



# Ålands fredsinstitut

## The Åland Islands Peace Institute

### *Activities Report 2009*

Approved by the Board of Directors 16.2.2010

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## Year 2009 - Summary

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2009 has been a year of expansion for the Åland Islands Peace Institute, both with regard to its role as a source of knowledge and within its different areas of activity. The research conducted at the Institute has continued to focus on security, minority protection and autonomy. During the year, research has been conducted among other things on autonomous regions' possibilities within the EU, on migration and integration in autonomous regions, and on the Ålandic demilitarisation and neutralisation. Three research reports have been published in the Peace Institute's report series, and the book on the Ålandic right of domicile which was initially published in Swedish in 2007 was published in English under the name "The Right of Domicile on Åland".

Much work has been done in preparation of two larger research projects which will begin in 2010. The Peace Institute has on its own or in cooperation with other actors arranged five seminars on Åland during 2009. Staff of the Institute have also organised lectures and participated as speakers in external seminars and conferences. One of the Peace Institute's heavier commitments during the year was the highlighting of the anniversary of the Finnish war of 1808-9. The Institute has together with the Museum of Åland and the Åland Art Museum arranged the exhibition and produced the book "Outpost, Land in Between, Bridge" which reflects and analyses the multiple identities and self images of Åland and Ålanders after 1809.

56 cases have during the year of 2009 been submitted to the Åland Mediation Office, and 14 volunteer mediators have participated in the mediation work.

The Peace Institute has continued the work with educating teachers in the Step-by-step method. During the year, a pilot project has begun in which the Peace Institute give classes on human rights and minority issues to high school students. In August the course "Living Bridges" was arranged, with 30 young female participants from Åland, Finland, Sweden, Armenia and Azerbaijan. The theme of the meeting was equality and conflict solution. In July, six Ålandic youth participated in the EU-financed youth exchange "Boundaries" in the Netherlands.

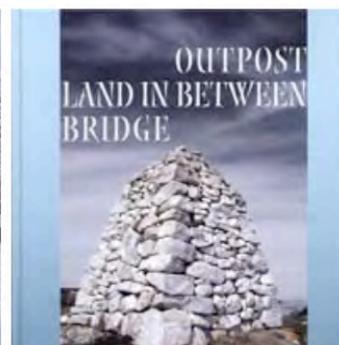
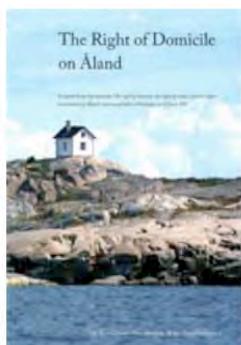
The regional cooperation with Lithuania, the Kaliningrad region and Belarus has continued in the form of different empowerment projects. New projects have been initiated in Karelia and Latvia.

The granting of funding from the Central Baltic Interreg IVA-programme and from the Åland government to the project on equality and anti-trafficking, "Challenging Gender Roles for Prevention of Trafficking", has led to the employment of two new members of staff for realising the project. In order to give space for the project employees, an extra room has been rented on the ground floor at the premises on Hamngatan 4, in which the Mediation Office is now working.

During the year, the Åland government has also acquired the property where the Peace Institute is renting its premises. The government has announced that the property will be offered for sale, which is why the Institute has been following the developments and investigated alternative options.

Information about the activities of the Peace Institute have been published mainly on the website [www.peace.ax](http://www.peace.ax), which has been partially restructured during the year. Information has also been conveyed through digital newsletters, press releases, debate articles, and press conferences.

The Peace Institute has spread information on its activities and about the special status of Åland through presentations for foreign visitors as well as local groups.



# *General Activities*

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The general activities include the institute's basic functions such as premises and administration as well as information activities, seminars, lectures and the library. Included is also the work of the board, budgeting, accounting, as well as the planning of new projects and new possibilities for cooperation. The general activities form the basis for the implementation of all other activities and provide the conditions for securing external financing for different projects.

## *Premises*

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2009 the state company Senatsfastigheter transferred the property at Hamngatan 4 to the Åland government. In the end of the year, the government decided to offer the premises for sale. The Peace Institute has been following the developments and investigated the possibilities of renting or perhaps buying the current or other premises. In order to make room for newly employed staff working on the inter-reg. Project "Challenging Gender Roles for Prevention of Trafficking", an extra room was rented on the ground floor from October, to which the Mediation Office moved.

## *Financing and economic administration*

The economy of the Peace Institute has remained stable throughout 2009. The total operational costs amounted to 362 000 euro, which is a 6% increase in comparison to the previous year. Financial support has been granted by the Åland government, the City of Mariehamn, the Swedish Culture Foundation, and the Ministry of Education among others, and for specific projects by the Foreign Ministry, the Nordic Council of Ministers, the European union, Emmaus Åland and CIMO. The results of the year shows a slight deficit of 133 euro.

The economic administration of the Peace Institute has been strengthened with the new part-time employment of a finance officer in order to meet the needs as the organisation is expanding. A new accounting- and staff administration programme was acquired in December 2009 and will be used from early 2010.

## *The library and the archive*

The library of the Peace Institute is included in the Ålandic library database Katrina, and is thereby available to the public. The library has been complemented with specialist literature within the areas relevant to the Peace Institute's activities during the year, and now includes 1494 titles. The Peace Institute's electronic archival database has during the year been supplemented with further materials and now includes 2044 documents.

## *The Peace Fund*

The Åland Peace Fund was established by the Åland Islands Peace Institute with the purpose of supporting work for peace. Once the Peace Fund has grown, the interest on the funds will be granted as support for particular purposes that are decided upon by the board. The capital of the Fund has in 2009 increased to a total of 13 267.97 euro.

## *The board*

In 2009 the board held meetings on five occasions, and discussed issues concerning the overall work and orientation of the Institute. On the annual meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April a new board was elected. Susann Jungerstam-Mulders resigned, but will continue as a member of the Research Council. Lars Ingmar Johansson and Sunniva Hansson were elected as new board members.

Beyond the standing agenda, the board has under the years discussed among other things the long-term financing of the Institute, the issue of the premises, the direction of the library activities and the seminar activity.

In response to the new accounting law (2007) the board has begun the work on revising the statutes of the Institute.

