



Presentation

German Peace Association-United War Resisters **(Deutsche Friedensgesellschaft-Vereinigte KriegsdienstgegnerInnen DFG-VK)**

Extract from the program:

The German Peace Association (*“Deutsche Friedensgesellschaft“*, DFG) was founded in 1892 and campaigned for peace, nonviolence and international understanding.

The *“Deutsche Friedensgesellschaft-Vereinigte KriegsdienstgegnerInnen“* (DFG-VK) came into being in 1974 through a merger of the DFG, the German section of War Resisters International (*“Internationale der Kriegsgegner“* IdK) and the Union of Conscientious Objectors (*“Verband der Kriegsdienstverweigerer“* VK).

The members of DFG-VK believe in the Declaration of Principles of War Resisters' International (WRI):

"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."

We hold the denial of all military and civilian war service to be a practical contribution against war. We demand the complete abolition of compulsory military service. We support a human right to refuse military service. We consider also killing in war as murder. Our goal is to outlaw military force and soldiering, and to banish it from international relations. Conflicts can only be solved without violence. We want comprehensive global disarmament and advocate for a Germany without armed forces. As pacifists we think that peace means the realization of political, social and economic justice all over the world.

We pursue our political goals by nonviolent means, which exclude the killing and injury of people. To be politically effective, we have joined together in the organisation DFG-VK. We are a part of a worldwide movement for peace, justice and a human future.

More information: www.dfg-vk.de

History of DFG-VK:

The German Peace Association ("*Deutsche Friedensgesellschaft*" DFG) was founded in Berlin on November, 9th of 1892 inter alia by the later Nobel Peace Laureates Bertha von Suttner and Alfred Hermann Fried. It is the oldest peace organization in Germany.

The organization is and always was committed to nonviolence, international understanding and disarmament. 1914 the DFG had 10,000 members. During World War I, it was criminalized by the warmongers. Nevertheless - after the war the number of members increased significantly to approximately 30,000 (1927). But the friends of peace were among the first victims of National Socialism. The DFG has been destroyed by the Nazis in 1933 and the leading members were imprisoned and some of them even killed.

After World War II, DFG was re-established in 1946. The organization then sat down against the remilitarization of Germany (*Bundeswehr*) and advocated in the 1980s against the deployment of nuclear weapons on the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany.

In 1968, the War Resisters International (IdK) and the DFG joined forces and formed the DFG-IdK.

In 1974 the organization merged with the Association of Conscientious Objectors ("*Verband der Kriegsdienstverweigerer*" VK), which engaged above all against compulsory military service. Nowadays the association is called: German Peace Association - United War Resisters (DFG-VK) - and is still active.

The basis of its members today is: "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."

Therefore, the DFG-VK also engages against the militarization of education.

More information can be found at: www.dfg-vk.de

Juli 2011

