

# INVITATION

The Berlin Sessions will gather European NGOs for an exchange on the concepts, the challenges, and the practice of humanitarian disarmament. Meet and listen to the experiences of representatives from **Oxfam, Human Rights Watch, Handicap International, Norwegian People's Aid, UNDP, IPPNW, Article 36, IKV Pax Christi and more** and discover fresh and alternative approaches to the subject.

The conference is spread over two days, with an evening event on the first that will include an interview with world renowned author **Eric Schlosser** (**Fast Food Nation, Command and Control**) and a concert by the renowned Berlin-based contemporary composer **Burak Özdemir** and his ensemble **Musica Sequenza**.

Thursday 23rd & Friday 24th

January 2014

Umspannwerk, Kreuzberg, Berlin

The conference fee is €40, (students €20)

If you would like to join or would like more information, visit:

[www.berlinsessions.eu](http://www.berlinsessions.eu)

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us

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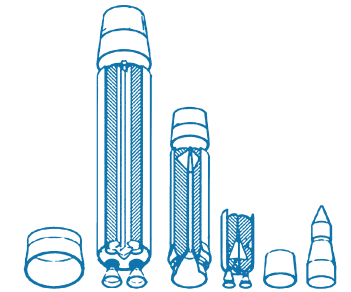
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UMSPANNWERK  
KREUZBERG 2014



**BERLIN SESSIONS**  
HUMANITARIAN  
DISARMAMENT



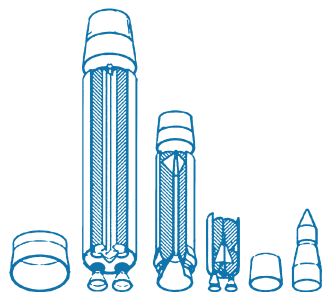
In partnership with

**Article 36**

  
**IKV PAX  
CHRISTI**  
**FRIEDRICH  
EBERT  
STIFTUNG**

**Day 1**  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

**UMSPANNWERK  
KREUZBERG 2014**



**BERLIN SESSIONS**

**HUMANITARIAN  
DISARMAMENT**

10:00 – 12:00

**Brunch,  
Registration**

12:00 – 12:15

**Welcome by  
conference hosts**  
**Nosizwe Baqwa** (ICAN)  
**Thomas Nash** (Article 36)

12:15 – 12:45

**Keynote**  
The Importance of  
Humanitarian Disarmament  
Speaker TBC

12:45 – 14:15

**Panel I**  
**Indiscriminate effects  
of weapons**

What are the challenges facing the mitigation of weapons with indiscriminate effects? How can the humanitarian approach to indiscriminate weapons systems have effects in the field, and what is an appropriate policy to counter the use or threat of inhumane weapons systems? Organizations that combine work in the field with advocacy have a unique insight into these questions.

**Speakers:** **Grethe Østern** (Norwegian Peoples Aid)  
**Richard Lennae** (UN Office for Disarmament Affairs)  
**Marion Libertucci** (Handicap International)  
*Further speakers to be announced*  
Moderation: **Susi Snyder** (IKV Pax Christi)

14:15 – 14:45

**Break, Snacks & Coffee**

14:45 – 15:15

**Lightning talk**  
Nuclear weapons as a global humanitarian problem

Unlike other weapons

systems, nuclear weapons have been treated solely as a matter of abstract strategic politics, allowing the nuclear disarmament discourse within the international system to stagnate. A new and fresh approach is needed that addresses the actual consequences of WMD in line with the priorities of developing countries and the humanitarian agenda.

**Jacob Romer** (ICAN)

**Lightning talk**  
**Explosive weapons in  
populated areas**

Explosive weapons include improvised explosive devices (IEDs) as well as explosive ordnance such as mortars, rockets, artillery shells and unguided bombs. All of these weapons use blast and fragmentation to kill and injure those exposed. What can civil society do to better understand and more effectively address this problem?  
**Richard Moyes** (Article 36)

15:15 – 16:00

**Breakout Group Mingling**

16:00 – 17:30

**Panel II**  
**Preventing Humanitarian Harm  
through the construction of  
international norms and laws**

How are humanitarian disarmament treaties developed? What can we learn from previous treaty making processes and how can civil society work to ensure a successful and effective outcome?

**Speakers:** **Anna Macdonald** (Oxfam), **Gry Larsen** (former state secretary, Norwegian MFA), **Alexander Kmentt** (Austrian MFA), **Sara Sekkenes** (UNDP)  
Moderator: **Torbjørn Graff Hugo** (ILPI)

17:30 – 18:00

**Closing Remarks**

**EVENING EVENT**

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January, ICAN and our partner organizations invite conference participants to an evening reception at the Umspannwerk. The evening will consist of an interview with the celebrated American author **Eric Schlosser** (Fast Food Nation, Command and Control) and a concert by the renowned Berlin-based contemporary composer **Burak Özdemir** and his ensemble **Musica Sequenza**.