Board members:

Barbro Sundback, head of the board  
Leena Lindqvist, vice head of the board  
Roger Jansson  
Bertil Jobeus  
Kjell-Åke Nordqvist

Stand-ins:

Ulla Backlund  
Nils-Gustaf Eriksson  
Pär Stenbäck  
Lars Ingmar Johansson  
Sunniva Hansson

### *Accountants*

Synnöve Pussinen and Johan Jansson have been the accountants of the Institute for 2009. Their stand-ins were Sigvard Löfström and Sten Eriksson.

### *Staff*

In January Wille Valve was employed as responsible for mediation (Mediation Officer) at the Åland Mediation Office. He was granted leave from the 1<sup>st</sup> of August and Heidi Öst replaced him as deputy Mediation Officer and researcher from the 1<sup>st</sup> of September. Anna Lena Sjölund, previously responsible for the Mediation Office, entered the position as Project Manager responsible for the courses, seminars and youth activities of the Institute. Also research was part of her position. 1.8.2009 Anna-Lena was granted leave and Sarah Stephan took up her position as project manager.

In early October a full-time project manager and a part-time (70%) finance officer were employed for the inter-reg. project "Challenging Gender Roles for Prevention of Trafficking.

The well-being and development of staff is important for the Institute to fulfill its potential. In 2009 much emphasis was laid on competence development of the staff. The employees were offered the possibility to participate in relevant courses and seminars. On internal lunch seminars staff and interns held presentations and initiated discussions on different topics related to the activities of the Institute. In 2009 two days were committed to discussions among the staff on organization development.

### **Examples of events during the year**

- 13.2.2009 Individual course for Mediation Officer Wille Valve with Pia Slögs in Vichtis.
- 16-18.3.2009 Justina Donelaite joined a course on strategic project planning and the LFA method at SIDA Civil Society Center in Härnösand, Sweden.
- 11.6.2009 Internal staff seminar on 'positive and negative peace', with a presentation by Susann Simolin on Åland in the light of these theories.
- 24.8.2009 Erasmus student and intern Klaudia Wisniewska (Poland) presented Polish handling and positions connected to the NordStream issue in an internal seminar.
- 25.8.2009 Staff of the Institute held an organization development day, and discussed among other things the library activities and spreading of publications.
- 18.9.2009 Susann Simolin participated in OSSE's and STETE's seminar 'Prevent Conflict, Build Peace' in Umeå, Sweden.
- 10.11.2009 Susann Simolin presented the contents of the seminar "Konsten att stå pall – begränsande normer för killar" (freely translated "The art of endurance – restricting norms for boys") which she attended in October to the other staff at an internal seminar.
- 8.12.2009 the staff of the Institute held a development day at Café Bönan in Sjökarveret.

## **Employees**

Marja-Leena Magnusson, information officer and responsible for education, 60% of full-time. Employment ended on 1.2.2009 when Marja-Leena retired.

John Knight, responsible for library and archives, 13,5% of full-time.

Justine Donielaite, project manager and project assistant, full-time.

Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, director, 80% of full time, on leave 30%.

Susann Simolin, information officer, 75% of full-time.

Anna-Lena Sjölund, project manager and researcher, 75% of full-time from 1.1.2009, on leave 1.9.2009-31.12.2009.

Wille Valve, full-time from 1.1.2009, on leave from 1.8.2009. Employment ended on 6.9.2009, when Wille began working within the EU.

Frans Jansson, cleaner, employed on an hourly basis.

Fredrik Karlsson, accountant, employed on an hourly basis.

## **Temporary employees**

Sarah Stephan, deputy research assistant, 50% of full-time 1.1.2009-31.5.2009, project manager and researcher 25% of full-time 1.6.2009-31.7.2009, 50% of full-time 1.8.2009-31.8.2009, 60% of full-time 1.9.2009-31.12.2010.

Heidi Öst, deputy mediation officer and researcher, full-time 1.9.2009-28.2.2010.

Petra Granholm, researcher, full-time 1.6-30-6.2009, 50% of full-time 1.7-30.8-2009.

Ulf Peter Westmark, employed on an hourly basis as deputy mediation officer, 20.7.2009-31.8.2009.

Sanna Roos, project manager for specific project, 50% of full-time 1.11.2009-31.12.2009.

Denis Nazarenko, project manager for specific project, full-time 1.10.2009-31.12.2011.

Ann-Louise Idman, economist for specific project, 70% of full-time 1.10.2009-31.12-2011.

## **Interns and volunteers**

Tamara Grigorieva, EVS volunteer, full-time 1.11.2008-1.2.2009

Klaudia Wiszniewska, Erasmus intern, 1.6-31.8-2009

Kamala Ramazanova, EVS volunteer 23.8.2009-30.5.2010

Katja Daniels, intern, 16.11-22.1.2010

# Research

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In 2009 the Peace Institute has continued to focus on the three areas identified in the research programme adopted in 2007, that is questions of security, minority protection and autonomy.

The Peace Institute strives to as far as possible integrate and connect its research activities to its practical and applied activities, by for example supporting and promoting analyses of ongoing practical projects, for example within regional cooperation and mediation activities.

The new InterReg project “Challenging Gender Roles for Prevention fo Trafficking” includes a research component led by a senior researcher in Latvia.

The Institute’s orientation towards security includes both military and human security. The autonomy area focuses on both territorial and non-territorial autonomy arrangements. The three subject areas (security, minorities and autonomy) are highlighted with a particular consciousness of the perspectives which constitute the basic premises of the Peace Institute: preconditions for durable peace, conflict prevention, conflict management and conflict solution; the region’s importance (Åland, the Nordic countries and the Baltic region); and the importance of gender issues in each subject area.

The Institute has during the year strengthened cooperation with other relevant research actors mainly in Finland, the Nordic countries and Europe. The Director of the Peace Institute is now a member of the board of the Graduate School for Human Rights (led by Åbo Academy) and a scientific member of the Research Council at the Institute for Minority Rights, European Academy of Bolzano (EURAC, Italy), and one of the editors of the European Yearbook of Minority Issues (EYMI). The researchers of the Peace Institute have participated and contributed to seminars and events in Helsinki, Turku, Kuopio, Stockholm, Uppsala, Lund, Brussels and Washington.

Sarah Stephan participated in a panel debate during the seminar “Multi-level governance: re-inforcing the cooperation between the EU, Member State, and local and regional authorities: reaching out to small regions” arranged by the EU Committee of the Regions in Mariehamn in September 2009.

