

Ute Bock

Austria

Ute Bock worked professionally for many years as a social worker and educator. In the early 1990s, she started to take care of teenage immigrants. She also took in underage refugees from countries at war, who came to Austria on their own looking for asylum. Ute Bock was the last hope for many teenage immigrants for whom nobody else cared. Her small project has grown into a community of 50 apartments where over 200 people find a home. She has also provided a legal address and legal aid for more than 1000 immigrants so that they can pursue their asylum procedures.

Key words:

- IDPs/Refugees
- Migrants
- Minority rights

"It is not wise to establish a group of underprivileged people. Even if these people can, or are forced to, move back to their homeland, it is better that they learn something here."

Hildegard Goss-Mayr

Austria

For more than 52 years, Hildegard Goss-Mayr has been teaching nonviolent resistance against injustice and repression as part of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation. She was influential in the 1986 nonviolent People Power Revolution in the Philippines, in the liberation theology movement in Latin America and the peaceful overthrow of a tyranny in Madagascar. The organization Service for Peace and Justice (SERPAJ) that she co-founded, denounced human rights violations during military dictatorships in Brazil, Argentina and Chile, under the most difficult conditions.

Affiliation to organization:

International Fellowship of Reconciliation - IFOR

Service for Peace and Justice - SERPAJ, Brazil

Key words:

- Analysis of peace building mechanisms
- Peace Education
- Religious understanding

"The life of every person has an absolute value."

Irma Schwager

Austria

Born in 1920 of politically active Jewish parents in Vienna, Irma Schwager fled to Belgium in 1938 and then to France. Detained in a camp, she escaped and joined the resistance movement. This experience led her to peace work. And the way that women are affected by wars made her an advocate for the independence of women and against structural violence. After Austria's liberation from fascism, she returned and became involved in the International Democratic Women's Federation. She is an advocate for the implementation of the goals of the United Nations Conference on women, and for disarmament.

Key words:

- Peace Education
- Structural violence (including patriarchal, caste, class, racial, and ethnic)
- Women's rights

"Recognize injustice, never again fascism, never again war – this maxim determined my life."

Marion Thuswald

Austria

Marion Thuswald was born in 1978 in Austria. In 1997 and 1998, after completing her training in social education, she worked as an Austrian Peace Service volunteer with a youth peace project in the war-torn city of Vukovar in Croatia. Back in Austria she became a member of the staff and later the board of the Austrian Peace Service. For a while she also served as managing director. From Vienna she visits and coordinates the team of Austrian Peace Service volunteers in Vukovar. She maintains and strengthens contacts she made in Croatia with people needing help, among others, many Roma.

Affiliation to organization:

Austrian Peace Service

International Fellowship of Reconciliation - IFOR

Youth Peace Group Danube

Key words:

- Building Civil Society
- Reconciliation
- Reconstruction

"All people are equal, distinct and unique."

Dr. Barbara Nath Wiser

Austria/India

Land/Region: North India, Himachal Pradesh

Working Place: Medicine and Health, Community Enhancement

Membership of Organisations:

-Nishtha Rural Health Education and Environment Center

-Aktion Regen, Austria

Born into peaceful Linz in Austria, Barbara Wiser graduated from High School and joined Vienna University. She passed her medical exam in 1977 and travelled to India. There "Dr. Barbara" met her future husband Baba Krishan Nath. His monk way of life, his music and the situation in India formed Dr. Barbara Nath Wiser and she decided to open up a hospital, specialized in homeopathy and acupuncture. Soon local help was found to run the facility with her. Today her life is based on medical care, helping the families in the area and trying to change the situation for the young.

"Peace is to begin in the family"

Dr. Anica Mikuš Kos

Dr. Anica Mikuš Kos, born 06.04.1935 in Čuprija (Yugoslavia), of Slovene nationality. After medical studies in Ljubljana, specialized in pediatrics and psychiatry in Ljubljana and was appointed as consultant child psychiatrist.

Main employments:

Head of the Department of Child Psychiatry at the University Pediatric Clinic in Ljubljana, Researcher at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the University in Ljubljana, and for the last 16 years of professional career Director of the Counselling Center for Children, Adolescents and Parents in Ljubljana.

Field of work:

- * Clinical work with children, adolescents and parents,
- * School and child mental health protection,

- * Community mental health,
- * Prevention of psychosocial disorders,
- * Child and adolescent mental health promotion,
- * Trauma in childhood,
- * Cooperation with volunteers in child mental health protection,
- * Design of programs for protection of child mental health in areas affected by war,
- * Psychosocial programs for teachers and primary health workers in areas affected by armed conflicts,
- * Educational work / teaching / developing curricula in child and adolescent mental health (for health workers, teachers, social workers)