL HISTORY OF CONSCRIPTION

- Military system and the evolution of conscription  
Speaker: Pertti Joenniemi, TAPRI, Tampere
- Conscription vis-à-vis professional army  
Speaker: Jean Jaqmain, University of Peace,  
Brüssels

THEME 2

SOCIAL HISTORY OF CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION

- Conscientious objection as a political act of individual youth  
Speaker: prof. Kari Palonen, The University of Jyväskylä
- Conscientious objection and political strategy  
Speaker: Robert Polet, Internationale des résistants à la guerre-Belge, Namour, Belgium
- The right of youth to alternative service  
Speaker: Asbjörn Eide, International Peace Research Institute, Oslo, Norway
- Conscientious objection as a human right  
Speaker: (Amnesty International)
- Country case studies  
The U.K.: Denis Hayes, lawyer, London  
France: Michel Ouvray, lawyer, Toulouse  
Germany: Guido Grünwald, Deutsche Friedensgesellschaft vereinte Kriegsdienstgegner, Hamburg  
Finland: Jukka Viitanen, CO Union of Finland

THEME 3

IMPOSITION OF YOUTH BY MILITARY SYSTEM

- Conscription - heritage of the past for youth  
Speaker: Mirtle Solomon, president, War Resisters' International, London
- Impact of conscription on social attitudes  
Speaker: Jarmo Paandell, prof., The University of Tampere

- Military system and youth culture  
Speaker: psychologist Hannu Sikkilä,  
The University of Oulu
- Military force and subordination of youth  
Speaker: Jukka Kanerva, The University of Jyväskylä
- Social ritualism of conscription  
Speaker: (open)

THEME 4

SEXUAL ROLES AND CONSCRIPTION

- Women and military system  
Speaker: Aki Hietanen, TAPRI, Tampere
- Impact of militarisation in girls' life  
Speaker: (Cynthia Enloe)

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**END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)**

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