During the year, the following research initiatives have continued:

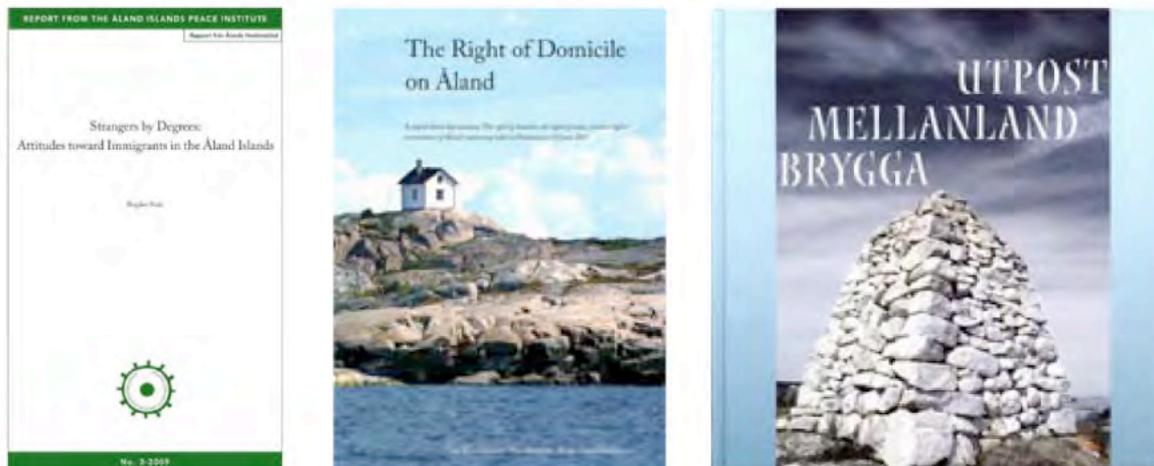
- The Ålandic autonomy and the EU, particularly on the position and participation strategies of autonomous regions within the EU
- Migration and integration on Åland and in other autonomous regions
- Ålandic demilitarization and neutralization
- The role of the International Criminal Court in Uganda
- Collective rights of administration of land: the Åland issue within the League of Nations to the UN declaration on aboriginal peoples

During the year of 2009 the Peace Institute has prepared two new larger research projects which will begin during 2010:

The project “European Language Diversity for All” (ELDIA, 2010-2013) is a big European cooperative project financed by the 7<sup>th</sup> framework programme for research of the EU. Seven university institutions and the Åland Islands Peace Institute will cooperate on this interdisciplinary project. The Project will examine the conditions and situation in 8 countries in Europe. The main role of the Peace Institute is to coordinate the development of analyses of the legal framework of the language groups in question, and to contribute to the comparative studies once the qualitative investigations have been conducted.

“The Åland example: still interesting and relevant?” (2010-2011) is a research project aiming at for one thing discussing the dynamic nature, durability and variability of the Åland regime, for another mapping and analyzing the practical usage of the Åland example in conflict prevention and peace-building around the world. This survey will be done in contact with diplomats, politicians, experts and academics who have contributed to similar activities, and will result in a publication in English. The

research project will end with an international conference on Åland in the autumn of 2011, and is implemented with support from, among others, the Finnish Foreign Ministry.



### *Publications*

The Peace Institute has during the year continued its publication activity, including the report series (Rapport från Ålands fredsinstitut – Report from the Åland Islands Peace Institute). The reports are spread both in printed and electronic format. In 2009 the following reports were published:

- No 1-2009 *The War of the Monuments in Estonia: the Challenges of History and the Minority Population* by Vadim Poleshchuk
- No 2-2009 *Översikt av lagstiftning och policy gällande integrationen av inflyttade i Finland och på Åland* by Petra Granholm
- No 3-2009 *Strangers by Degrees: Attitudes toward Immigrants in the Åland Islands* by Bogdan State

The book *The Right of Domicile on Åland* was published in English in 2009 (first published in Swedish in 2007).

The Peace Institute has worked within the hybrid form “science and art” in preparing the exhibition book *Outpost, Land In-Between, Bridge* which was published in May 2009 in connection with the inauguration of the exhibition with the same name at the Åland Museum and the Åland Art Museum. The book is available in Swedish, Finnish and English.

### **Examples of events during the year**

- 5-6.2.2009 Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark participated in a hearing on Swedish minority policy at the Department of Justice in Stockholm. She also visited the Finland Institute and the Embassy of Finland in Stockholm.
- 13-18.2.2009 Sarah Stephan participated in the seminar “The Brussels Democracy – Citizen Participation and Multi-Level Governance in Europe”, arranged by the International Network for European Studies (INES) in Brussels
- 19-20.3.2009 Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark travelled to the Finnish-Greek scholarly conference arranged at the Finland Institute in Athens, where she spoke about “Shifting justifications of Minority Protection in International Law”. Publication is being prepared in cooperation between the University of Jyväskylä and the Finland Institute in Athens.
- Alice Kennedy was guest researcher at the Peace Institute during several periods from May to October. Her research concerned the arrest and keeping in custody of asylum seekers in Europe, within the framework of a larger European research project (Jesuit Refugee Service Brussels: Detention of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Europe).

- Summer 2009: Petra Granholm has been working with a consultancy mission for the Swedish Red Cross. She has been developing education materials on national minorities and aboriginal peoples in Sweden for high school students. The materials may eventually be adjusted for use on Åland.
- Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark is one of four writers of a new book for teaching international law in Swedish, published by Norstedts juridik in the summer of 2009. “En bok i folkrätt” (“a book on international law”) is an introductory book on the subject.
- 27-28.8.2009 Sia Siliopoulou Åkermark participated as commentator of presentations and papers at the conference and seminar titled “Challenging Power: Equality, Culture and Minorities” at CEREN, Helsinki University/Swedish School of Social Science.

### *Research Council*

The research council of the Åland Islands Peace Institute consists of the board members Kjell-Åke Nordqvist (head of the board) and Nils-Gustaf Eriksson, and Susanne Jungerstam-Mulders.

The task of the council is to decide on the scholarly orientation of the Institute and to support the research activities. The research council held two meetings in 2009 (in Vilnius in connection to the annual meeting, and in Helsinki in November 2009) and began the revision of the Institute’s research programme.

The director of the Peace Institute is the secretary of the research council.

# Seminars and lectures

The seminars and lectures arranged in 2009 focused on questions of autonomy and minorities as well as other current international issues relevant to Åland.

