

# War Resisters' International

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<http://wri-irg.org>

## APPLICATION TO BECOME A MEMBER ORGANISATION OF WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL

***"War is a crime against humanity. I am therefore determined not to support any kind of war and to strive for the removal of all causes of war" -- WRI Declaration.***

An organisation which agrees with this Declaration may join WRI.

If an organisation requires each member individually to refuse to take part in war, then it may apply to become a **Section**. This means that the organisation must adopt either the WRI Declaration or an equivalent statement as a condition of membership.

Otherwise, if the organisation does not have formal membership or does not require each member to agree with such a statement, it may apply to become an **Associate Organisation** or **Associate Publication**.

**This is an application to become**

**a Section**

**NAME OF ORGANISATION APPLYING** (in your own language) [*please write in capital letters or type*]

.....  
English version of name (if applicable):

Federation for Social Defense (German: Bund für Soziale Verteidigung, BSV)

### DETAILS OF APPLICANT ORGANISATION

Postal address:

Schwarzer Weg 8, 32423 Minden, Germany

Telephone 0049 571 29456 Fax: 0049 571 23019.....

E-mail address: [office@soziale-verteidigung.de](mailto:office@soziale-verteidigung.de)

Is this the central office? yes

Name and address of contact person in respect of this application:

Stephan Brües (also co-chair of BSV)  
Sofienstr. 7, 69168 Wiesloch, Germany

Telephone 0049 6222 5810062

E-mail address: [stephan.bruees@gmx.info](mailto:stephan.bruees@gmx.info)

## INFORMATION ABOUT APPLICANT ORGANISATION

Place and date of foundation:

The Federation for Social Defence was founded in 1989 by a number of organisations including Pax Christi, DFG-VK, German FOR and Living Without Armament, involving personalities of the peace movement like Petra K. Kelly, Prof. Dr. Theodor Ebert and Roland Vogt. A milestone in the development of the BSV was the Balkan Peace Team (1994-2001), the establishment of the Civil Peace Service in 2001 and the nonviolence training campaign "Paths Out of Violence".

Statement of purpose or aims:

The BSV is a professional association for nonviolent politics and constructive transformation of conflict. The concepts of social defence and nonviolent action constitute the quintessential core of our peace initiative. They give us incitement and motivate our work and projects in social and political contexts. Our goal is to rethink and to enhance those concepts to create new stimuli for a constructive culture of dealing with conflicts.

*Spreading the Notion of Nonviolence*

**We are convinced** that in the end peace can only be achieved and established with nonviolent means. That's why we initiate and support tangible ventures committed to a civil nonviolent approach to international conflicts.

**We are looking everywhere**, in private life, job, politics and society, for intelligent examples and patterns of nonviolent action in different situations of life so that we can build on them. In our printed and electronic media we pass these experiences on.

**We orientate ourselves** on the basic ideas of non-violent action when it comes to developing strategies and making practical steps towards positive dealing with civilian conflicts in everyday life and/or in economic, social and educational organisations. Our educational work aims at supporting those ambitions.

**We trust** in the power of nonviolence for the reduction of violent and military potentials. Because we want to build a world without war and armament, we promote nonviolent and non-military approaches to conflict settlement and transformation.

*The Journey Is the Destination*

Appreciating diverse resources and competencies, we cherish and use the abilities and expertise of specialists. Professionalization in this context means: staff supporting and bundling the activities of volunteers, thereby creating free spaces for engagement and absorbing impulses from the member basis and political environment. Especially important for our success are people who contribute through their knowledge and creativity on a (semi-)volunteer basis. In our team work and in the collaboration with partners from other organisations we practice what we demand to happen in politics: openness, grassroots democracy, participation, nonviolence and humanity. Open for new methods and the willingness to learn: In the BSV learning processes play an important role - continuing education for political action and collective efforts to design and to develop new forms of policies and politics strengthen and motivate our members. In constructive discussion we substantiate and sometimes alter our ideas and aims. We adjust our projects undogmatically, flexibly and process oriented towards changing realities.

*Empower the people, who empower us*

People who advocate like us for a human world, trust and support us. They donate money or material and thus enable us to do our work. We understand that as a special obligation to carefully and thrifty allocate our resources with a high level of transparency towards our sponsors. We bear in mind the vision of a nonviolent world. We are certain that the paths towards that designated destination can be walked and that the barriers can be overcome – step by step.

If it's a membership organisation:

a) Number of members and b) basis of membership

The BSV currently has about 450 members, including 40 organisations. About 1,000 - 1,500 people support us regularly with their donations.

Number of regional or local groups (if any): unfortunately none

Details of recent projects, campaigns, activities:

### **Working Groups**

- Gender and peace (a group founded in 2012)

- Nonviolent Peaceforce (joint working group of the BSV and the Forum Civil Peace Services, the two German members of the international NGO Nonviolent Peaceforce)
- Peace Taxes (handled by the Network Peace Taxes)
- Institute for Peace Work and Nonviolent Conflict Transformation ([www.ifgk.de](http://www.ifgk.de), an independent research institute)
- Syria (a new working group founded in March 2013)

Our work has three foci:

- International Nonviolent Intervention (Nonviolent Peaceforce, project in Belarus, contacts with Iraq and Palestine etc.)
- Peace Education (political peace education in schools, peer mediation in schools, anti-bullying etc.),
- Pacifism and Antimilitarism (part of networks against arms trade, nuclear weapons and for nonviolent alternatives to solve national and international conflicts)

Publications produced:

- Newsletter and 'Rundbrief' , Information Papers, Background- and Discussion Papers, Books

*(Please enclose sample of any periodical; also include sample of any current leaflets or similar)* see Homepage: [www.soziale-verteidigung.de/material](http://www.soziale-verteidigung.de/material) [mostly produced in German<sup>1</sup>]

Affiliation to other groups, in your country or internationally:

- member of German networks like "Plattform Zivile Konfliktbearbeitung", "Forum crisis prevention", "Forum Civil Peace Services", "Aktion Aufschrei", [Network Peace Cooperation](#) (Netzwerk Friedenskooperative) and [Cooperation For Peace](#) ("Kooperation für den Frieden")
- member of Nonviolent Peaceforce and European Network for Civil Peace Services (EN.CPS)

Does your organisation have positions such as chair, treasurer, etc? yes

If so, please name the current postholders:

co-chairs: Ute Finckh-Krämer and Stephan Brües

board members: Georg Adelman, Outi Arajärvi, Andreas Dieterich, Linde Müller-Blaak, Renate Wanie, .....

Language in which you would like to receive further communications [*please tick one language only*]

English:..... X.....                      French:.....  
 German:.....                                      Spanish:.....

Sections and Associates are expected to pay an affiliation fee according to their means.

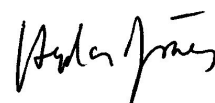
How much would you hope to contribute annually as your affiliation fee? 150 € (?)

Signed on behalf of the applicant organisation by

Name: Stephan Brües

Position in organisation: co-chair of BSV

Date: 27.05.2013 .....



<sup>1</sup>We will begin to publish some papers in English as well...  
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**Please enclose:**

- \* **a description of your structure (in one of the following languages: English, French, German or Spanish);**
- \* **your statement of aims if it is too long for this form;**
- \* **copies of publications**