

WORLD**BEYOND**WAR.org
a global movement to end all wars

Annual Report 2023

World BEYOND War is a global nonviolent movement to end war and establish a just and sustainable peace.

World BEYOND War was founded on January 1st, 2014, when co-founders David Hartsough and David Swanson set out to create a global movement to abolish the institution of war itself, not just the “war of the day.” If war is ever to be abolished, then it must be taken off the table as a viable option. Just as there is no such thing as “good” or necessary slavery, there is no such thing as a “good” or necessary war. Both institutions are abhorrent and never acceptable, no matter the circumstances. So, if we can’t use war to resolve international conflicts, what can we do? Finding a way to transition to a global security system that is supported by international law, diplomacy, collaboration, and human rights, and defending those things with nonviolent action rather than the threat of violence, is the heart of WBW. Our work includes education that dispels myths, like “War is natural” or “We have always had war,” and shows people not only that war should be abolished, but also that it actually can be. Our work includes all variety of nonviolent activism that moves the world in the direction of ending all war.

World BEYOND War

World BEYOND War | 513 E Main St #1484 | Charlottesville, VA 22902 USA

World BEYOND War | PO Box 152, Toronto PO E, ON, M6H 4E2 Canada

World BEYOND War | CC Unicentro Bogotá Local 2-222 | Apartado Postal 358646 Colombia

worldbeyondwar.org – info@worldbeyondwar.org

facebook.com/worldbeyondwar – twitter.com/worldbeyondwar

Founded January 1, 2014

World BEYOND War is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Our U.S. tax ID is 23-7217029. Donations are U.S. tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.



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Message from David Swanson, Executive Director

World BEYOND War is growing at an increasing rate. In 2023 we hired organizers in Latin America and Africa, who join our Canada Organizer and our Organizing Director on staff, along with our Executive Director, Education Director, Technology Director, Development Director, Social Media Manager, a researcher, and an intern. Much of our activity is done by volunteers, however, and we leaped from 22 active chapters the year before to 32 chapters in 21 countries in 2023. Our Declaration of Peace now has signers in 196 countries.

In 2023 we placed an increased focus on media work (production of web tools, videos, podcasts, articles, and social media, as well as outreach to media outlets) and reshaped our strategy for ongoing work to emphasize not only education and activism, but the third area of media and communications.

This was a year in which two very different wars, in Ukraine and in Palestine, were big stories in the media. We've worked to increase opposition to those wars, to nudge war opponents toward opposing all sides rather than cheering for certain warmakers, to activate newly engaged peace advocates, and to recruit them into a lasting movement for war abolition and peace-building beyond the current crises.

In 2023, we sought, through our annual conference, our annual film fest, and numerous articles and interviews, to more effectively address the perennial question of how to use nonviolence in the face of violence, how to employ unarmed civilian defense, diplomacy, the rule of law, and alternatives to mirroring the violence of an attacker or invader. We've planned a new online course on the topic for 2024.



With the close of 2023, World BEYOND War becomes 10 years old. We've educated huge numbers of people about peaceful alternatives. We've played a leading role in passing resolutions, in divesting funds from weaponry, in preventing the construction of new military bases. We've built a large and growing community of informed global citizens working together, strategically, and cooperatively for steps away from the institution of war and toward a sustainable world. We aim to do much more each year than the year before.

With the close of 2023, World BEYOND War was working with allies around the world to press – with some initial success – for the application of the rule of law to the horrific war on Gaza – among many other steps, generating a half-million emails to governments in support of prosecution at the International Court of Justice. Not only is the reliability of international bodies being tested, but the risk of even wider and more deadly wars is on the rise.

The case for a wiser path is needed more desperately than ever. We are finding our global footing none too soon. Peace!

David C. Swanson



Staff, Board of Directors, Advisory Board

World BEYOND War's staff, board, and advisory board continued to grow and to become more representative of the globe. We now have nine paid staff members, while also funding part-time researchers or assistants as needed. Our unpaid board and advisory board, and our chapter organizers and other volunteers contribute mightily to our accomplishments. Biographies of all WBW staff, Board, and Advisory Board can be found on our website: <https://worldbeyondwar.org/who>

Staff

World BEYOND War has a dedicated and growing staff:



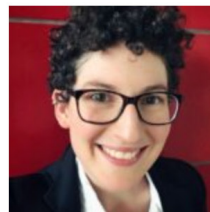
David Swanson

Executive Director



Greta Zarro

Organizing Director



Rachel Small

Canada Organizer



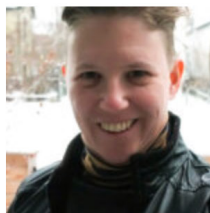
Phill Gittins

Education Director



Marc Eliot Stein

Technology Director



Alex McAdams

Development Director



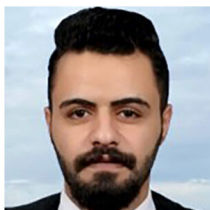
Alessandra Granelli

Social Media Manager



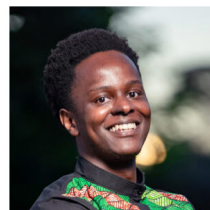
Gabriel Aguirre

Latin America Organizer



**Mohammed
Abunahel**

Bases Researcher



Seth Kinyua

Development Intern



Guy Feugap

Africa Organizer



Vanessa Fox

Organizing Intern

Board of Directors

World BEYOND War is run by a volunteer Board of Directors:



Kathy Kelly

President



**Liz Remmerswaal
Hughes**

Vice President



Gar Smith

Secretary



John Reuwer

Treasurer



Donnal Walter



Sakura Saunders



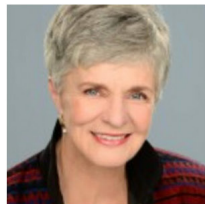
Siana Bangura



Alice Slater



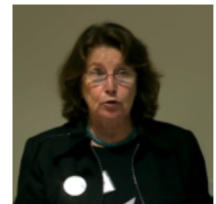
Foad Izadi



Alison Broinowski



David Swanson



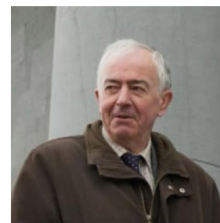
**Odile Hugonot
Haber**



**Anniela "Anni"
Carracedo**



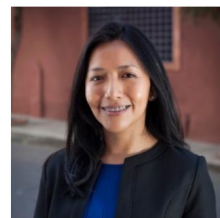
Yurii Sheliazhenko



Ed Horgan



Robert Fantina



Lucia Centellas



David Hartsough

Advisory Board



Mairead Maguire



Maria Santelli



Hakim Young



**Christine Achieng
Odera**



Gareth Porter



Ann Wright



Medea Benjamin



Johan Galtung



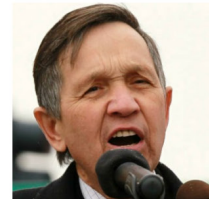
Angelo Cardona



Patrick Hiller



Matthew Hoh



Dennis Kucinich



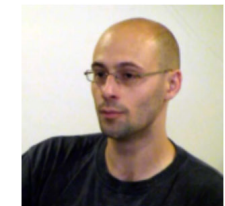
Rivera Sun



Tony Jenkins



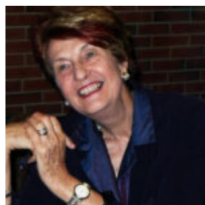
Tamara Lorincz



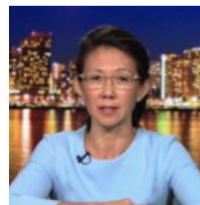
Yves Engler



Rey Ty



Helen Caldicott



Christine Ahn



Salma Yusuf

Coalitions and Partnerships

World BEYOND War is a member of the [Coalition Against U.S. Foreign Military Bases](#); the [Divest from the War Machine Coalition](#); the [Global Day Against Military Spending](#); the [International Peace Bureau](#); the Korea Collaboration Network; the [Poor People's Campaign](#); United for Peace and Justice; the [United National Antiwar Coalition](#); the [International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons](#); the [Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space](#); the international network [No to war – no to NATO](#); [Overseas Base Re-alignment and Closure Coalition](#); [People Over Pentagon](#); Campaign to End the Selective Service System; [No Fighter Jets Coalition](#); [Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network](#); [Peace Education Network \(PEN\)](#); [Beyond Nuclear](#); [Working Group on Youth, Peace, and Security](#); [Global Alliance for Ministries and Infrastructures for Peace](#), [WE.net](#), [Abolition 2000](#), [War Industry Resisters Network](#), Groups Against Arms Fairs, [Defuse Nuclear War](#), [Warheads to Windmills](#).

WBW frequently partners with allied peace and justice organizations such as the International Peace Bureau, Rotary Action Group for Peace, RootsAction.org, CODEPINK, Veterans For Peace, and many others.



Educating Around the World

2023 was another year of significant progress. We continued to expand the reach and impact of our educational work through online courses; webinars; in-person events; youth initiatives; the development of resources, tools, and information; and collaboration.



We organised or participated in dozens of [webinars](#), talks, and workshops. We held the second annual [24-hour Peace Wave](#) with participation from all time zones, in partnership with the International Peace Bureau. Each month we hosted an online [book club](#) featuring a new author and their book on issues of war and peace. Our staff, board members, and speakers bureau members gave many dozens of talks and presentations, online and off, on topics including peace, security, war abolition, conflict transformation, non-violent communication and action, climate change, and the role of young people in such issues.