## Seminars

### The Treaty of Lisbon

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of February the Peace Institute arranged a seminar on the Treaty of Lisbon in the auditorium of the Åland Parliament. Speakers were Janina Tallqvist, Susanne Eriksson, Andreas Kari Ruokola and Sarah Stephan.

### Ålandic demilitarization

In connection with the Demilitarisation Day the seminar “Ålands demilitarisering – självklar eller hotad?” (“Ålandic demilitarization – self-evident or threatened?”) was held in the auditorium of Ålands Handelsläroverk on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March. Contributing speakers were Colonel Erik Erroll (National Defense University in Helsinki), Professor Emeritus Bo Hultdt (the Swedish National Defense College in Stockholm), Roger Jansson, Harry Jansson and Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark. Barbro Sundback moderated the discussion.

### European Security Politics

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of June the Åland Islands Peace Institute together with the Europe Information arranged a seminar on European security politics. Lecturers were Markus Lyra of the Finnish Foreign Ministry and Nils Daag of the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark was commentator.

### Åland and Okinawa

The 1-2 September the Peace Institute together with the Japan Local Government Centre (London) arranged a comparative seminar on Åland and Okinawa on the theme of “Transforming the relationship with Central Government”. The purpose was to compare the two island communities because they show interesting similarities and differences. The invited participants from Japan and Åland discussed issues of economy, peace and politics.

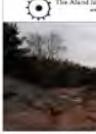
**Joint  
Okinawa Prefecture - Åland Islands  
Seminar:**

**“TRANSFORMING  
THE RELATIONSHIP WITH  
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT”**

1st to 2nd of September in the City of Mariehamn, Åland Islands, Finland at conference center Alandica, Room 203.  
1/9 at 9-15.30, 2/9 at 8.30-12.00

Speakers:  
Mr Elisbeth Nauzilo, Åland representative to the Finnish parliament  
Mr Kazuhiko Yoneda, First Secretary (Cultural & Press Attaché) of Embassy of Japan to Finland  
Professor Iku Shinzaburo, University of the Ryukyus  
Mr Kazumasa Uehara, Deputy Director General in charge of Industry and Employment, Okinawa Prefecture  
Dr Masako Inagaki, Director of the Center for Pacific Asia Studies, Stockholm  
Dr Fujio Otsubo, visiting fellow, the Wako Europe Research Center, University of Shizuoka  
Dr Ralfred Pääret, Åland Statistics and Research (ÅSRD)  
Mr Lars Ingemar Johansson, former director of the Åland parliament  
Dr Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, director of the Åland Islands Peace Institute

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The Åland Islands Peace Institute  
www.peace.ax  


Japan Local Government Centre  
Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CALOIR)  






### Ålandic identity and attitudes to immigration

The Peace Institute's report (3-2009) “Strangers by Degrees – Attitudes toward Immigrants in the Åland Islands”, written by Bogdan State, was launched on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September on a press conference at the Åland Islands Peace Institute and at an open seminar in the City library of Mariehamn. The seminar was part of the campaign Mångfald (Diversity) on Åland.

## Lectures

In 2009 the Åland Islands Peace Institute has arranged or contributed to the following seminars, conferences and lecturing events:

- 23.1.2009 the Åland Islands Peace Institute in cooperation with the City of Mariehamn and Medborgarinstitutet arranged a seminar for Iranian/Kurdish refugee groups on Åland on conflict management and mediation.
- 27.1.2009 Sarah Stephan spoke at the Day Centre for persons with dementia (Demensföreningen på Åland r.f. and Folkhälsan) about the Åland Islands Peace Institute and international law in conflict situations.
- 4.2.2009 Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark lectured at Uppsala University and participated in the Swedish review of the implementation of the framework convention for national minorities.
- 6.2.2009 Rhodri Williams gave a lecture on “Soft Law in Hard Times: The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the Challenge of Global Warming” at the Nordic Refugee Conference at the Faculty of Law and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Lund University, Sweden.
- 31.3.2009 guest researcher Rhodri Williams gave a lecture on refugee protection, protection for internal refugees, and held a group exercise at the Advanced Training Program on Humanitarian Action at Sida Civil Society Center in Härnösand, Sweden.
- 18-19.2009 Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark participated in a conference in Lund on invitation by the OSSE High Commissioner for National Minorities, Ambassador Knut Vollebaek. She gave a speech titled “The emphasis on participation and its risks: is over-proceduralization taking over substantive rights?”
- 18.8.2009 the Åland Islands Peace Institute arrange a lecture event where the Norwegian ambassador in Lebanon, Aud Lise Norheim, gave a lecture in the City Library of Mariehamn under the title “How can a small country make a difference for peace?”.
- 3.9.2009 Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark gave a lecture in Stockholm on invitation by the French Institute within the conference “Cultural diversity, multilingualism and ethnic minorities in Sweden”. She spoke about “Multiculturalism in a comparative Nordic perspective”.
- 1.12.2009 the lecture “Åland i global jämförelse” (“Åland in a global comparison”) was arranged in the Åland Parliament. Maria Ackrén, who recently got her PhD in political science, presented the results of her dissertation “Conditions for Different Autonomy Regimes in the World – A Fuzzy-set Application”.

Öppen föreläsning:

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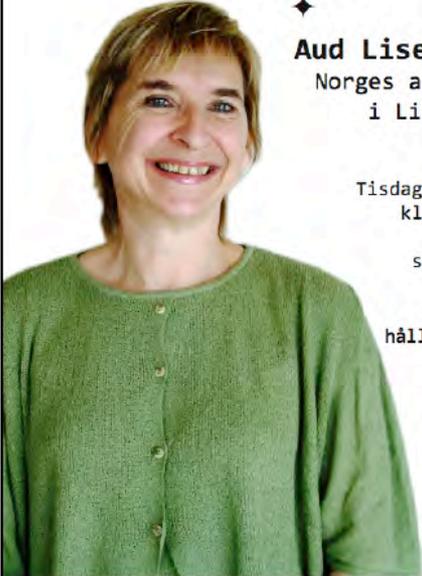
**How can a small country  
make a difference  
for peace?**

◆

**Aud Lise Norheim**  
Norges ambassadör  
i Libanon

Tisdagen 18 augusti  
kl. 13.30-15.00  
Mariehamns  
stadsbibliotek

Föreläsningen  
hålls på engelska



Ålands fredsinstitutet

# *Youth activities and education*

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The youth activities of the Peace Institute comprise the youth network Punkt. and in youth exchanges within the EU Youth in Action programme. Educational activities are mainly directed at teachers in Ålandic schools and kindergartens. Furthermore, a course has been organized for young women from Caucasus, Sweden and Finland.

