



P R E S S R E L E A S E

EBCO at the IPB World Peace Congress in Barcelona

Brussels, 19 October 2021

Members of the European Bureau for Conscientious Objection (EBCO) participated both in-person and remotely at the second [IPB World Peace Congress "\(Re\) Imagine our World: Action for Peace and Justice"](#) in Barcelona, on 15-17 October 2021.

The congress brought together 900 participants in Barcelona and 1700 participants online, from peace and disarmament advocates to feminist and LGBTQIA+ campaigners, ecologists and climate activists, antiracists and indigenous peoples, human rights defenders and trade unionists to generate a unified response to the anxiety of our times.

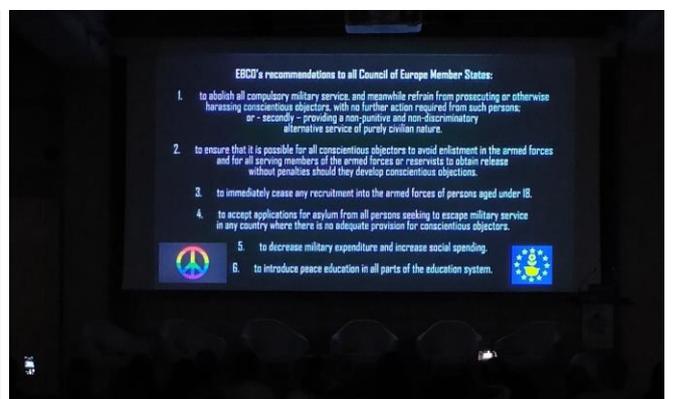
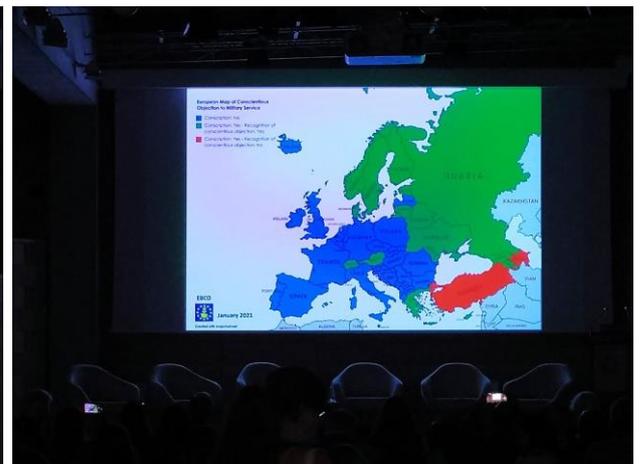
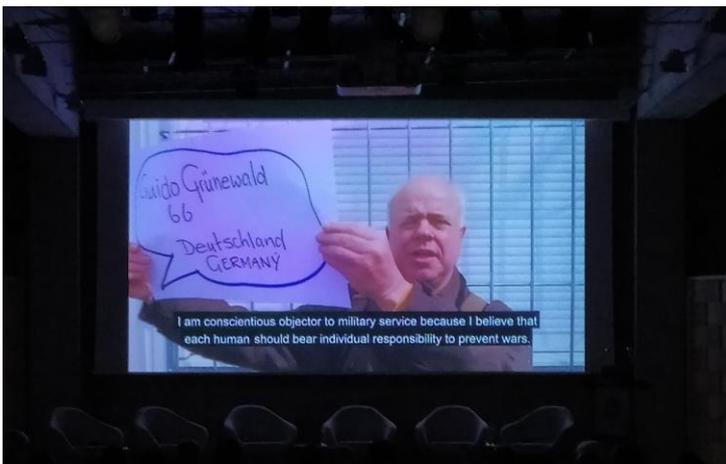
In the final plenary, EBCO President Alexia Tsouni emphasized that conscientious objection to military service is as well a basic human right as a tangible contribution to peace; it is a concrete act of rejecting war and violence, and promoting peace and universal human values. She called all the peace organisations to equally promote the right to conscientious objection to military service and support the conscientious objectors who are still discriminated, prosecuted, fined, imprisoned, and even killed in some countries.

You can see the video of EBCO which was projected in the plenary session on Sunday 17 October, as well as photos from the congress, here below:

<https://youtu.be/w29uqTZLF3U>



EBCO was founded in Brussels in 1979 as an umbrella structure for national associations of conscientious objectors in the European countries to promote the right to conscientious objection to preparations for, and participation in, war and any other type of military activity as a fundamental human right. It enjoys participatory status with the Council of Europe since 1998 and is a member of its Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations since 2005. It provides expertise and legal opinions on behalf of the Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe. It is involved in drawing up the annual report of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament on the application by the Member States of its resolutions on conscientious objection and civilian service, as determined in the "Bandrés Molet & Bindi Resolution" of 1994. It is a full member of the European Youth Forum since 1995.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION AND INTERVIEWS please contact:

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