We produced new videos, graphics, flyers, and social media content, and added more items to our [resources database](#). We released a new annual update of our [Mapping Militarism](#) report, a database of information about current wars, military spending, military “aid,” and peace treaties around the world, as well as expanding our [mapping tool](#) for military bases (see the No Bases campaign below).



Podcast

We produced a new podcast episode every month in 2023, aiming for a wide diversity of topics and guests while interviewing antiwar activists with a personal story/human interest focus. Our podcast has had over 20,000 listens, and we continue to promote it heavily on social media with the hope of reaching ever larger general-interest audiences.



Online Courses

Our online courses influenced the thinking and practices of over 500 new or experienced peacebuilders from around the world, representing diverse sectors such as civil society, academia, business, and the public sector. Courses offered in 2023 included:

- War and the Environment (April 10 - May 22)
- Leaving World War II Behind (July 3 - August 13)
- The Monroe Doctrine at 200 and What to Replace it With (Nov. 6 – Dec. 17)
- Writing Peace (February and July)
- Ending War 101 (June and Sep 2023). This course is co-created with, by, and for The

Rotary Action Group for Peace and other members of the Rotary community. It is based on War Abolition 101.

Collectively, these courses raised funds to support our work, contributed to the work of new or existing chapters, supported the further development of our work with Rotary, and equipped participants with a diverse array of resources, tools, and support to enhance their capacities in matters related to war, security, peace, and climate change. Our Education Director Phill Gittins also contributed to an online course in Spanish focussing on the intersections of mental health and conflict. This course consists of three modules, over 30 videos, and contributions from nine facilitators representing diverse sectors, professionals, and locations. Besides offering subject expertise and guidance, Gittins created and led Module 2, focussing on the themes of peace, violence, conflict, and power.



Annual War Abolisher Awards



Organizational War Abolisher Award of 2023 Goes to Wage Peace Australia

[Read More »](#)



Organizational Lifetime War Abolisher Award of 2023 Goes to Fundación Mil Milenios de Paz

[Read More »](#)



World BEYOND War Presents the David Hartsough Individual Lifetime War Abolisher of 2023 Award to David Bradbury

[Read More »](#)



Individual War Abolisher Award of 2023 Goes to Sultana Khaya

[Read More »](#)

2023 was the third year of our [War Abolisher Awards](#).

The Individual War Abolisher award went to Sultana Khaya, a Saharawi nonviolent human rights activist from Western Sahara. Khaya has been a phenomenally courageous leader in resisting the Moroccan occupation of Western Sahara and in making the wider world aware of that ongoing occupation.


The Organizational War Abolisher award went to Wage Peace Australia. This organization is a leading global inspiration to many peace-related campaigns, including those working to close down giant arms fairs. Wage Peace Australia accurately describes its approach: “We jump on tanks, blockade weapons factories, occupy arms dealers’ offices and reclaim military bases as well as engaging in public discourse and other more conventional campaign methods.”

The David Hartsough Individual Lifetime War Abolisher Award went to Australian filmmaker David Bradbury. David Bradbury is the creator of 28 documentary films that advance our understanding of war, peace, international relations, and peace activism. Bradbury’s films have been broadcast around the world on the BBC, PBS, ZDF (Germany), and TF1-France, as well as ABC, SBS, and commercial television networks in Australia.

The Organizational Lifetime War Abolisher Award went to Fundación Mil Milenios de Paz. This nonprofit organization, based in Argentina, was founded in 1995 and has for 28 years through creativity and hard work helped to develop a culture of peace in Argentina, in Latin America, and around the world.


Virtual Film Festival: Celebrating Stories of Nonviolence (March 11-25, 2023)

CELEBRATING STORIES OF NONVIOLENCE



A virtual film festival exploring the power of nonviolent action, from Gandhi's Salt March, to ending war in Liberia, to civil discourse and healing in Montana.

March 11 - March 25, 2023
Get tickets at worldbeyondwar.org/filmfest2023



WORLD**BEYOND**WAR.org
a global movement to end all wars

This year's "Celebrating Stories of Nonviolence" virtual film festival from March 11-25, 2023 examined the power of nonviolent action in the face of war and violence. A unique mix of films explored this theme, from Gandhi's Salt March, to ending war in Liberia, to civil discourse and healing in Montana. The festival brought together 235 registrants and speakers from 18 different countries. More information about the film fest is available at: <https://worldbeyondwar.org/filmfest2023>.

World BEYOND War gear from our [online store](#) -- scarves, shirts, bags, and of course books -- serve to spread the word, start conversations, and make new friends for the movement to end all war!





#NoWar2023 Conference: Nonviolent Resistance to Militarism (September 22-24, 2023)

This year's annual conference, #NoWar2023: Nonviolent Resistance to Militarism, built on the theme of the 2023 film festival by tackling one of the quintessential questions that World BEYOND War is often asked: How can we maintain a nonviolent stance when the tanks are rolling in and bombs are being dropped? Over the course of 3 days, we highlighted real-world examples from around the world, both historical and contemporary, that showed the effective use of nonviolent resistance in the face of occupations, dictatorships, war, and militarized violence. There was a strong sense of international solidarity throughout the event, as it was our most diverse conference yet with representatives from 38 different countries. Conference recordings are available at:

<https://worldbeyondwar.org/nowar2023>.

"It must have been a work of many months; it went so smoothly! Great work. And, again, the camaraderie of meeting with so many people, so global, that share similar concerns and goals was powerful."

"Very real, courageous, and practical examples of nonviolent resistance."

Educational Webinars

We launched a new webinar series titled “Reimagining Peace and Security in Latin America and the Caribbean”. The series consisted of five webinars, scheduled monthly from April to July 2023, followed by a concluding webinar in September 2023. Webinars 1, 2, and 3 delved into strategies for ‘demilitarizing security’, ‘managing conflict without violence’, and ‘creating a culture of peace’, as outlined in “A Global Security System: An Alternative to War” (AGSS). Each webinar featured three distinguished speakers and used break-out rooms and other digital technologies to facilitate real-time learning and exchange. Among the speakers from UN agencies, civil society, academia, and the private sectors were individuals such as the Regional Director of UNDCO Latin America and the Caribbean and the Vice President of Freedom House.

Webinars 4 and 5 moved from learning about the three broad strategies to the implementation of peace initiatives. This involved conducting an online training session on designing peace projects, supporting youth to implement their peace projects, and culminating in an end-of-project celebration to showcase the practical application of insights gained from the webinar series. The webinar series was developed and implemented in collaboration with the United 4 Change Center and Peace First, and featured simultaneous translations in English and Spanish.



Other Webinars

- Co-organising and facilitating (with young people) a Webinar on [Youth, Peace Education, and Action](#) (300+ registrants) featuring young leaders from Burundi, Nigeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Venezuela.
- Engaging in a three-way recorded dialogue on issues of peace and war with a researcher from the University of Cambridge.
- Delivery of a specialised training for [Peace Education and Practice Network](#) on International Peace Day, focussing on peace project management.
- Chairing a session focused on “[Improving Intergenerational Dialogue and Action for and Security](#)” as part of an International Conference on Religion, Culture, Peace, and Education.
- Designing and delivering an online training module titled “[Emotions & Leadership](#)” as part of a 7-month program for business leaders in Argentina.
- Delivering a presentation to NGOs in Venezuela with a focus on Youth and Peace-building.
- Speaking at a global conference featuring Rotary Peace Fellows from five different continents.

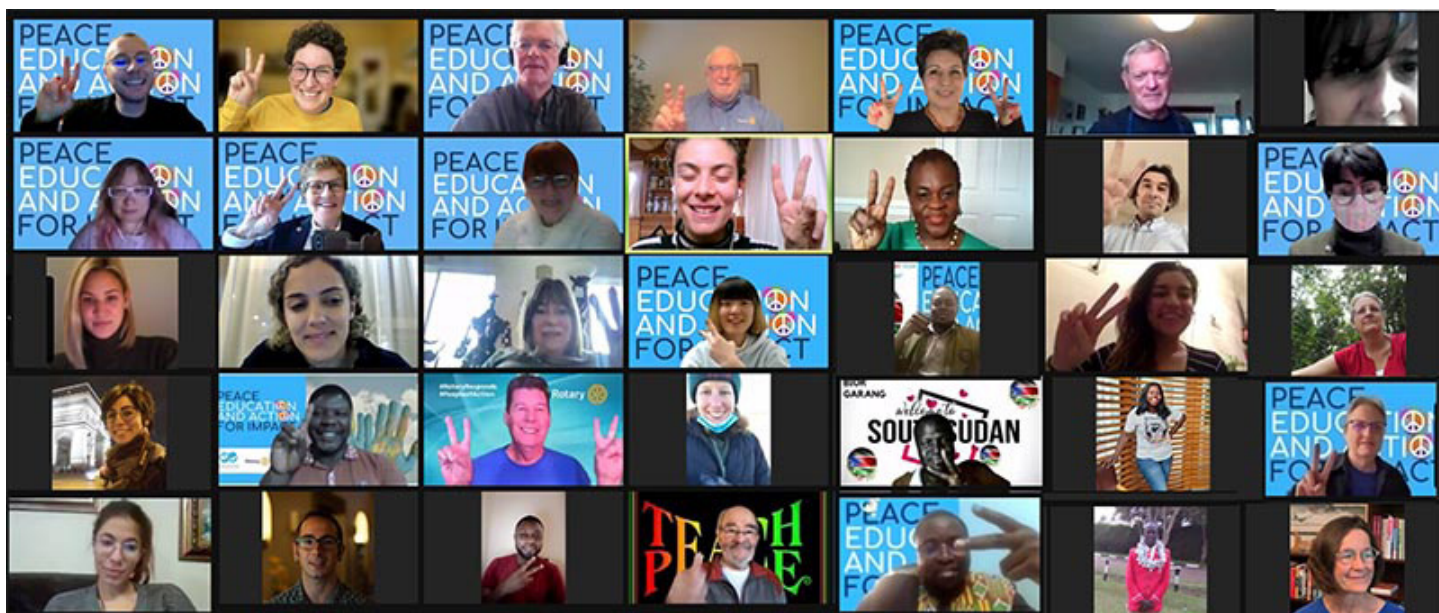
Educational In-Person Events

Our Education Director Phill Gittins participated in a diverse range of events held in Europe, Latin America, and Southeast Asia. Highlights include:

- Leading the co-creation and facilitation of a four-day “[Peace Camp](#)” in Bolivia, training over 20 young leaders from across the country around the fundamentals of peacebuilding and positive change work.
- Co-creating and facilitating a session titled “[Youth Work and Peacebuilding in War, Conflict, and Fragile Settings](#)” as part of a large symposium on ‘Youth Work in Europe’ in Budapest, Hungary, marking 25 years of the European Commission and Council of Europe Youth Work Partnership.
- Delivering a keynote addressing youth peace education at a “[Global Education Seminar](#)” in Tallinn, Estonia, attended by young people, educators, researchers, and youth workers from across Europe.
- Attending and speaking at an “[International Peace Summit for Peace in Ukraine](#)”, held in Vienna, Austria, alongside other board and advisory board members
- Being chosen to participate in [Rotary Positive Peace Leadership Summit in Nepal](#).

Youth Initiatives

We launched the second iteration of our flagship youth program, Peace Education and Action for Impact (PEAI). The goal of PEAi is to build a global network of young leaders (aged 18 to 35) equipped to promote peace and challenge war. In 2023, the program worked with and empowered youth leaders from seven countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ethiopia, Ghana, Gurnsey, Haiti, Iraq, and the Philippines. The program spanned 14-weeks,



with six weeks of online peace education, 8-weeks of youth-led peace action, and a developmental focus throughout. Collectively, this program not only enabled young people to exchange ideas, learn from each other, and strengthen their capacities as peacebuilders. It also supported young people to put their learning into practice by designing and implementing their own community-rooted peace projects, addressing one of the AGSS's broad strategies. PEAI is run in collaboration with the Rotary Action Group for Peace, Rotary Districts/Clubs, WBW Chapters, and other locally-embedded partners.

Since its inception in 2021, PEAI has connected and supported youth, communities, and organisations in 19 countries. Apart from the countries involved in 2023, PEAI has delivered the program in countries such as Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Kenya, Nigeria, Russia, Serbia, South Sudan, Turkey, Ukraine, USA, and Venezuela.

The benefits of PEAI to WBW are various and include making a supportive contribution to our efforts to enhance youth engagement in peace and anti-war work, improving our work around intergenerational and cross-cultural learning and collaboration, establishing new or developing existing partnerships with over 40 organisations, convening dialogues to share our work with diverse international audiences, and demonstrating how our educational work is clearly linked with direct action as youth use our expertise, ideas, and tools to inform their projects on the ground. The result is a win-win-win-win situation: benefiting young people, the local communities and organisations they are part of, and WBW.

This work is a foundation to build on. The 2024 iteration, currently in the planning phase, aims to secure funding to extend the PEAI experience to youth and communities in 10 African countries in 2024 and an additional 10 countries in 2025 (regions and countries to be determined).



Resources, Tools, and Information

We developed a diverse array of resources, tools, and information for use by practitioners and researchers in the field. Highlights include:

- A paper titled “Youth and Conflict” for the EU-Council of Europe. The paper offers specific data and analysis on young people’s exposure to conflict in Europe and world-wide; examines the disparity between military expenditure and investments in peace; and presents various educational opportunities, resources, and tools for those interested in studying peace and conflict. This paper is part of a larger book project focusing on youth and conflict transformation, with anticipated publication early in 2024.
- A co-authored book chapter titled “Between Globalization and Decolonization - Reflections on Contemporary Peace Education in Bolivia” for the publication [“Teaching Peace amidst Conflict and Postcolonialism”](#) by Cambridge Scholars Publishing (Peace Studies: Edges and Innovations).
- Another co-authored book chapter titled “Peaceful Ways of being with Self”, for the publication [“Peacebuilding Practice – A textbook for Practitioners: An Overview of concept and practice in Southeast Asia”](#).
- Creation of two lesson plans – “Understanding Violence” and “Positive Peace” – to support peace education efforts, especially in schools and with young people. Building on the Teach Peace Primary Pack, the Teach Peace Secondary Pack by the Quakers features 51 lessons from 40 organisations.
- Co-design and creation of mono-communal and bi-communal educational resources and lesson plans for the Association for Historical Dialogue and Research. The resources aim to support 250+ teachers to educate about and for peace in schools across Cyprus.

Collaboration

2023 led to the development of new or strengthening of existing collaborations with key players in the field including the EU-Council of Europe, OSCE, GIZ, Institute for Economics and Peace, and Rotary.

2023 also laid the groundwork for new opportunities in 2024 including:

- Potential collaborations with universities and community groups in Bolivia, Chile, and Pakistan, among others, and connecting with chapter work and regional organizer efforts.
- Writing a foreword for a forthcoming book on Peace & Justice Education, anticipated for publication in 2024 with Routledge.
- Contributions to the Journal of Education. WBW Education Director Phill Gittins has been invited to join the editorial board and intends to advocate for increased focus on anti-war and nonviolence work in the journal. Discussions are underway regarding the development of a special section on the website aimed at supporting practitioners to bring their work to a global audience.
- Collaborating with Rotaract for Europe. Gittins wrote a funding proposal last year aimed at expanding our work in the Balkans by providing training to cohorts of young leaders in five countries. We anticipate hearing back about the decision in February 2024.



Merchants of Death War Crimes Tribunal

MERCHANTS OF DEATH WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL



COME WAR PROFITEERS,
GIVE ACCOUNT

The Opening Session of The Merchants of Death War Crimes Tribunal began on November 12, 2023. This People's Tribunal will hold accountable – through testimony of witnesses and documentary evidence – four U.S. weapons manufacturers (Raytheon, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and General Atomics) which produce and sell products that attack and kill not only combatants but non-combatants as well.

World BEYOND War has played a key role in supporting the Merchants of Death War Crimes Tribunal, through: website design & hosting; Zoom hosting for the Opening Session of the Tribunal, which had 1,908 registrants; and ongoing technical support as weekly video evidence is released throughout the Tribunal proceedings. For more information about the Tribunal, visit <https://merchantsofdeath.org>.



Activism Around the World

World BEYOND War Africa Regional Peace Conference



Two hundred and fourteen people registered for World BEYOND War's first Africa Regional Peace Conference, titled "Imagine Africa Beyond War", which was held virtually from 23 to 25 November 2023. The event explored existing and potential opportunities that WBW chapters in Africa have to contribute to world peace-building efforts, by showcasing the unique perspectives of activists across the continent who are challenging the structural causes of wars.

World BEYOND War's vision is ideally grounded in Africa, a continent long plagued by wars that very often do not interest the whole world in the same way as when other parts of the world are concerned. Whether they are in the West, the East, in Africa or elsewhere, wars cause the same damage and trauma to people's lives and have equally serious consequences for the environment. That's why it's important to talk about war in the same way wherever it occurs, and to look for solutions with the same seriousness for stopping it and rebuilding devastated areas. This is the approach taken by WBW in Africa and is behind the idea of an annual regional conference, with a view to achieving a certain justice in the struggle against wars around the world. The conference agenda and recordings are available at: <https://worldbeyondwar.org/africa2023>.

No Bases Campaign

Our [campaign to close bases](#) continues to develop popular tools to assist our allies in this effort. Since its inception in 2022, our [online bases map](#) has undergone continuous refinement and enhancement. In the year 2023, significant improvements were implemented, such as the addition of base images, and the ability to categorize bases by specific functions, including those used by NATO, and those that house nuclear weapons. Also, bases can now be searched for according to whether they house Army, Navy or Air Force personnel. The Interactive Map is the second most viewed page on the World BEYOND War website (after the home page), and is increasingly utilized by other organizations seeking to expose the many negative impacts of U.S. foreign military bases.



We continued to support successful efforts to prevent the construction of a NATO military training ground in [Montenegro](#). We launched new campaigns to prevent bases in [Norway](#), [Ecuador](#), and [Papua New Guinea](#), and to close bases in [Djibouti](#).

We're working on plans for a 2024 annual conference on this theme.