## *Youth Activities*

Punkt. is the youth network of the Åland Islands Peace Institute and Agenda 21 for Ålandic youth between 15 and 30 years of age who want to 'save the world a little'. Through Punkt. the young receive information about different events, projects and youth exchanges. The youngsters can also discuss different issues related to the common interests of peace and environment, or suggest activities for the group to organize. Precisely what Punkt. should be doing is up to the members to decide. In 2009, Punkt. has been using its own Facebook-page. Punkt. member Andrea Boloos participated in the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs national conference in Stockholm on the 1-2 December 2009, as a representative of the Peace Institute. Andrea wrote a report from the conference for the Peace Institute's website.

Six Ålandic youth between 15 and 18 years old travelled to Ysselsteyn in the Netherlands on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July for a week-long peace camp. The theme was boundaries –national, as well as personal and cultural boundaries. Also youngsters from the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Turkey and Greece participated in the camp. The Åland Islands Peace Institute sent the Ålandic group to the exchange, which was financed by the EU programme Youth in Action.

Project manager and researcher of the Peace Institute Sarah Stephan participated in the study visit "Youth Work Realities in Azerbaijan" in Azerbaijan the 19-25 October 2009. The visit was arranged by the Azerbaijani Youth and Sports Ministry and the Salto resource center for Eastern Europe and Caucasus. The participants had the possibility to learn about Azeri youth policy and to meet youth organizations in the country.

## **Examples of events during the year**

- 3-8.2009 Gustav Blomberg from the Peace Institute and Mikaela Kjeldsen from the Ålandic HBT association Regnbågsfyren participated in a "Training Course for Living Library Organisers" in Budapest, arranged by the European Council. Gustav's participation was financed by NORDBUK.
- 8-10.4.2009 five students from Ålands Yrkesskola did their internships at the Centre for Women and Children Nendre in Vilnius, Lithuania.
- 22.9.2009 Young people from Ålands Lyceum who participated in the youth exchange in Holland during the summer 2009 told the other students of the school about their experiences. Susann Simolin and Sarah Stephan presented the youth activities of the Peace Institute.

## *Education*

With Folkhälsan as the main organizer, Save the Children, the Åland Islands Peace Institute, and the School Office of the Åland government cooperate for school peace on Åland. The year of school peace 2009-2010 was manifested on Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> of August at the main square of Mariehamn, and during the year themes and activities preventing bullying and promoting tolerance were emphasized in the schools. During the year of school peace 2009-2010 Folkhälsan on Åland, Save the Children and the Peace Institute offer different activities directed at school peace in the schools. The project is financed by the Åland government, the School Office, and the organization Svenska folkskolans vänner.

Within the project, the Peace Institute offer courses in the Step-by-step method. Step-by-step is an educational programme for schools and kindergartens aimed at promoting the social and emotional competences of the children and prevent violence. In January, an evaluation meeting was held with participants from the Step-by-step seminar held in October 2008. In November, a follow-up seminar was arranged for primary school and kindergarten teachers with previous experience of Step-by-step. Lecturer was psychologist Björn Gíslason from Sweden.

During the school year 2009-2010 also high school students have been included in the school peace project. In a pilot project the Peace Institute has offered a series of lectures in Ålands Lyceum. On six occasions researchers from the Peace Institute gave lectures within the framework of social science teaching on human rights, minority protection and Ålandic demilitarization. All these areas are directly related to the issues of school peace as they connect to students' understanding of individual human rights like non-discrimination, the need for minority protection in exposed areas, and peaceful conflict solution. The pilot project will continue during spring 2010.

The course "Living Bridges" for young women aged 18-25 from Åland, Finland, Sweden, Armenia and Azerbaijan took place on Åland the 17-22 August 2009. Participants in the course discussed and learned more about gender equality issues and conflict solution. Through interactive classes and group discussions and with assistance from Peace Institute staff and other experienced resource persons like Barbro Sundback, Elisabeth Naucclér, Kjell-Åke Nordqvist, Salla Nazarenko and Mia Hanström they got the chance to meet each others' realities and think about possible ways of continuing work on peace and equality issues. Participants stayed at Lemböte, and the programme also included excursions, practical exercises and social activities. The course was financed by the EU programme Youth in Action.



### **Examples of events during the year**

- 28-20.1.2009 Marja-Leena Magnusson and Anna-Lena Sjölund held an evaluation meeting on the Step-by-step method in the Ytternäs school.
- 21-24.4.2009 Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark held a workshop in Tbilisi for the Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) under the title "Minorities and ethnic relations in South Caucasus".
- 28.5.2009 Justina Donielaite held two interactive workshops on sexual harassment for the years 5-6 and 7-9 at Föglö primary school.
- 22.10.2009 Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark initiated the Peace Institute's pilot project of high school lectures within the teaching of social science at Ålands Lyceum (two lectures on Ålandic demilitarization and neutralization and Ålandic autonomy as examples of minority protection).

### *Volunteers and interns*

The Peace Institute has also in 2009 arranged volunteer placements abroad for Ålandic youth and hosted volunteers from abroad within the EU programs European Voluntary Service (EVS). The purpose is to give young Europeans international experience, language skills and understanding of other people and cultures. The purpose is also to give Åland and the Peace Institute experiences of interacting with people from different countries. The target group is 18-24 years.

The Peace Institute has promoted EU's Youth in Action programme including EVS to young people on Åland. In order to enhance the knowledge of EVS Anna-Lena Sjölund participated in a "writing room" ("skrivstuga") on EVS in Malmö, arranged by the National Board for Youth Affairs in Sweden. Until May 2009 Nina Westerholm has been working as a volunteer in Greece where she helped saving sea turtles.

The journalist Tamara Grigorieva from Azerbaijan ended her volunteer placement at the Peace Institute on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2009. In July 2009 the new volunteer Kamala Ramzanova arrived from Azerbaijan. Her volunteer period ends in May 2010. Kamala is a journalist and has written for the Peace Institute's website about conferences, courses and other events related to the activities of the Institute. Kamala's main task is creating a network for cooperation between Åland and Azerbaijan.

