

A New Agenda for Peace (2023)

Referring to the invitation of the UN that civil society organizations can submit suggestions for a new Agenda for Peace,

the **White Hand Campaign** (www.whitehand.org), an initiative that raises awareness for ending corporal punishment of children, represented by its founder, peace researcher Franz Jedlicka (Ebook: „The forgotten Peace Formula“), suggests the following:

Just as the security of women is crucial for sustainable peace – as recommended in the UNSCR resolution 1325 and as scientifically proved by Valerie Hudson et al (books: „Sex and World Peace“, „The first political Order“),

the security of children, namely a legal ban of corporal punishment in all settings of childcare, should be recommended as an important peacebuilding strategy in the New Agenda for Peace.

There is an increasing scientific proof that nations can not become sustainably peaceful when already children experience violence in their families:

It is not only that children learn from the early stages of their life, that violence is an accepted method of solving problems: by experiencing it, and by seeing it,

psychology (early childhood development) has proved that violence in childhood can damage the empathy centers of the brain (e.g. Robin Grille „Parenting for a peaceful World“)

which was confirmed by criminal psychology (when interviewing criminals).

Psychohistorians (researchers in the field of political psychology) have examined the childhood of those politicians who started or continued wars, and of terrorists, and have found violence and neglect in their early years whenever detailed information about their childhood was available.

In addition, some anthropologists have examined peaceful indigenous tribes to find that they perform a nonviolent parenting style.

Taking all these findings into account – and realizing that a consequent „Culture of Peace“ must include the prohibition of violence in all societal sectors – it seems to be clear that nations can not become sustainably peaceful when already violence against children is accepted in its society.

And there seems to be a good reason why the „Peace SDG“ 16 contains the topic of children’s protection, namely the SDG 16.2.

To conclude, there are two quotes of well known persons that also make the linkage clear:

„If we are to teach real peace in the world, we must begin with our children.“ (Mahatma Gandhi)

„There can not be a keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children.“ (Nelson Mandela)