

Issue 2/2026

Peace Movement(s) today?

Deadline for abstracts: 15th January 2026

„The peace movement of the 1980s is dead!” – this was a common refrain at the beginning of the war against Ukraine in 2022 – much to the despair of those who had significantly shaped this movement and were now hoping for powerful signals.

„We need a new peace movement!” – this was a recurring theme from Syrian activists and supporters in the context of the civil war in Syria after 2012 – much to the dismay of established figures in the German peace movement, as it seemed to call into question the central demand for nonviolence.

Statements of this kind highlight the need for a (re)classification of peace movements and raise many questions: What can and should it actually mean to be a »peace movement« today? Who acts how and in which alliances? What are the demands, principles of action, and methods of these movements? Is a stance of (absolute) nonviolence central or rather secondary? This issue aims to collect a current but historically informed inventory that provides an overview of the various movements and negotiations.

Contributions to the special issue »Peace Movement(s) today?« can address one of the possible questions (this is a non-exhaustive list). All contributions should be based on a case study or contextual example from the practice of the peace movement(s), or offer global perspectives.

We are looking for contributions such as

- **New peace movements?** Can newer movements like Fridays for Future or ICAN, which are rather hesitant in their use of the term »peace«, be considered »the new peace movement« or its future?
- **What does »peace« mean in the context of the peace movements?** What constitutes this understanding of peace? What understandings do pacifist movements draw upon, and is there a difference between them and antimilitarist movements? Is »enforcing peace« an acceptable strategy for peace movements?
- **Who participates in peace movements and why?** Are certain generations more active than others? How is the concept/idea of peace perceived by younger generations?
- **Peace Movement 2.0:** To what extent do new communication and information technologies such as chatbots, messenger apps, and social media influence peace movements? How are technological innovations used, and where are they consciously rejected – and how helpful is this rejection? Where might opportunities be missed?
- **Dividing lines within the peace movement:** Current debates about who should be allowed to demonstrate with whom, who signs whose manifestos, or who writes texts to distance themselves from others are commonplace. Have fundamental questions, such as absolute non-violence or a fundamental rejection of military means, always been so vehemently contested, or is this a new phenomenon?

Call for Contributions //

Aufruf für Beiträge //

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- **Cross-front politics, openness towards the political right, conspiracy theories, antisemitism:** The debates around these issues are heated in the German peace movement – but is this also the case internationally?
- **Feminist peace movements:** What has the role of feminist movements been in the historical development of the peace movement? What important are feminist influences today?
- **Post-/decolonial perspectives in and from peace movements:** What is needed for a peace that takes post-/decolonial dynamics into account? Who decides what/when/how peace is?
- **Religion/church and the peace movement:** What role do religion/religiosity and the church still play in the peace movement today? What influence do new religions and esotericism have?
- **Trade unions/labor struggle and the peace movement:** In the history of the Federal Republic of Germany, trade unions have played a significant role in the peace movement. But what peace activism still remains within trade unions today?
- **Peace research and peace activism:** If the peace movement wants to act consciously, it needs knowledge and reliable data – but what is the current relationship between peace research and peace movements? How does the movement interpret research findings, and to what extent does research involve the movement?
- **Peace movement in the context of (armed) violence:** How do peace movements operate in the face of physical violence, and can peace movements actually „afford nonviolence“? Such questions arise particularly in Sudan, Russia, Syria, and other contexts along the dimensions of nonviolence, care, and forms of resistance. Must actions from the peace movement always be explicitly nonviolent?
- **Sabotage, passive resistance, non-collaboration:** What means and methods do contemporary peace movements employ for their resistance? How effective are those means?
- **Peace movement »after the conflict« and »domestic work«?** Many movements attempt to continue their work »after the conflict«, including the reintegration of former combatants, educational work, and the demilitarization of society. What role and tasks will peace movements face after the end of acute violence? How does this dual burden (external and internal peace) affect the work of peace movements?
- **International organizations, NGOs, and peace movements:** Many of the concerns of peace movements have been codified by United Nations bodies – but how does the interplay between movements, NGOs, and international organizations function? Where does it succeed, and where does it seem doomed to failure?

W&F is an interdisciplinary, quarterly journal of peace studies. We welcome contributions from all research areas within peace and conflict studies, quantitative conflict and war research, peace work and education, and peace journalism. We are particularly interested in **contributions from students, early-career researchers, and non-academic researchers**. We are especially committed to giving **voice to perspectives from outside Europe**.

Please send your abstract (maximum 8,000 characters) to redaktion@wissenschaft-und-frieden.de by **January 15, 2026**.

Once your submission has been accepted for publication, please submit your draft by March 15, 2026. The issue will be published in May 2026.

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