The Peace Institute hosts, to the extent it is possible, both Ålandic and foreign interns.

Klaudia Wisniewska was Erasmus intern at the Peace Institute in the summer of 2009. During her time here, she finished her masters dissertation in political science at the University of Olsztyn, Poland. While on Åland, she also wrote articles about Ålandic autonomy, demilitarization and neutralization, and about Polish views on the NordStream project for the Institute's website.

The intern Katja Daniels worked at the Peace Institute 16.11.2009-22.1.2010 with among other things an application for EU's Youth in Action programme for funding of a youth exchange planned for the summer of 2010, and with spreading information about the exhibition "Outpost, Land In-Between, Bridge".

## *Regional Cooperation*

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Within the framework of regional cooperation, empowerment projects with two different orientations are run: one is promoting gender equality and preventing violence against women, one strengthening women particularly exposed to risks.

### *Nendre – Lessons Learned*

The purpose of the project ‘Nendre – Lessons Learned’ is spreading both experiences and methods acquired at Nendre to neighbouring countries and thereby promote equality, integration and democratic participation as a basis for individual and societal change.

The Åland Islands Peace Institute has contributed to building up the Nendre Centre for Women and Children in Vilnius, Lithuania. The target group for Nendre’s activities are socially excluded single mothers and their children (about 70 families and 100 pre-school and school children a year). The purpose of the activities is to support them in the process of socialization and to facilitate their personal development and social competence. The method has its basis in the Nordic model for childcare and is based on gender equality, integration and democratic participation. The establishment phase is over and the responsibility of the Åland Islands Peace Institute for partial funding of its operations ended in 2007. In 2008 the Åland Islands Peace Institute became a joint owner in the “Public Institution Nendre” in order to continue to support the development of knowledge at Nendre.

Since 2005 Nendre has been spreading its unique model of social work to NGO’s in neighbouring countries. The project entitled “Nendre – Lessons Learned” has so far resulted in four pilot projects in the Kaliningrad region and in Belarus. The

aim of the local project activities is to give the marginalised groups the strength to handle and decide over their own lives. The target group are, again, single women and their children, and youth who are exposed to different social risks.

In 2009, the partner organisation “The Star of Hope” in Kaliningrad focused on developing preventative girl- and boy group work and trained 30 leaders in the region. The training resulted in 5 girl groups and 6 boy groups for young people exposed to risks of marginalisation and exclusion. In total, 118 persons participated in the activities.

The other partner organisation, “The Rebirth of the Family”, organised different cultural activities and offered counselling and guidance to some 20 families with single mothers in Pionersk.

On the 20-22 October 2009 partners of the project “Nendre – Lessons Learned” met for a final network meeting in the Kaliningrad region in Russia. For two and a half days participants discussed the results of the project and plans for future cooperation. Representatives from Lithuania and Pland



also had the opportunity to observe how activities for project participants in the Kaliningrad region had been implemented in practice.

During the project, staff at Nendre has continued to develop their methods of social work and focused on equality pedagogics at pre-school level. In the autumn of 2009 an external evaluation was made which showed that the pedagogics and methods in practice were consequent and well aligned with the main principles for equality work with children. Results of the evaluation were presented at a seminar in Vilnius on the 29 December 2009. Justine Donielaite from the Åland Islands Peace Institute participated and gave a talk on equality pedagogics in Nordic pre-schools.

Jone Sestakauskaite, student at the programme for European Studies at Malmö University has written his C-level dissertation on the girl group work at Nendre. Jone has during 2009 studied the effects of the girl group method as a means of promoting gender equality and thereby preventing sex slavery. In her paper, she concludes that the girl group method is an effective means of preventing trafficking. In the group meetings awareness is raised both about direct risks and about underlying factors of trafficking, like social injustice and unequal relations between women and men. The author also makes recommendations for future work against trafficking.

### **Examples of events during the year**

- 28.4.2009 shareholders of Nendre held their annual meeting. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark and Barbro Sundback represented the Peace Institute.
- 29.4.2009 Nendre hosted a visit of the Peace Institute's board members in connection with the board meeting in Vilnius.
- Week 19 the Nendre methods manual was published in Lithuanian and Russian. Editor of the publication is Justina Donielaite.

### ***Anti-trafficking***

In 2003 the Åland Islands Peace Institute and the Missing Persons' Families Support Centre (MPFSC) in Vilnius took an initiative to initiate girl group activity in Lithuania, with the aim of preventing sex slavery and promoting gender equality.

Since 2004 the MPFSC is running the project "Girl Power in Lithuania", which aims to strengthen girls from socially vulnerable families who run the greatest risk of falling victim to sexual slavery. Every year around 300 girls are taking part in girl groups that are coordinated by about 20 organisations throughout Lithuania. Since 2007 a group of trained Lithuanian leaders are themselves conducting courses to train girl group leaders in Lithuania and the neighbouring countries. The main principles for the activities are equality, freedom of values, questioning of gender norms, empowerment and voluntariness. A group of trained Lithuanian group leaders are since 2007 running

girl group leader courses in Lithuania and in the neighbouring countries Russia (the Kaliningrad region) and Belarus.

On the 9-11 October 2009 the Lithuanian girl group leaders were offered further training and guidance with Mia Hanström from Åland. The course was arranged by the Missing Persons' Families Support Centre in Vilnius, with partial financing by the Åland Islands Peace Institute. Equality, conflict management, and the approach towards girl group members were some of the central subjects of discussion during the course. The meeting also gave the leaders an opportunity to exchange experiences of the problems and challenges they had met in their work.



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Further training and guidance constitute an important part of ensuring the quality of activities. In total, 13 leaders participated in the course.

In 2009, the Peace Institute was granted support from the Nordic Council of Ministers for developing cooperation with the Karelian Centre for Gender Studies and the municipality of Petrozavodsk. The purpose of the cooperation is exchanging experiences of equality work and different methods which may be used for fighting gender-related violence, including sexual slavery. In early March 2009 Karelian representatives visited Åland. After that, two larger network meetings were held (in Petrozavodsk in June, and on Åland in November 2009), in which also the Peace Institute's partners from Lithuania, Kaliningrad and Belarus had the opportunity to participate. During the meeting on Åland in November, the Karelian Centre for Gender Studies presented the result of a media analysis on the reporting on equality, trafficking and gender-related violence in Lithuanian, Russian, and Belarus newspapers.