Eric Schlosser first found fame after the publication of his book Fast Food Nation,

which provoked a debate about the food industry both in the US and Europe. In his latest book Command and Control, Schlosser investigates the security regime governing the US nuclear arsenal, describing an up until now unknown history of accidents, near-misses and security breaches. At the Umspannwerk, Schlosser will share his thoughts and experiences from his exploration of mankind's darkest creation.

Burak's works unite the classical and the contemporary. Merging forms of classical music with references to contemporary digital music and visual culture, Burak succeeds in creating works that resonate between time. The evening's performance **Transmute** has been specially created for the Berlin Sessions.

**The event is open to the public**



In partnership with

**Article 36**





## Day 2

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January

09.30 – 10.00

### Opening session

10:00 – 10:30

#### Lightning talk

**Learning from successful campaigns: International Campaign to Ban Landmines**

In the 1990s, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines developed an effective model for creating a ban on an indiscriminate weapon, leading to the adoption of the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty. Since then, it has been a driving force behind the implementation of

the treaty through the same combination of research, advocacy and partnership. How can other campaigns and initiatives learn from and build upon these experiences?

**Tamar Gabelnick (ICBL)**

#### Lightning talk

**Emerging technologies and pre-emptive campaigning**

Blinking laser technology was banned in 1995, even before it came into use. Since 2013, the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots is working to ban the development and use of fully autonomous weapons before it is too late.

**Mary Wareham (Human Rights Watch)**

10:30 – 12:00

### Parallel Sessions Part I

**Addressing Humanitarian catastrophes**

The first parallel sessions will revolve around the theme Addressing Humanitarian Catastrophes. The plenary will be broken into three groups, each with two facilitators. The different groups will discuss the following:

#### Evidence and Victim Based Approaches

How have the gathering of evidence and victims' perspec-

tives changed humanitarian disarmament campaigns, and how can lessons from past campaigns inform civil society work on both emerging and existing disarmament discourses? Experienced civil society campaigners will participate in the discussion.

#### Response Capacity

What is an adequate humanitarian response to the use of the different kinds of inhumane and indiscriminate weapons, and to what degree does such a response capacity exist? The discussion will be informed by those with expertise of different weapons systems.

#### Politics as Prevention

How can international politics help prevent humanitarian catastrophes caused by inhumane weapons? Is there a humanitarian obligation to prevent catastrophes as well as to respond to them?

12:00 – 12:30

#### Lightning talk

**Disarmament and development**

Disarmament policies and processes can help to facilitate a decrease in military expenditure, defuse tensions and build trust in international

and domestic post-conflict relations, impede rearmament, the development, acquisition and spread of new weapons and ultimately diminish the risk, incidence, and severity of armed conflict. How can disarmament policies feed into the post-2015 development agenda?

**David Atwood (Small Arms Survey)**

#### Lightning talk

**The next ban process?**

A global ban on nuclear weapons is long overdue and with enough public pressure and political leadership, can be achieved in the near future. Mexico hosts the second conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in February 2014. A new humanitarian disarmament process could already be in the making.

**Beatrice Fihn (WILPF, ICAN)**

12:30 – 14:00

### Lunch

14:00 – 15:30

### Parallel Sessions Part II

**Civil Society Strategies**

The second parallel sessions will provide a space for participants to exchange their

views on practical aspects of humanitarian disarmament campaigns. While the workshops will be introduced and facilitated by campaigners with expertise in the respective fields, the purpose is for attendees to share experiences and tackle common problems together. Participants can choose amongst the following workshops:

#### Choosing the right arena

A campaign that wants to attain political results will need to calculate on which playing field(s) it will focus its energies in order to maximize the probability of success. From multi-lateral fora within and outside the UN to drivers of domestic change, which way to go?

#### Framing

How do we talk about the problem and our proposed solution in a way that is highly accessible, convincing and maximizes the political impact?

#### Public events and actions

Public events and actions can galvanize campaigners and increase the profile of a cause, but they can also be tricky to get right. How do we plan and execute public actions that highlight our cause?

#### Divestment

Divestment occurs when institutions remove financial support from select companies in order to promote certain behavior or policy. Does divestment work to promote humanitarian disarmament?

#### Media outreach

Media relations and media work provides challenges for most civil society organisations, even more so when working in coalitions. How should disarmament messages be framed in order to reach a broader audience?

#### Working in coalitions

How can coalitions amplify the voices of their members and a plurality of constituents can strengthen the urgency of a cause?

#### Working with decision-makers

How do we best engage those who shape the policies we aim to influence?

15:30 – 16:00

### Closing Remarks (hosts)