Snapshots from Chapters Around the World

2023 was a year of tremendous growth, with the formation of many new chapters, particularly across Latin America and Africa, as well as partnerships with new affiliates. World BEYOND War currently coordinates 32 chapters in 21 countries – with many more in development – and has 99 affiliates. [View the chapter/affiliate map](#) to explore where our chapters and affiliates are around the world. Below are some short snapshots from some of our chapters' work over the past year:



Aconcagua, Chile: In 2023, the chapter hosted and organized meetings for an important activist from Brazil, Thomaz Enlazador. The chapter interviewed various personalities from Chile and the world through both in-person and online streaming events. The chapter formed partnerships with other organizations that promote the flag of peace and a culture of peace and has continued to support various sister centers such as Casa Icaria, Rukayün, Aldea de Paz, Pewentepetl (Añiwarraki), and more. The chapter has hosted several retreats and the Peace Route Foundation has joined World BEYOND War. The chapter also took part in two vision councils that brought together an enormous diversity of territories in the Central Region of Chile.

Australia: The Australian chapter of World BEYOND War was launched on 6 August 2023 on Hiroshima Day. The Australian chapter emerged from the involvement of a number of Australian Quakers in an international group, chaired by WBW Board President Kathy Kelly, that is seeking to bring a large group of former Afghan peace workers to safe resettlement in other countries. Assisting this process is the involvement of Permaculture4Refugees, an international body co-established by the Australian Quaker, Rosemary Morrow, who is also a founding member of the Australian chapter of World BEYOND War. To date almost 40

of these former Afghan peace workers have been brought to Europe. Outside of this the Australian chapter is proceeding to develop a plan of action focused on three key areas, namely: 1) developing alternatives to war and violence; 2) working to reduce the impacts of war, including from legacy and indiscriminate weapons; and 3) working for accountability in terms of waging war, primarily through support of Australians for War Powers Reform (AWPR), which was founded by Dr Alison Broinowski, a member of the Board of Directors of World BEYOND War. Additionally, the Australian chapter is interested in ongoing coalition building with other groups. To date this has primarily been with Let's Talk Peace Ballarat, and its co-founder and co-convenor, Madonna Quixley. The chapter recently participated in the forum "Turning 'The Dream' of Peace into Action" (which Let's Talk Peace Ballarat co-sponsored with Charter for Compassion and ICAN Australia) at which WBW Co-Founder David Hartsough made an important presentation.



Berlin, Germany: On January 13, the chapter participated with an info-table in the International Rosa Luxemburg Conference. The next day, the chapter participated in the Luxemburg/Liebkecht demonstration, and walked with thousands of people to the Memorial of the Socialists, where Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht are buried. On April 8, together with many anti-war groups, the chapter took part in the Easter Peace Event, which focused on calling for peace in Ukraine. On May 8, the Day of Liberation from Fascism and War, the chapter participated in an event with the World BEYOND War Banner. The chapter was also present at the August 8 events to commemorate the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Since October 7 and the start of the war in Gaza, the chapter has held frequent protests calling for a ceasefire in Palestine. In addition to these events, the chapter held weekly vigils opposing militarism and imperialism in Latin America. The chapter is a proponent of a multipolar world for peace and has been running this campaign for almost 5 years every Saturday. Throughout the year, the chapter published numerous articles and online web campaigns, the most prominent of which calls for the end to the war in Ukraine and has garnered many signatures. Chapter Coordinator Heinrich Buecker is, worryingly, [facing charges](#) for a speech he made in June 2022, in which he questioned why the German government was supporting neo-Nazi organizations in Ukraine.

Burundi: On May 16, the World BEYOND War Burundi chapter celebrated the International Day of Living in Peace while launching the chapter. In August, students from Ngozi University participated in a meeting about how youth can help prevent gender-based violence. In September, the chapter organized a roundtable at Burundi University Peace Club and discussed nonviolent communication as a tool for preventing conflicts.



California, U.S.: In 2023, the California Chapter continued to offer peace education activities with a Guest Speaker Webinar Program and the Peace Studies Book Club. Webinars featured David Hartsough, Co-Founder of World BEYOND War; Cynthia Papermaster of SF Bay CODEPINK; Brian Farr of Rotary Peace Action; John Lindsey-Poland of American Friends Service Committee; and MacGregor Eddy of the DISARM Committee of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. The Peace Studies Book Club met on six occasions throughout the year, with discussions facilitated by Ross Heckmann. Highlights of the sessions were discussions of the book *War In Ukraine: Making Sense of a Senseless Conflict* by Medea Benjamin and Nicolas Davies, and *War Is A Racket* by Smedley Butler. In addition, Chapter Co-Coordinator Bob McKechnie was honored by Cathedral City, California at a ceremony on World Peace Day (September 21st) for his work on the Cathedral City Peace Initiative, which achieved the status of International City of Peace. On October 31st, chapter members MacGregor Eddy and Diana Kubilos attended a protest of a scheduled test missile launch at the front gates of Vandenburg Space Force base near Lompoc, California. MacGregor Eddy worked with allies to organize the protest, and it was a successful show of support for peace and for ending the missile tests.



Cameroon: In 2023, the Cameroon Chapter's (CWBW) work was based on 4 areas:

- 1) Building and strengthening partnerships for peace: The chapter strengthened its collaboration with WILPF Cameroon and other organizations including Women's Peace Initiatives, Youth for Peace, Femmes pour la promotion du Leadership moral, Action de Solidarité pour la démocratie et les droits humains. The chapter worked together with these organizations to develop the project "Fostering social cohesion among youth to prevent hate speech and political violence in Cameroon," which began in September 2023 and will run until February 2025.
- 2) Campaigns and awareness-raising: CWBW continued its campaign against autonomous weapons systems, known as "killer robots." On 15 February 2023, in partnership with the Nanfah Higher Institute of Science and Technology in Dschang, a workshop was organized to raise student awareness of the dangers of lethal autonomous weapons.
- 3) Peace education: On the International Day of Peace, the chapter joined the national and international community in celebrating peace. Around 300 primary school children and twenty teachers took part in a talk on peace.
- 4) Regional organizing for peace: CWBW is working to extend the WBW anti-war vision across Africa. In order to explore existing opportunities in Africa for war prevention and peace-building, the CWBW Coordinator, Guy Feugap, organized a virtual peace conference with the theme "Imagine Africa Beyond War," which took place from 23 to 25 November 2023 and was well attended, with over 200 participants registered. Additionally, earlier in the year during March and April, the CWBW Coordinator was in Kenya on a residency aimed at developing solutions to ensure that young people are effectively taken into account in democratic processes.

Guy Feugap was later hired as World BEYOND War Africa Organizer.

Connecticut, U.S.: In 2023, chapter coordinator John Miksad's op-eds advocating for peace were published in numerous outlets, including *Counterpunch*, *Peacevoice*, *LA Progressive*, *The Elizabethton Star*, and *Z Network*. The chapter sponsored WBW's annual film festival as well as the Veterans For Peace boat, the Golden Rule, which made a 5-day stop with several events held in Norwalk, CT. The chapter participated in numerous parades, marches, and events throughout the year, including the Norwalk Memorial Day Parade, Prayers for Peace in Groton, the Hiroshima/Nagasaki peace rally at the UN, and more. Throughout the year, coordinator John Miksad presented to 16 Rotary clubs and 2 Kiwanis clubs, totalling 500 people, on why we need to end the institution and practice of war. John also did a talk at Eco Evolution in Norwalk; was interviewed by Scott Harris on WPKN radio on why we must move away from militarism; rented a table at the Wilton Farmers market to hand out anti-war materials; handed out anti-nuclear flyers at screenings of *Oppenheimer*; and attended 2 Representative Jim Himes' Town Halls to confront the Congressman on the Pentagon Budget in front of audiences of about 100 people. He maintains a little free peace library that includes WBW material and books on peace. This year the chapter also developed partnerships with other peace groups, including the Peace Council of New Haven and Veterans For Peace Chapters 34 and 42.



Want Israeli-Palestinian Peace?
Try Confederation.

Saturday, June 10, 2023
12:00pm-1:00pm Eastern Time /
4:00pm-5:00pm GMT

Florida, U.S.: The Central Florida Chapter of World BEYOND War was active with sponsoring webinar presentations in partnership with Veterans For Peace Chapter 136 and on a couple of occasions with Partners For Palestine. In 2023, the following webinars were organized: *Mayors For Peace, Thinking Globally; Acting Locally* with Jackie Cabasso; *Palestinian Health & Human Rights Under Occupation* with Professor Yara Asi; *U.S. Militarism and War Games in The Pacific* with Retired Colonel Ann Wright; *Want Israeli-Palestinian Peace? Try Confederation* with Sam Bahour; *War Has Always Been the American Way of Life: Now Where Are We Heading?* with Paul Atwood; *Americans Who Tell The Truth* with Robert Shetterly; *Full Spectrum Dominance: What Is It?* with Lisa Savage; and *Sailing For A Nuclear Free World: Veterans For Peace Sailboat* with Helen Jaccard. The webinars provided for question-and-answer periods with the presenters. They have been very well received.