In the autumn of 2009 the Peace Institute, as a leading partner together with the resource centre for women Marta in Riga, received support from the EU programme Central Baltic Interreg. Programme and from the Åland government for the project "Challenging Gender Roles for Prevention of Trafficking". The purpose of the project is questioning gendered power relations and stereotypical ideas about the roles of women and men respectively, by involving young people in Latvia and on Åland in awareness-raising girl and boy group activities. Two researchers will be working on the follow-up and evaluation of the effect of girl and boy group activities on group participants concerning their views on themselves, their roles in society, and ideas of gender roles and equality among other things. The project will run until December 2011. During the autumn of 2009, staff for the project was recruited and a steering group consisting of members from Åland, mainland Finland and Latvia was selected.

### **Examples of events during the year**

- 4-7.3.2009 the Åland Islands Peace Institute arranged a study visit for four representatives of organisations from Petrozavodsk, Russia. The group got to know the activities of the Peace Institute and studied the work for equality on Åland. Also included in the programme were visits to the Åland government, the school of Strandnäs, and the home for mothers and children Tallbacken.
- 1-3.6.2009 project leader Justina Donielaite and the equality consultant Mia Hanström participated in a conference on migration and trafficking in Petrozavodsk, Russia. Mia Hanström presented the girl group method and Justina Donielaite gave a talk on cultural and social integration of immigrants to Åland and was interviewed for local TV. In connection to the conference a network meeting for representative from Belarus, the Kaliningrad region and Lithuania was held for exchanging experiences and discussing the implementation of a media survey on gender-related violence.
- 9-11.10.2009 the Peace Institute in cooperation with the Missing Persons' Families Support Centre arranged further training for Lithuanian girl group leaders in Vilnius, Lithuania, led by Mia Hanström. Justina Donielaite from the Åland Islands Peace Institute participated in the course.
- 22.10.2009 Denis Nazarenko participated in the Central Baltic Interreg. IVA programme's communication seminar in Riga. He also met representatives for the project partner Resource centre for women Marta, and met Egita Gritane, a potential researcher within the project.
- 26-27.10.2009 Susann Simolin participated in Save the Children's seminar "Konsten att stå pall – begränsande normer för killar" ("The art of endurance – restricting norms for boys") in Fryshuset in Stockholm.
- 17-18.11.2009 the Peace Institute invited its cooperation partners from Russia, Lithuania and Belarus to Mariehamn for a network meeting, financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers.
- 9.12.2009 the steering group for the interreg. project "Challenging Gender Roles for Prevention of Trafficking" held its first meeting on Åland.

# *The Åland Mediation Office*

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In the autumn of 2006 the Åland Islands Peace Institute began to offer mediation for criminal cases and certain disputes. The mediation is statutory and the State Administration on Åland purchases the mediation service from the Peace Institute. 14 voluntary mediators have been active in mediation work for the Åland Mediation Office during 2009. During the year the Mediation Office has arranged mediation meetings (13.3, 25.5, 22.9, 4.11, and 14.12) where mediators have discussed specific mediation situations, overall guidelines and also met experts from the prosecutor's office and other authorities. On the 11-13.9 four of the mediators and the Mediation Officer participated in further training in Vasa (at the so-called Swedish-language mediation days). During the first quarter of the year the Mediation Office saw an increase in incoming cases. After the summer, however, fewer cases were processed, resulting in a total of 56 cases in 2009, a number considered stable in comparison to previous years. The number of cases concerning violence in close relationships decreased during 2009 to seven incoming cases, compared to ten cases in 2008. By the end of the year, seven cases were in process and were transferred to 2010 for further processing or follow-up.

Brief statistical summary of 2009:

**56 mediation cases, of which:**

Positive decisions: 38

Arranged agreements: 35

Implemented agreements: 26

Agreements to be followed-up in 2010: 5

Broken agreements: 4

Negative decisions: 18.



The Mediation Office has during the year worked actively with informing the public about the mediation activities through local media (news reports and articles in Ålands radie 30.4.2009, articles in Nya Åland 30.4.2009 and 20.10.2009, and a brief article in Ålandstidningen 20.4.2009), lectures (12.2. Ålands Yrkesskola) and updating of the website.

Contacts with the local cooperation authorities have been maintained through informal meetings and conversations, and through the meetings of the mediation commission (2.6.2009 and 4.12.2009). Contacts with the mainland have been strengthened through the Mediation Officer's participation in meetings with the law group, a semi-official committee of the Finland Mediation Commission, on the 18.5.2009 and at the organisation days 11-12.6.2009 in Oulu.

## **Examples of events during the year**

- 9.13.3.2009 Sarah Stephan, research assistant at the Peace Institute, went to Washington D.C. for participating in a course on mediation in violent conflict between and within states, arranged by the United States Institute of Peace
- 18.5.2009 Wille Valve met the law group, a semi-official committee of the Finland Mediation Commission, in Tampere. The group is surveying the practical effects of the current mediation law, and is working for unifying mediation agreements in Finland.
- 23.2-3.3.2009 Wille Valve participated in an EU-financed mediation seminar: "Youth breaks the barriers! Mediation and reconciliation tools in European youth work activities" in Bosnia (Kljuc). The focus was on mediation between partners of different cultural backgrounds, and on youth mediation.
- 15.12.2009 Sarah Stephan and Heidi Öst participated in the seminar "Mediation, conflict resolution and international politics" in Helsinki, arranged by the Foreign Ministry and the Finland Mediation Forum.

# Information Activities

General information about the Institute and Åland's status has mainly been disseminated via the website [www.peace.ax](http://www.peace.ax) and in direct contacts with journalists, different groups and individuals.



## Electronic communication

The website [www.peace.ax](http://www.peace.ax) was partially restructured during 2009. The purpose was adjusting the structure of the website to the development of the Institute's activities and to make it easier to read and navigate.

The webpage has been updated at least once a week with articles in Swedish and English. The online document collection of the Peace Institute has been continuously updated on the website. In the database are publications and other materials relevant to the Institute's work. Six digital newsletters have been sent out during the year. The contact lists have been updated and newsletters have been highlighted on the website.

The Peace Institute's newsletter *Skolnyheter* ("School news") has been sent out once in 2009. The newsletter is available on the Institute's website.

