

SECURITY, SCIENCE AND PEACE CONFERENCE

Global peace as a priority of science, religion and the media

The fourth 'Security, Science and Peace' conference organized by Pugwash Croatia, a branch of Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, World Academy of Art and Science, and the Ideje.hr portal was held on 22 January 2025. This year, the conference focused on global peace, security and humanism, the connection between science and security, the role of religion in achieving global peace and the media as a tool for promoting peace through. The conference was moderated by Zvonimir Šikić and Ana Jerković, chairs of Croatian Pugwash and members of the World Academy of Arts and Sciences. The directors of the conference were Ana Jerković, Zvonimir Šikić, Ivo Šlaus and Željko Ivanković.

Global Security, Global Peace, Global Humanism



Hussain Al-Shahristani, the new president of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, gave an introductory address, and warned of the nuclear threat to civilization and the dangers of using other weapons of mass destruction. He emphasized the need for joint efforts to achieve

global security and disarmament. He recalled the extent of the destruction of wars and noted that every war represents a step backwards for humanity. International laws and conventions should be respected, and their violation strongly condemned. He also pointed to the ever-increasing modernization of weapons, both nuclear and hypersonic, as well as AI-controlled weapons, which represent a continuous temptation and a greater likelihood that they will be used. He also mentioned the growth of China as a nuclear power, alongside the USA and Russia, and the new arms race with far more sophisticated weapons. He concluded that it is necessary to raise public awareness of these threats, and precisely scientists, civil society organizations, religious leaders and responsible media can help in this.

Garry Jacobs, President of the World Academy of Art and Science, spoke about a global peace offensive as a response to the conflicts that surround us. He emphasized that we live in a world of paradoxes marked by industrial, technological and scientific progress,

Einstein Manifesto of 1955, which gave rise to the Pugwash movement, then a loud and firm voice of science against warfare, such as the appeal of 124 Nobel Peace Prize laureates for ending the war in Croatia in 1991, and restoring trust in science built through reason and experience.

Gotz Neuneck from the Institute for Peace and Security Policy Research at the University of Hamburg spoke about the importance of three elements of science diplomacy – diplomacy for science, science for diplomacy and science in diplomacy. He also pointed out the failures of academic and scientific organizations to prevent or stop destruction, but also stressed the importance of social sciences in this context. He added that scientists are not sufficiently represented in decision-making processes. He mentioned Joseph Rotblat as an example of scientific responsibility.

Tonći Prodan from the University of Split spoke about the use of artificial intelligence in predicting, preventing and combating terrorism by recognizing patterns, but also about security issues in terms of the large amount of video content related to terrorism and violence, which is continuously available on online platforms and social networks. He highlighted new initiatives that can prevent and predict terrorism, but also emphasized the importance of coordinated action between countries and institutions.

Aleksander Zidanšek from the Jožef Stefan Institute in Ljubljana spoke about innovative ideas for a global peace offensive and the role of science for progress (personalized medicine, quantum computing etc), although many products of science have been misused throughout history. Some of the solutions are asking better questions, stopping wars and accepting peacekeeping forces, and a global peace offensive in the sense of adding a peace dimension to every activity, science, art and education. He emphasized the importance of the appeal for peace, and the World Academy initiative on Human Security instead of national security.

How can Religion Contribute to World Peace

The Apostolic Nuncio Giorgio Lingua, president of the Global Security Institute and United Religions Initiative Jonathan Granoff, Goran Kardaš from the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Zagreb and theologian Almir Pehlić spoke in the session about the role of religion in achieving global peace.

Apostolic Nuncio Giorgio Lingua pointed out three important aspects in which religions help to achieve global peace: religious mediation and arbitration, prayers for peace, and interreligious dialogue and cultural initiatives. In the context of mediation, he mentioned the issue of the Beagle Channel between Argentina and Chile, the civil war in Mozambique, and Pope Francis' mediation between the USA and Cuba as examples. In the context of prayers for peace, he asserted that religions do not have armies, but they have influence over believers who can send strong messages of peace to political leaders. Regarding interreligious dialogue, he cited examples of documents, centers, conferences, and councils in which religions cooperate. Finally, he mentioned the 'golden rule' that exists in all religions - do not do to others what you do not want to be

done to you. He also added that we need a spiritual army, an army of prophets, to achieve peace together, because only together can we rise or together will we perish.