Illinois, U.S.: On February 1, 2023, WBW Board President Kathy Kelly was the online pre-sender for organizing a World BEYOND War chapter in Illinois. A steering committee began meeting in February to organize events and seek out interested peace activists. A mission statement was created during these meetings, with the stated goals being to educate the public about the importance of nonviolence as a solution to militarism, to influence media coverage of war, and to organize advocacy against war and promote nonviolent actions to bring about just solutions to conflicts around the world. On May 11, David Swanson was the guest speaker at the second Illinois chapter event. After he informed participants about the work of World BEYOND War, the chapter held breakout sessions to address its three stated goals. On July 8, the chapter participated in the World BEYOND War annual Peace Wave. A group of peace activists gathered in Joliet, Illinois, where they held a brief vigil near the site where a young man was a shooting victim of gang violence in an underserved neighborhood of the city. The group marched to a community garden at a

center that provides social services for the residents of the neighborhood and planted a peace pole. Later in the year, the chapter held an event in Chicago on November 12 to commemorate the Armistice that marked the end of World War I. David Swanson spoke on “Armistice Day, The Chicago Lawyer Who Banned War, and Why Wars Keep Happening.”

Ireland: WBW Ireland’s focus for 2023 was to work in coalition with other peace groups in Ireland, including the Irish Neutrality League, to oppose the government’s clear attempts to quietly dismantle Irish Neutrality and to insert Ireland in the militaristic domain. This has manifested itself in different formats, including: continuous letters to the editor to newspapers in Ireland; organizing and collaborating on 4 People’s Forums on the topic of Neutrality to give the public a platform to voice their opinions; workshops/teach-ins with student unions; organizing vigils/protests at both Dublin and Shannon Airport; and more.

Japan: Using funds generated from a WBW “New Years Party,” the chapter had a new banner made, and first displayed it at two demos, [one in Gifu and one in Nagoya](#), in February. The chapter organized a [“Bicycle Peace Caravan”](#) in Hiroshima during the G7’s war conference, which was well received. The chapter also protested weekly against the Henoko base construction in front of Mitsukoshi Department store in Nagoya. On December 10, the chapter held an exhibit and 4 presentations on World BEYOND War’s activities during the last several years in Japan and overseas. Gerry Yokota, an active WBW member in Osaka and a long-time peace advocate, and Joseph Essertier, WBW Coordinator, each did a presentation in the morning and one in the afternoon. The local, Tokai edition of the Akahata newspaper covered the exhibit and presentations, and people from various places in Japan, especially in the Tokyo area, participated online. Additionally, the chapter has participated in ongoing demonstrations in Nagoya for a ceasefire in Palestine.

La Paz, Bolivia: Within the framework of the International Day of Peace on September 21 , the new chapter of La Paz-Bolivia was launched, [in a virtual and in-person event](#) which had the participation of the various members of the chapter.





Madison, Wisconsin, U.S.: During 2023 the Madison chapter worked with many others to host a big Catholic Worker Faith and Resistance retreat and nonviolent action in March. In the spring and summer we organized war abolition walks, a teach-in, a speak-out, two rallies, and tabling /flyering about 10 times at our farmers market and on campus. Also on campus, we held an Evening for Peace in Ukraine event with music and a panel discussion, including WBW Executive Director David Swanson. In October, we helped launch an anti-war film series. We organized war abolition events most weeks of the year until December, then we started vigiling daily for a ceasefire in Israel and Palestine. Reports and photos are on our webpage at <https://worldbeyondwar.org/madison/>.



Mexico City, Mexico: November 28, 2023, the Mexico City chapter in Mexico was launched. This event was organized within the framework of a [Conference to address the current situation of militarization in Mexico](#), as well as solidarity with the people of Palestine.



Montréal, Canada: In May, chapter members traveled to Ottawa to protest CANSEC, North America's largest weapons expo. On July 8, the chapter organized a presentation by the Beehive Collective that was broadcast as part of the Global Peace Wave, a 24-hour zoom of peace actions around the world. Then on July 23, the chapter teamed up with the Canadian Foreign Policy Institute to protest Canada's planned purchase of unmanned surveillance aircraft, part of the wider Cones Not Drones campaign. In the fall, immediately following Hamas' October 7 attack on Israel, which marked the beginning of the war on Gaza, the chapter put out a statement, which led to chapter coordinator Cym Gomery being invited to an interview with CKUT radio's Samaa Elibryari on October 18. Since that time, the chapter has participated in various actions for peace in Palestine, including rallies organized by the Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM) and weekly vigils led by the Montreal chapter of Palestinian and Jewish Unity (PAJU). There was a mass march and rally for Palestine in Ottawa on November 11, and many Montreal activists bussed there in order to be a part of it. Also in November, Montreal for a World BEYOND War helped to organize and carry out a direct action at weapons company L3Harris's Ville Saint-Laurent facility, part of the Stop Arming Israel campaign. In December, the chapter participated in an action targeting the downtown offices of ZIM Shipping, an Israeli company that ships arms out of the Port of Montreal, as part of a nationwide day of action.

New Zealand: In January, New Zealand chapter coordinator Liz Remmerswaal gave a peace presentation at the Quaker gathering at Marsden Point, Northland. Later that month, Liz led the New Zealand delegation to the World Balance Conference in Havana, Cuba and gave two presentations, one on peace poles and the other on David Swanson's book on the Monroe Doctrine. In February, Liz traveled to Canada and met with WBW chapter members from Victoria and Vancouver. In the spring, she participated in several events, including the Unity Day Conference in Napier and the Quaker yearly meeting in Whanganui. In July, the chapter coordinated segments of the Global Peace Wave, a 24-hour zoom call of peace actions around the world. Chapter coordinator Liz Remmerswaal also spoke at several webinars and events throughout the year, including a "Ceasefire Now" rally in Hastings City to call for an end to the war in Gaza. Liz is also a member of several ongoing national

and international campaigns, including No to AUKUS and No to NATO. Liz was appointed to the advisory board of the New Zealand Peace Foundation, continued involvement with the Pacific Peace Network as a co-convenor with Annette Brownlie, and continued to serve as Vice President on the global WBW board of directors. Throughout the year, the chapter also continued supporting the peace pole project in Hastings, including making a training video on how to create a peace pole project. Throughout the year, Liz hosted the 'Peace Witness' radio show for Radio Hawke's Bay.



Nigeria: In April 2023, the World BEYOND War Nigeria (NG-WBW) Chapter was established with 30 registered members. Five Technical Working Groups were created with designated team leaders. In May, we held our 1st meeting with Greta Zarro, WBW Organizing Director, to share information about World BEYOND War and deepen members' understanding of the vision and mission. A National Dialogue was held on September 21st to commemorate the UN International Day of Peace. It brought together state and non-state actors from diverse fields of peacebuilding to discuss the state of the nation. In attendance were the representatives from World BEYOND War Global, Governments, CSOs, Media, Researchers, Nigeria Defence Academy, and Academia. Various Keynote speakers provided an in-depth understanding on various topics (peace, security & development; drug use prevention and peacebuilding and organizing for peace). In October, Amos Oluwatoye, Secretary of the Research, Planning, and Communication Working Group at World BEYOND War – Nigeria, wrote an article titled "ECOWAS-Niger Conflict: Lessons from History on Global Power Dynamics Amidst Regional Conflict," which was published on the WBW website. The article provided a critical analysis of the recent coup d'état in Niger and its implications in the context of historical global power dynamics.



Senegal: The official launch of the chapter happened on the 21st of September, the International Day of Peace, in Ziguinchor. The chapter initiated the process to attain an official status in Senegal in order to fundraise and also started work on an African Peace Calendar, which was [launched in January 2024](#). The chapter also actively supported activists in Mali to create a WBW chapter; both chapters plan to collaborate on various projects, including the creation of peace clubs in Mali. Through organizing and networking, the chapter established partnerships with La Plateforme des Femmes pour la Paix en Casamance, Dynamique de Paix en Casamance, Académie de la Paix, Youth Wings, Xam Xam Consulting, and Wanep Sénégal. Globally, the Senegal chapter started a long-term campaign aimed at closing military bases in Djibouti. Regionally, the chapter participated in the organization of the WBW African Peace Conference. And locally, the chapter actively supports 8 projects, which have been submitted to the chapter by young people through the National Youth Forum for Peace and Security: 1) Birth certificate procurement for children who have been displaced by the conflict in Casamance; 2) Digital peace in pre and post electoral time; 3) Creation of transversal courses about peace to be included in academic curriculum; 4) Actions according to ECOWAS objectives and in order to rebuild trust between this entity and the population; 5) Peace Education workshops in an orphanage in Touba; 6) Actions for peaceful elections in Guédiawaye; 7) Peace Forum in Kolda; and 8) Poetry for humanity contest.