## Examples of events during the year

- 29.9.2009 when Nobel Prize Laureate and President Martti Ahtisaari visited Åland in connection with the Nordic Council meeting 29-30.9.2009 Kamala Ramazanova, journalist and the Peace Institute's volunteer, had the opportunity to ask him about his views on the Nagorno-Karabach conflict. The interview was published on [www.peace.ax](http://www.peace.ax).
- 14.10.2009 an interview with Andreas Gross, member of the Swiss National Assembly, of the Parliamentary Assembly of the European Council, and social scientist, on his views on today's situation in Caucasus written by journalist and Peace Institute volunteer Kamala Ramazanova was published at [www.peace.ax](http://www.peace.ax).

## Communications in mass media

To the Institute's information activities belong opinion-building concerning the international status of Åland and the defense of international law, human rights, equality and peaceful conflict solution. In connection to the committee meetings of the Nordic Council on Åland in late 2009 Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark published the debate article 'Fredlig lösning av tvister eller ökat militärt samarbete?' ('Peaceful conflict solution or increased military cooperation?') in both Ålandic newspapers (links can be found at <http://www.peace.ax/sv/information-a-besok/debattartiklar>).

Demilitarisation Day (30 March) was highlighted through a seminar in Mariehamn and a debate article under the title 'Ålands demilitarisering – självklar eller hotad?' ('Åland's demilitarization – self-evident or threatened?'). Local and Nordic media have except for the newsletters also received PM's and invitations to press conferences, in connection to the launching of reports and at the start of the interreg. project "Challenging Gender Roles for Prevention of Trafficking", among other occasions.

## Examples of events during the year

- Austrian magazine *Datum* published an article on Åland in its April number. The author Christopher Zotter visited Åland and the Peace institute in February. <http://www.datum.at/0409/stories/keinschoener-aland/>

- 20.6.2009 the International Refugee Day was highlighted around the world. Three of the Institute's researchers wrote an article together, highlighting the global refugee issues, the situation of Åland as refugee receiver, and the Peace Institute's work on Åland as an example of how to prevent refugee situations through minority protection. The article was published in Swedish in the local newspapers of Åland, and on the website, where it was also published in English.
- 29.7.2009 Nya Åland published Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark's article 'Den som inte finns kan inte byta lek' (ca. 'The one that doesn't exist cannot change games'). The article was part of a series of editorials on the theme of Ålandic identities. The guest writers had all participated in the exhibition *Outpost, Land In-Between, Bridge*.
- 12.11.2009 Ann Nedergård from the Central Baltic programme held a press conference at the Peace Institute in which the project "Challenging Gender Roles for Prevention of Trafficking" was also presented. Ålandstidningen, Nya Åland and Ålands radio reported on the project.
- 4.12.2009 the campaign "Mångfald" ("Diversity") published an ad annex with editorial contents in Ålandstidningen based on the Mångfald brochure.

### *Visits, presentations and networking*

The Peace Institute has at several occasions during the year informed both foreign visitors and local groups about the Åland Islands Peace Institute and its activities, and on the special status of Åland.



The knowledge of the Peace Institute has also been wanted by Ålandic politicians and authorities. In cooperation with the Åland Museum and Art Museum, the Peace Institute has worked for the publication of the exhibition book *Outpost, Land In-Between, Bridge*. Director of the Peace Institute Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark has on different occasions presented the exhibition for different groups.

Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark is a member of the contact group between the Åland government and the Foreign Ministry of Finland. The group was founded in 1998 with the purpose of developing and enhancing the use of the Åland example on the international level, and in other ways increasing the information and contacts between the Foreign Ministry and the Åland government. In 2009, the contact group held two meetings with Foreign Minister Alexander Stubb.

### **Examples of events during the year**

- 26.1.2009 the Åland Parliament heard Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark on the status of demilitarisation today.
- 9.2.2009 Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Susann Simolin and Wille Valve informed the guides of Åland on the Åland example, the activities of the Peace Institute and the Mediation Office.
- 28.2.2009 Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark and Susann Simolin informed a group of master students of International Conflict Resolution at the Department of Peace and Conflict Resolution in Uppsala on the Åland Example and the work of the Peace Institute.
- 5.3.2009 Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark gave a talk on the international meaning of the Åland example for the Junior Chamber International of Mariehamn (JCM).
- 23.3.2009 the Peace Institute was visited by Alec Forss and Dr. Sangsoo Lee from ISDP/Silk Road Studies.
- 7.5.2009 Swedish Ambassador to Finland, Johan Molander, visited the Peace Institute.

- 27.5.2009 Herman Lindqvist, inauguration speaker at the exhibition Outpost, Land In-Between, Bridge and his wife Birgitta, also an author, visited the Peace Institute where they held discussion with the staff and met representatives for the local press.
- 3.6.2009 the President of the Nordic Council Sinikka Bohlin visited the Peace Institute in connection with the Nordic Council meeting on Åland 29-30 September 2009.
- 22.9.2009 Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark participated in a meeting with the new Ambassador of the USA to Finland Bruce Oreck who was visiting Åland.
- 29.9.2009 Members of Parliament of the Nordic Council visited the Peace Institute in connection with the committee meetings on Åland.
- 8.10.2009 Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark participated in the meeting between the contact group of Åland and the Foreign Ministry and Alexander Stubb in Helsinki.

### *Other public events*

The Åland Islands Peace Institute has during the year participated in the campaign Mångfald (“Diversity”), a campaign which aims at making visible the fact that Åland has become a multicultural society. Researcher at the Peace Institute Petra Granholm has been driving the campaign which is a cooperative project between different organizations and companies on Åland. The partner organizations arrange their own events which are included in the campaign.

During the year the Peace Institute in cooperation with several other organizations has continued to arrange multicultural cafés with different country themes. In 2009 Cuba, Tanzania, Iran, the UK, the Philippines, Azerbaijan and Germany have been presented.

### Examples of events during the year

- 11.1.2009 a light manifestation for peace and human rights for Israel/Palestine was held in St Görans Church. The Åland Islands Peace Institute, the Åland Peace Association, the Parish of Mariehamn, and the Amnesty International group on Åland arranged the manifestation. The organizers wrote an appeal which is to be sent to the Israeli government, Hamas, and the EU. The appeal has been published in the local papers.
- 30.5.2009 the Peace Institute participated with an exhibition table at the organisations’ fair Möjligheternas torg in Mariehamn.
- 14.8.2009 the campaign Mångfald på Åland (Diversity on Åland) was launched.
- 21.11.2009 the Peace Institute participated in the book fair in Alandica for the first time.

