



The Åland Islands Peace Institute

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Thinking and acting for peace

The Åland Islands Peace Institute (ÅIPI) works practically and with research into peace and conflict issues in a broadly defined sense, from the vantage point of Åland and the special status it enjoys under international law. The Institute's core task is to foster peace through knowledge and methods for empowerment.

Research on security, minorities and self-government

The institute's multidisciplinary research activities focus on security, minorities and self-government in a comparative perspective, with international law as the point of departure and an interest in gender issues.

Research projects and results are regularly presented at seminars and conferences, on Åland and abroad, in the form of reports and edited volumes published in print and on www.peace.ax.



Promotion of peace and prevention of violence

In its practical work, the ÅPI focuses primarily on the prevention of violence and the empowerment of individuals and groups at all levels of society. The ÅPI promotes the peaceful resolution of conflicts and active citizenship, through a variety of activities for both youths and adults, such as:

- Customized courses and workshops on issues related to the Åland Example, self-government, minorities, security, peace and conflict as well as gender.
- Activities sponsored by the European Union's youth programme including youth exchanges, training activities and hosting/sending of volunteers.
- Training for leaders working with the Nordic Girl and Boy Group method.
- Violence prevention work in schools.
- The Åland Mediation Office with activities based on the Finnish Act on Mediation in Criminal and Certain Civil Cases.



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International co-operation on empowerment and gender equality

The ÅIPI has created a network of partner organisations working on the civil society level to promote gender equality and prevent gender related violence, such as trafficking and sexual harassment, on Åland, in Eastern Europe and in the South Caucasus.

TODAY: WAGE NEGOTIATION



ILLUSTRATION: MY LONGLEY

Since 1998 the network develops and promotes methods for empowerment based on a critical, value-free, non-hierarchical and interactive approach. Examples are the Nordic Girl and Boy Group method and methods for social work developed at the Nendre Center for Women and Children in Lithuania. The aim is to strengthen individuals' self-esteem and to promote their abilities to question prevailing gender norms, to solve conflicts peacefully and to take an active part in society. More recent projects include discussion groups with a gender perspective for men and for women, as well as "Fair Sex" workshops for youth.

The Åland Example

The Ålands Islands were demilitarised in 1856 and gained self-government and neutralisation in 1921. The concept “the Åland Example” aspires to describe Åland and its self-government, demilitarisation, neutralisation as well as the protection of language and culture from a dynamic and peace-oriented perspective. The concept provides insights on processes of peaceful conflict resolution, negotiation and co-operation over time on a regional, national and international level. The Åland Example serves as a platform for analysis and discussion.



Åland as a meeting place, source of inspiration and knowledge

Åland attracts visitors from all over the world who wish to learn more about the Åland Example. Based on continuous and critical research the ÅIPI can offer up-to-date information and analysis of debates relating to Åland to the international public. The ÅIPI functions as a resource centre and provides input into international dialogue processes on related issues. A wide range of information and insights can be found at www.peace.ax.

Facts about the ÅIPI

The ÅIPI is an independent charitable foundation, which was founded in 1992. It has consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council, ECOSOC, and is part of a number of national and international networks of organisations. The Board of the institute takes decisions on the overall activities, while the Research Council is responsible for the scientific direction of the research activities of the institute.

Publications

Books and reports about security, minorities and self-government can be ordered or downloaded at www.peace.ax.



Newsletters

Our free-of-charge digital newsletter is distributed 4 to 5 times a year. To subscribe, please register at www.peace.ax.

Support our work

The Åland Peace Fund was created by the ÅIPI with the purpose of supporting work for peace. Find out how to make donations at www.peace.ax.

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