Spain: In 2023, three educational sessions were provided by WBW Spain regarding the increasing U.S. military support and presence in Spain including a part of the U.S. military space forces located in the Madrid-Torrejón air base. Throughout the year, WBW Spain continued to support the Saharawi diaspora originating in Western Sahara, Africa, by maintaining contact with Saharawi activists; supporting a Saharawi refugee camp student exchange in Asturias, Spain; participating in 3 brainstorming sessions with Saharawi representatives based near Washington, DC; creating a communication bridge between a Saharawi representative and a Latin American radio station; communicating with UN and

U.S. representatives about their lack of support for international law; and petition signing to prevent Morocco from gaining a human rights representative position at the UN. Work also included a trip to Sinjajevina, Montenegro to support local efforts to prevent NATO from illegally usurping land to use as a bombing range and military training ground. WBW Spain introduced internationally acclaimed attorney Roberto Bolaños, from Costa Rica, to attorneys in Montenegro to help build a formal legal case against the NATO efforts, and provided funds for transportation, lodging, and meals. Additionally, the chapter continued financial support of the afterschool art program of John Tilji Menjo in Kenya, helped in his efforts to collaborate with international partners, and to receive an invitation to work with International Cities of Peace. Finally, the chapter continued to collaborate with academic, activist, and government networks in Colombia to organize a Neutrality Congress to be held in Bogota in April of 2024.



Toronto, Canada: For the first half of the year the Toronto Chapter steadily attracted more members online and joined or co-organized rallies against the NATO war in Ukraine. Throughout the year, Toronto WBW participated in the planning and organizing of numerous rallies and actions, including No to NATO events; the CANSEC protests in Ottawa in late May; an action at Global Affairs Canada's Toronto office to call for an end to the 8-year-long war in Yemen; two "Cones Not Drones" ice cream stands with petitioning and flyering in August to protest the Canadian government's planned purchase of armed drones; and organizing people to engage and protest the annual Air Show at the EX over the Labour Day period. These regular events built the momentum towards holding a big chapter relaunch in October. Since then the chapter has welcomed dozens of new and active members engaged in a range of projects from direct actions and Palestine solidarity protests, to postering initiatives and launching a divestment campaign. The chapter has ballooned in size, has taken on many projects, and has become an important part of the Toronto ecosystem of groups and movements resisting state violence. The chapter's immediate focus is to put an end to violence in Palestine. Every day the chapter is organizing and supporting weapons blockades, art builds, protests, direct actions, marches, mobiliz-

ing crews to put up thousands of posters around the city, and more. Many of the chapter's high-profile direct actions blockading companies complicit in the Canada-Israel arms trade have garnered an extensive social media following and press coverage. The chapter is a member of the Jews Say No to Genocide coalition, which has led protests and a press conference calling for the release of activists criminalized for their Palestine solidarity actions. Complementing its street actions and advocacy campaigns, the chapter has hosted a legal training for activists and a successful Palestine solidarity fundraiser, among other activities.

Upper Midwest, U.S.: In the Duluth-Superior area, World BEYOND War has been collaborating with Veterans For Peace and the Northland Chapter of Grandmothers for Peace on nuclear weapons issues. A coalition of groups was formed to get local city councils to pass resolutions in support of the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). WBW supported these efforts through online tech support and promotional assistance. WBW hosted an online letter writing tool for the TPNW resolution for local citizens to contact their councilors. The coalition was successful in getting a resolution introduced into the Duluth council, but it was voted down by a 4 to 4 tie vote. The coalition intends to keep up the pressure and build more grassroots support to re-introduce the resolution in the future.



Venezuela: With a conference called “Venezuela territory of Peace” the Venezuela chapter was launched, [in an event that took place in a community space](#), to reaffirm the interest and desire to build a culture of Peace in Venezuela .

Wanfried, Germany: In 2023, renovations continued on the Friedensfabrik (Peace Factory) Wanfried to increase capacity for overnight guests to 25-30 people. This number is critical as it is the typical number of pupils in school classes and thus the chapter would be able to invite schools to come visit the Peace Factory for educational weekends. Throughout the year, the chapter hosted many public events, as it does each year. Weekly peace vigils continued since the beginning of the Ukraine war. There were public letters and actions the chapter took part in – for example an appeal to not let the army participate in the federal state's yearly celebration week. The chapter also hosted vigils about the Fukushima nuclear accident, this year with guests from IPPNW from all over Germany, and a vigil for the anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing. One of the most remarkable events of the year was a demonstration and walk along the former inner-German border near Wanfried on Easter weekend. There were special speeches and talks as participants wandered across the former border several times in this peaceful landscape while remembering the Cold War and the current tensions globally.



Zimbabwe: The Zimbabwe Chapter of World BEYOND War launched on Saturday, December 9, 2023 with an event at Kwekwe Prince Park!

Organizing in Canada

Here are some highlights of our work from coast to coast through 2023 to organize against the military violence carried out by the Canadian state and its allies, and in solidarity with everyone around the world most impacted by it.

Media coverage: We got dozens of major press hits on local, national, and international outlets, especially through coverage of the direct actions we carried out. These included [Democracy Now](#), [CBC national](#), [Radio Canada](#), [City News](#), [Breakfast Television](#), [Hill Times](#), The Breach ([here](#) and [here](#)), [The Star](#), [Vice](#), The Maple ([here](#) and [here](#)), and many [local papers](#) across the country. We also launched new WBW Canada [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts, and saw substantial growth in our existing @WBWCanada [Twitter](#) account.

Mapping tool and critical research in solidarity with Palestine: In October 2023 we launched a [Canada Stop Arming Israel](#) campaign with a map we built showing 100+ locations across the country of companies arming Israel. The site also features a callout and resources to support cross country actions to interrupt the flow of weapons, plus an online action tool. We also launched a [whistleblower call-out](#) at the end of year with safe ways that people can leak information to us about the Canada-Israel weapons trade.

Blockading weapons factories cross-country: We organized several blockades of weapons factories and offices of companies involved in arming Israel, including at [L3 Harris](#), [Lockheed Martin](#), [Pratt & Whitney](#), [Zim](#), and [Inkas](#). A majority of these involved hundreds of people gathering at weapons plants first thing in the morning to block all access to the facility. We also supported several dozen additional direct actions that took place at weapons manufacturers across the country.

Legal and divestment angles to our Canada Stop Arming Israel work: In addition to the efforts listed above, we [served](#) the Canadian justice minister legal notice of intention to prosecute for complicity in war crimes in light of the continued export of weapons to Israel, and we launched a [divestment campaign](#) with Ontario teachers demanding their pension plan stop investing in weapons companies arming Israel.



Founding the Jews Say No to Genocide Coalition: In October we came together with allies to found the Jews Say No to Genocide coalition, which has proceeded to hold several successful [actions](#), [a press conference](#), and to mobilize [thousands](#) of Jews to take action against Israeli state violence and Canadian complicity.

Getting out on the streets: In addition to the Palestinian solidarity actions listed above, we organized dozens of rallies and actions across the country this year, including the following:

- [#CanadaStopArmingSaudi Days of Action](#) on the 8 year anniversary of war in Yemen
- a big protest to disrupt the opening of [North America's biggest weapon's fair, CAN-SEC](#)
- Cones Not Drones ice cream stands in parks throughout the summer as part of the No Armed Drones campaign
- Cross-country actions for [Global Mobilization for Peace in Ukraine](#)
- [Co-hosted Indigenous delegations](#) from Wet'suwet'en territory (BC, Canada) and Nahua, Mixtec and Otomi delegation (from Puebla, Hidalgo, Veracruz, Mexico) and held public actions confronting a pipeline company and standing up to militarized colonization stealing their land
- Marching through Toronto demanding an end the Toronto air(war) show
- Protesting the NATO summit in Vilnius with [actions across the country](#)
- Working with allies on a [huge Land Alliance march](#) featuring leadership from five First Nations
- We coordinated thousands of posters going up across the country to crash the RCMP's [150th birthday party](#)
- Across Canada, [hundreds took action](#) in January to reject Canada's plans to buy 88 new bomber jets.



Organizing in Latin America

In April, World BEYOND War hired as Latin America Organizer Gabriel Aguirre from Venezuela, who has been an activist working for peace, international solidarity, and human rights. Aguirre is currently based in Colombia.

Since April, World BEYOND War's presence, growth, and leadership in the region of Latin America have been significant, through working in alliance with other organizations, through the creation of coalitions, and the promotion of a variety of campaigns.

Throughout the year, 176 articulation and coordination meetings were held with different organizations in Latin America. Of the 33 Latin American countries, contact was achieved in 17 countries, where 44 activities were carried out, of which 27 were in-person and 17 webinars.

Campaign in Solidarity with Peru

The context of social upheaval in Peru has been preceded by growing militarization in the country, to which has been added the entry of 1,200 U.S. troops into Peruvian territory. This campaign has collected signatures that have been delivered to the U.S. Congress to demand the cessation of militarization and the withdrawal of US troops from Peruvian territory.

- Realization of the Webinar, in solidarity with Peru: [Peru in the face of the failure of democracy](#).
- Collection [and delivery of a petition to the United States Congress](#) for the withdrawal of US military troops from Peruvian territory.
- Media coverage by Telesur of [the petition delivery to Congress](#).
- Conducting the Webinar: [“Militarization in Peru violence against the population.”](#)



Campaign against the arms fair in Colombia #Expodefensa:

Every two years, the second largest arms fair in Latin America is held in Colombia-Bogotá. Organizations and movements for Peace, against militarism and war, organized themselves into a coalition of the anti-militarist movement in Colombia, to reject weapons fairs and demand that the government suspend them.

- [Poster-sticking day in the streets of Bogotá:](#)
- Webinar against the arms fair, giving a [look at Colombia's arms trade with the world.](#)
- [Poster-sticking](#) day in the center of the city of Bogotá, to reject the weapons fair and remember the murder of the young Dilan Cruz in 2019.
- Sit-in with the presence of all the member organizations [of the coalition to protest against the arms fair](#), in the Corferias spaces in the city of Bogotá.