Jonathan Granoff from the United Religions Initiative and the president of the Global Security Institute emphasized that the key thing that religions can do for peace in the world is to awaken the conscience of people, and they have an obligation to emphasize humanism in people that is given to everyone by the creator. Recalling the 'golden rule', he called for religions to treat other religions as they wish to be treated, and he called on nations to treat other nations as they wish to be treated. He also pointed out the importance of prayer, and pointed out as an example the prayer for peace and liberation from nuclear weapons, in which leaders of religions in the USA, former US secretaries of state, and scientists and physicists who are familiar with the destructive potential of nuclear weapons participated. He also mentioned the Peace Pledge, Nuclear Prayer and Nuclear Prayer Day initiatives and invited the conference participants to join them.

Nuclear Prayer: [The Nuclear Prayer | URI](#)

Nuclear Prayer Day: [NUCLEAR PRAYER DAY 2025 | Nuclear Voices](#)

Peace Pledge: [Petition · The Peace Pledge to Live Loving-Kindness & Compassion - Netherlands · Change.org](#)



Professor Goran Kardaš spoke about the practical and philosophical principle of non-violence in the Indian tradition of Jainism, or rather, the cultivation of the virtue of non-violence from the perspective that all living beings owe their existence to a higher being. Jainism states that all living beings should be treated equally – it is necessary to develop benevolence, respect, tolerance and compassion for all living beings. Violence and destruction come from a lack of understanding of the perspective of the other and one-sided ideological dogmatism, claims Kardaš. All life, not only human, belongs to the sacred global family, and the purpose of human life and existence is to help others, concluded Kardaš.

Almir Pehlić spoke about the institute of sacrifice and the necessary sacrifice for higher goals. He mentioned examples from the Gospel where sacrifice was necessary to achieve peace between man and God, and ultimately when God sacrificed his own son for the salvation of the world. Pehlić states that to achieve peace we must make both small and large sacrifices, sacrifice something that is valuable to us. In the context of small sacrifice, he mentioned conversation and dialogue when there is conflict and misunderstanding, and in the context of greater sacrifice, sacrificing the ego and dedicating one's life for peace and the well-being of all. He also asked what the countries that are currently in war, as well as world powers, are willing to sacrifice for peace - is it territory or is it people.

The Role of Media in Promoting Peace and Human Security

The final panel dealt with the role of the media in promoting peace, and was addressed by academician, professor and psychiatrist Miro Jakovljević from the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, who emphasized the importance of achieving an empathetic civilization. He stated the paradox that the more knowledge we have today, the less wisdom we have. More information, less knowledge. More peace conferences, but also more wars in the world. More wealth, less values and everything becomes a commodity. He highlighted the competitiveness of the world and viewing others as enemies and competitors, and life that is perceived as a battle. He mentioned the crisis of trust and sees the solution in the creation of an empathetic civilization in which the media plays a key role in promoting it.

Journalist Una Hajdari from Politico Europa followed up on the previous speaker with a presentation of the media from her perspective as journalist and reporter for various media, and spoke about the way the media functions, editorial policy, financing and other challenges that the media face in their work, related to freedom of expression, directing topics and content towards those that would promote peace and security. It was concluded that the media are largely to blame for the conflicts in society and the world, but many do not consider how to protect the media, which are one of the pillars of society, so that they are safe from influence, independent in reporting and financially sustainable, and so that they are fully dedicated to promoting and achieving peace in the world.

The conference was closed by Ana Jerković, Pugwash Croatia Vice-President and WAAS Associate Fellow, who stated that the conference is another attempt to further discuss peace and security issues through the perspective of science and humanism, and that peace is built with small steps, open minds and hearts, strength to learn from each other and gentleness in our actions towards others.

Full Conference available at the following link: [Pugwash WAAS 2025 4th Security, Science and Peace Conference](#)