



Vienna, 6 June 2023, 11:20

Subject: International Summit for Peace in Ukraine in Vienna

Statement by Gerhard Kofler /AbFaNG - Action Alliance for Peace, active Neutrality and Nonviolence) and Reiner Braun (IPB - International Peace Bureau) on the discussion about the peace conference in Vienna on 10th and 11th June 2023.

Peace is our goal and peace is our way to the goal. This is the background and the intention of the international conference: We want to campaign for a peaceful way into the future, not only in the Ukraine war, but discuss this with all those interested in peace, openly and also controversially. We feel closely connected to the vast majority of states in the world that are also striving for a peaceful way out of the war in Ukraine. Representatives of Ukraine will also be present at the peace conference in Vienna. We see a path to peace through the exchange of opinions, through negotiations, as the NORMAL and open path, and the continuation of war, of armed violence, as the "non-normal". It is completely incomprehensible to us how the desire for open talks cannot be desired in a neutral country.

In our opinion, democracy thrives on controversial, open and peaceful debates, the space for discourse must be diverse and open - especially in a complicated and acute political situation. We have chosen neutral Austria as the venue for this event above all because, as a country of "bridge-builders", it is particularly suited to pointing out ways out of war and violence.

We can understand criticism of our project and look forward to the debate, but we fundamentally reject threats of violence, hatred and defamation. Rejection of any kind of violence is our essential motive for action.

Therefore, we would like to invite everyone again to an open exchange of views. Peace and an end to the war in Ukraine is not only our goal, but also the way we reach our goal.

Contact:Gerhard Kofler, gk@abfang.org, 0664 - 253 1717Reiner Braun, Hr.Braun@gmx.net, 00049 172 231 7475