New Affiliates in Latin America

Within the process of developing coalition work and alliances, in 2023 three organizations affiliated with WBW in Latin America:



Colombia: [Schools of Peace Foundation.](#)



Argentina: [Thousand Millennia of Peace.](#)



El Salvador: CONAMODES.

Other initiatives in coalition work and campaigns

- Campaign in solidarity with Haiti: [a statement was made in solidarity with the people of Haiti](#).
- Creation of [a petition to the United States Congress](#) to reject the new militarization of the country with support from the Kenyan government.
- Launch of the campaign against war, militarism, and interventionism, and for the defense of the Amazon.

Three new chapters in Latin America

As part of the organic growth effort of World BEYOND War, in Latin America, three new chapters were created to contribute to the work to end war, and build cultures of peace and a world of solidarity and social justice.

Thirty-six organizations in Latin America signed the Declaration of Peace in 2023.

Impact on the media

- [Creation of the Latin American website](#).
- [Launch of a new WBW Latin America account on Twitter/X](#).
- Interviews for various media outlets:

El Salvador

[FMLN Intercontinental Front Radio](#)

Peru:

[Radio Cutivalú](#)

[International and Pluricultural](#)

Argentina:

[IPNews](#)

Colombia:

[RTVC Television](#)



Website and Social Media

WBW Global Events Calendar



[Movement-building](#) is a guiding principle of our work. As a decentralized network with a global staff and extensive experience with digital tools, we serve as a hub for pro-peace, anti-war digital organizing support, to amplify the work of partners around the globe. That's why, in 2023, we revamped our [Global Events Calendar](#) to make it easy for members of the public to find and post pro-peace, anti-war events happening anywhere. The calendar offers many options to filter events by event topic, event type, location, and much more. Users can toggle between list view, map view, month view, and more to help sort through events. Through the new event submission form, any individual or organization around the world can submit an event related to issues of war and peace. The calendar widget is also embeddable, so it can be added to any website.

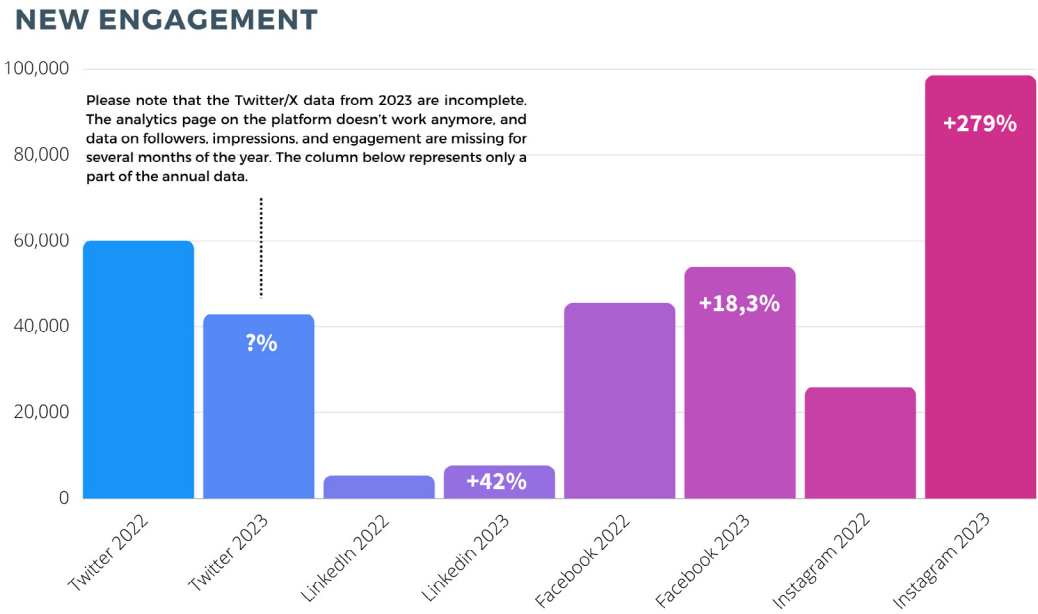
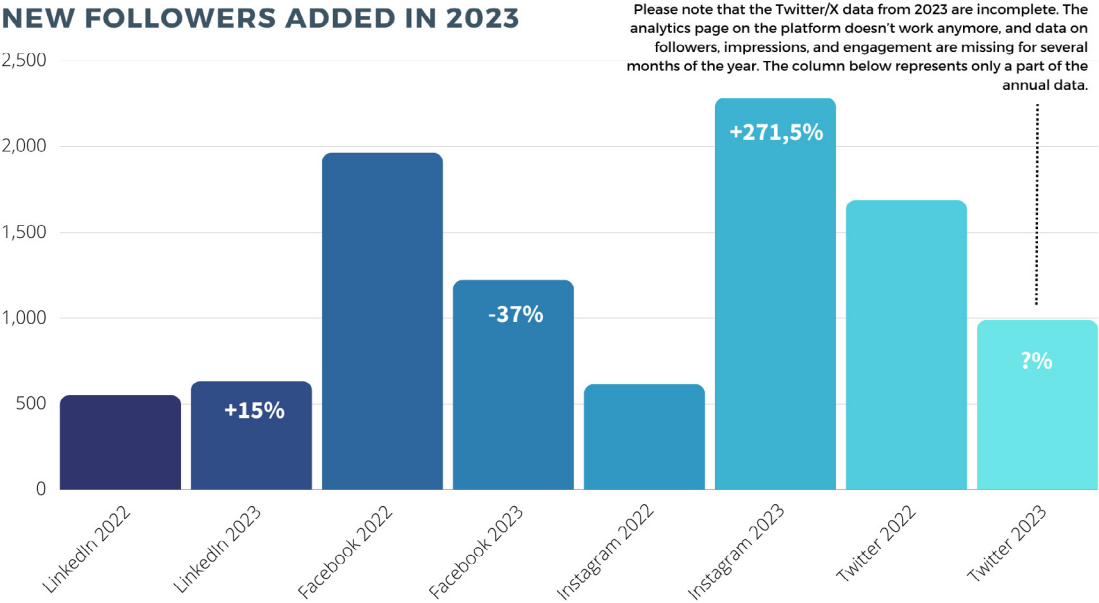
Also in 2023, we made enhancements to our custom system for maintaining individual chapter pages for all WBW chapters, and improvements to in-depth projects like our popular visual database of U.S. military bases. Along with this public-facing work, we spent significant time on behind-the-scenes improvements to our WordPress site and web server architecture in 2023. We began using Jetpack, a bundle of helpful tools and utilities available at a modest monthly cost from the organization that also maintains WordPress's free core software. Our Jetpack integration currently includes a new backup system, new public-facing search interface, a constantly updated security firewall to protect from malicious intrusion techniques, and new metrics reporting that we can use in addition to Google Analytics to study our site traffic and usage trends.

Social Media

In 2023, social media platforms like Facebook experienced a period of upheaval globally. Overall, the global performance of these platforms was negatively impacted by factors such as rising competition, new platforms, privacy concerns, and algorithm changes. Also, the influence of Elon Musk's acquisition of Twitter had a notable impact on this social media platform at a global level. The new algorithm, the paid plans, and the weakening of X's hate speech policy led to a decline in reach and engagement and caused many users to leave the platform.

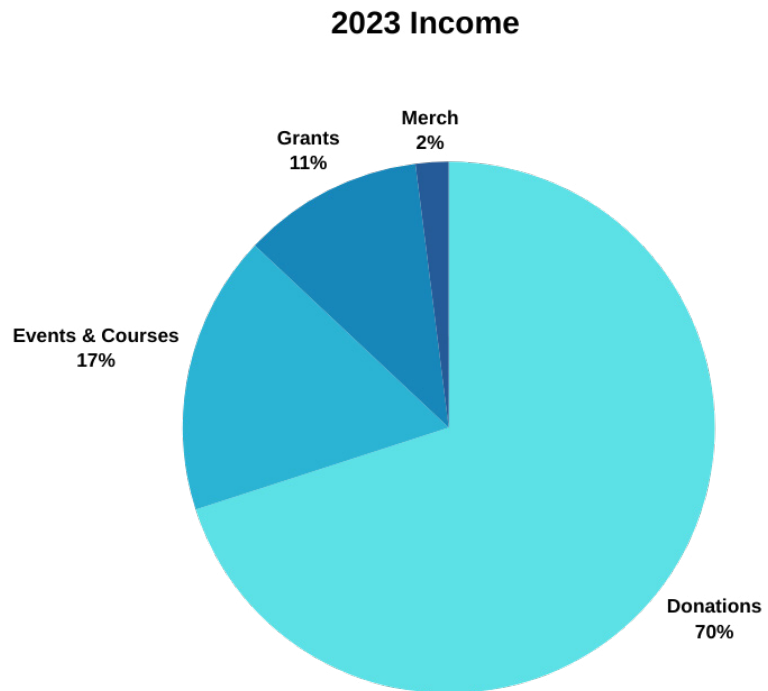
In the face of a challenging year, World BEYOND War's social media presence continued to grow, reaching new audiences and amplifying our message of peace and disarmament.

Our visually appealing content, thought-provoking messages, and commitment to diplomacy and non-violence resonated with our audience. Despite the incomplete data for Twitter/X, our overall performance across Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn demonstrated growth in followers, engagement, and impact. Instagram and LinkedIn became strong pillars of World BEYOND War’s social media presence in 2023. Instagram attracted new followers with its visually appealing content and engagement-driving strategies. At the same time, LinkedIn gained traction, adding new followers and engagement among professionals. Despite overall global challenges for Facebook in 2023, World BEYOND War’s Facebook presence showed resilience, with modest follower growth but improved engagement rates. World BEYOND War remains committed to using social media as a powerful tool for amplifying our anti-war message. We will continue to adapt to the ever-evolving social media landscape, refining our strategies and leveraging emerging platforms to reach new audiences and inspire action.



Development

Thanks to the generous support of our individual and major donors, 2023 was our most successful year yet financially. Entering 2024 having raised more money than our expenses, we are able to more comfortably plan and strategize for projects and personnel for the upcoming year. We continue to be overwhelmed by our donors' generosity and it is in large part because of them that we've been able to continue working to abolish war.



In 2022 we were awarded charitable status in the U.S. and also applied for similar status in Canada in that same year. After a very involved back and forth with the Canada Revenue Agency, we were told in 2023 that while we have non-profit status, we are not eligible for charitable status in Canada. This was a blow for us looking to secure institutional grants in Canada and for our robust network of Canadian donors who have been awaiting our status to ease the process of making charitable contributions. We recently sent out emails outlining the reasons we were given, but the overall take away was that in order to meet the statutory requirements for status, we have to show an unbiased view on the subject matter and issue area in which we work. Suffice it to say, we will not be making a case for war to balance out what the CRA has determined to be a biased view on war. We are hoping to make more Canadians aware of this and to appeal to electeds and policy makers to change this discriminatory barrier.

Despite this set back, our Canadian donor base has grown and we have a separate financial process for Canadian funds which remain in Canada and are used to cover Canadian staff, taxes, and event expenses. However, for ease, and because the bulk of our revenue and expenses are in U.S. dollars and use our U.S. bank account, for purposes of calculating our income for this report, all Canadian expenses were converted into USD using the current exchange rate. As we expand further into Canada and into other countries (we're looking at Colombia and the U.K. currently), we may begin to separate finances and report by country in the future.

Our total annual revenue for 2023 was \$373,770.01

In 2023, World BEYOND War was the proud recipient of a \$28,719.26 grant from Unifor Canada, a \$8,976.81 from the War and Peace Foundation for Education, a \$7,500 grant from the Barrett Foundation, a \$5,000 grant from the Jubitz Family Foundation, a \$1,000 grant from the Tides Foundation, and a \$1,000 grant from Ben Cohen in addition to some funding distributed through family foundations. This is all in addition to some incredibly generous major donors, including a \$100,000 annual donation for the second year in a row from a long-standing WBW supporter, and several five figure contributions.

With sustainable and on-going support from foundations, World BEYOND War is able to more clearly project revenue for upcoming years. This is critical to expanding global programs and strategic efforts for abolishing war and we were thrilled to begin a new partnership with Unifor and to resume a funding relationship with the Barrett Foundation.

The majority of World BEYOND War's income is from individual donations which was upwards of \$260,880 in 2023. Of these donors, 203 were active recurring donors as of the end of the year bringing in on average \$3,798.18 a month. This is a decrease from last year and we hope to bring this number up again in 2024.

In addition to individual donations and institutional grants, an additional \$64,436 came from registrations and sponsorships which includes nearly \$10,000 from registrations for our annual conference and \$27,988.95 in online course registrations in addition to revenue from our film festival, the peace awards, and book clubs. We also raised significant funds from Rotary Clubs across the U.S. in support of the Peace Education Action for Impact Program. We raised \$5,950.07 to specifically support our Billboards campaign and just after the close of the year we received a \$50,000 donation from Ben Cohen in support of putting up 6 billboards in the Bay Area in California. We also raised \$6,172 through the sale of merchandise.

World BEYOND War is extremely grateful to every volunteer and donor as all donors, at all levels, have a direct impact on our ability and capacity to do the work to end war. Although we don't have room to thank them all, and many prefer to be anonymous, we greatly appreciate the generosity of all our supporters.

In 2023, in addition to the institutional funders, we were supported by several anonymous donors and these individuals: Robert Barkley, Laura Bernstein, Amy Blumenshine and Michael Troutman, the family of Selma Brackman, Barbara Briggs-Letson, Stephen Clemens, Ben Cohen, Robert Coolidge, Charles and Mary Crossed Foundation, Betty Jean and John Corry, William Davidson, Diane Digges, Bert Donaldson, Winifred Ereyi, Robert Fantina, Christopher Fite, Darlene Goetzman, David and Janet Hartsough, Patrick Hiller, Nassim Izmerly, Raymond James, Robert Jehn, M Albin Jubitz, Charles and Angeliki V. Keil, Ann Kittridge, William Lankford, Daniel Linthicum, Robin Lloyd, Brian MacDevitt, Wayne Martinson, Anth Masalonis, Robert McKechnie, William McLaughlin, Krishen and Geeta Mehta, John Melrose, Arthur Milholland, John Miksad, Josh Mitteldorf, Thomas Muller and Rebecca Fisher, Anees Munshi, Alan Mytty, Deborah Narrigan, Jacob Neilson, Cynthia Papermaster, Janet Parker, John Reuwer and Laurie Gagne, Helen and Dave Peacock, Byron Plumley and Shirley Whiteside, Daniel Riehl, Deb Sawyer, Daniela Scafati, Peter Selby, Walter Singer, Eugenia Schuler, Susan M. Smith, Maria Steinmann, Decourcy L. Squire, Shau Sumar, John Vechev, David Walsh, Donnal Walter, Roger Waters, Nancy Weaver, Ernie Wiens, the World Service Authority, and many many others.

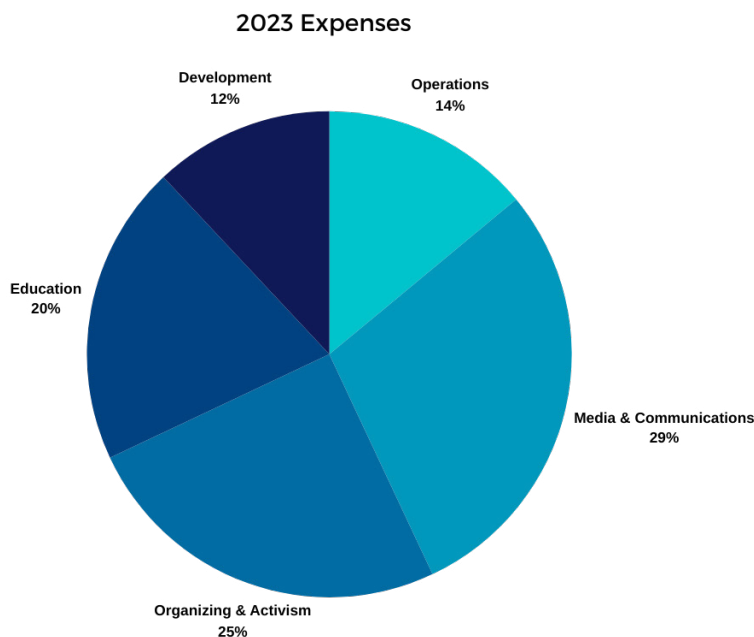


Our total expenses for 2023 were \$366,278.38

The majority of our expenses were for staff compensation (\$326,673.16). We hired three new staff members in 2023, bringing our current staff number to 9 plus a researcher and an intern who is paid a stipend. We are looking to even further expand our organizing team in 2024. Though this is far and away our biggest expense, unlike most non-profit organizations, all of the staff work remotely so we have no office expenses. Our exceptional staff is the reason why WBW continues to grow.

In addition to costs related to specific activist campaigns, we typically use our conference along with our recently launched Film Festival and monthly book clubs as fundraisers as well. These, along with other programs like online courses and our new Peace Education and Action for Impact program help offset some of the overall expenses. Additionally, our No Bases and mapping campaigns are led by WBW staff in collaboration with volunteer researchers, and Board members, all of whom volunteer their time – and in some cases, make monetary contributions – to support the program which helps keep those project expenses minimal. In addition to personnel expenses, in 2023 other expenses included software and online management tools including Quickbooks, Action Network, Canva, and website hosting and maintenance costs. We also spent some donations on putting up billboards across the world including minimal overhead expenses to do so. The remaining expenditures covered administrative and operational activities.

Our pie chart has broken down these costs into specific activities related to staff time and other expenses, with online tools being distributed across all departments. Categories include Operations (which includes overhead and administrative costs, finance, postage, printing, travel, and digital tools and software), Media & Communications (which includes all content development, social media, promotional materials, postage, printing, travel, legal services, our website, and related technology and tools including the podcast), Organizing & Activism (which includes chapters, Billboards, the Divestment campaign, the No Bases campaign, the #NoWar Conference, postage, printing, travel, and other events), Education (including the Peace Education and Action for Impact program, program supplies, postage, printing, travel, and legal services), and Development (all fundraising efforts including donor appreciation gifts).





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