



Basel Peace Office

*Advancing international peace and security through
the abolition of nuclear weapons*

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Final project report: ‘The Future of Abolition 2000: Maintaining and servicing the network

Introduction

The Basel Peace Office was given a grant of \$7000 approved by the Abolition 2000 Coordinating Committee, in order to implement a project on maintaining and servicing the Abolition 2000 network. The project started on July 2016, and will run for one year from that date, or until the new secretariat office of Abolition 2000 is established, which is expected to be decided at the next Annual General Meeting of Abolition 2000. This final project report is submitted in accordance with the guidelines agreed by the Coordinating Committee on 17 June 2016.

Breakdown of activities

1. Communication to members – including campaigns

It was agreed that the Basel Peace Office would:

- Update the members’ database as many of the contacts for member organisations are out-of-date, and new organisations emerged in the last couple of years
- Update the contacts of the Global Council to assist with communications from the Coordinating Committee to the Global Council, and to assist communications between Global Council members
- Contact all working groups and Abolition 2000 campaigns to ascertain which ones are still active, and to ask for updated information and reports from them
- Assist the Coordinating Committee in organizing conference calls, maintaining records (minutes) and ensuring follow-up of tasks agreed

Final status: Communication to members – including campaigns

- *Updating the members’ database*
 - The work carried out included a) outreach by e-mail and calls to existing member organisations to request updated contact details, b) updating details from our personal contacts with member organisations, and c) updating contact details from online information. We have not only contacted all member organisations but also created a database with this information.

- In addition to building the Excel database, we have added the member organisation website links to the online list of Member Organisations. This task was successfully completed.
 - Updating the Abolition 2000 individual contacts database. We also have updated the individual members list that we received from the organisation who previously hosted the Abolition 2000 secretariat.
- *Updating the contacts of the Global Council*
 - The Global Council list has been updated and posted on the new website*. This document is also available to any member from the CC who would like a copy.

*It was pointed by a member of the CC that the Basel Peace Office should ask permission from all Global Council members for posting their names online. The BPO has done so, and the one person who did not want her name listed online is not listed.
- *Contacting all working groups and Abolition 2000 campaigns*
 - We have contacted the coordinators of the existing working groups to ascertain which are still functioning and to update the online information about them.
 - New working groups. The Missile Ban WG has been added. We have contacted the other new working group (ICAN Nuke U) asking for information but have not heard back yet from the group coordinators (Sharon Dolev and Rebecca Sharkey).
 - Existing working groups: A number of new members have joined the International Law WG, Interfaith WG, Nuclear Weapon Free Zones WG and the Youth WG. There is a proposal (generally favoured) that the International Law WG and the Nuclear Zero Campaign/WG join together. There is also a proposal that the Nuclear Materials and the Sustainable Energy WGs merge. And there is a proposal that the 'Nukes out of Europe' group join the NWFZs group with a focus on the European NWFZ initiative. These proposals will need to be discussed at the Annual Meeting.
 - The website page for the Working Groups is currently marked as "under construction" with all existing material available. The page will remain marked as such until all working groups are up to date.
- *Assisting the Coordinating Committee*
 - The BPO has carried out a number of task related to this item. They included:
 - Note-taking and logistical arrangements for the 2016 AGM in Berlin
 - Note-taking and coordinating arrangements for conference calls (Coordinating Committee and Oversight Committee)

- Offer to assist with note-taking and logistical arrangements for the 2017 AGM on May 1, Vienna. To be confirmed in the Abolition 2000 CC Conference Call on April 24.

2. Website upgrading and maintenance

It was agreed that the BPO would:

- Build a new website with more attractive and user-friendly format which can be accessed also by smartphones
- Import appropriate data, articles etc. into the new website
- Update out-of-date information and adding information not yet on the website such as annotated list of Abolition 2000 Global Council Members

Current status: Website upgrading and maintenance

- *Build a new website with more attractive and user-friendly format which can be accessed also by smartphones*
 - After consulting with a web designer, the BPO decided not to create a new website *per se* as it would take a long period of time to import all the data from the old website to a new one. Instead, the BPO updated the Word Press version in the old website, and installed a new plug in named 'Divi Builder'. This plug in allowed the personnel carrying out this task to modify the user interface, making the website more visually appealing and user friendly. The BPO used, at all times, the Abolition 2000 Survey Report as guideline when making any changes.
 - The homepage has gone through significant changes, for instance, the Facebook feed from Abolition has been added to the right hand-column of this page.
 - The logos at the bottom of the page from affiliated networks and campaigns were updated and re-scaled.
 - The BPO has also been working on drop down menus in order to facilitate the navigation of visitors when accessing the webpage. The following structure was implemented:
 - 'About' button: drop-down menu with the options → about (background) of A2000; founding statement in 7 languages; member organisations; CC; Global Council; Operating Principles in English and French; Working Groups; join A2000.
 - 'Resources' button: drop-down menu with the options → AGM minutes; statements adopted by Abolition 2000; key publications available for download i.e. Don't Bank on the Bomb, Move the Nuclear Weapons Money, and so forth. The publications would have their cover picture next to their name to facilitate navigation (not completed yet).

- Another plug in was installed to allow translated pages to be copied and published with content in Spanish.
- We commend Tony Robinson and his team at Pressenza for the work carried out on the Spanish version of the Abolition 2000 website.
 - Tony Robinson was given the permission of ‘administrator’ for the WordPress as this made the work of his team much easier as they can copy the existing pages themselves and publish new ones.
He was not granted permission as ‘editor’ as this would not allow his team to copy the existing pages using the plug in, thus extending by a fair amount of time their work.
- Unfortunately, due to the French student of Peter Low dropping out it was not possible for the French version of the website to be launched. However, the system in place can always accommodate a new language and the consequent website version.
- The BPO has also put in place a calendar of events on the website. Members have been notified via mailing list of the possibility of adding events to the calendar.
- Other:
 - Renewal of ABOLITIO2000.ORG domain: The domain is registered under Steven Staple’s name ([sstaples@rideauinstitute.ca](mailto:ss Staples@rideauinstitute.ca)). It was renewed in the end of March 2017 for a period of one year. Steve paid the fee on behalf of the organisation (USD 20).
- *Import appropriate data, articles etc. into the new website – N.A.*
 - As affirmed above, the BPO decided not to create a new website as it would be time consuming to transfer the information over – time that could be better used improving the user navigation and aesthetics of the old website instead
- *Update out-of-date information and adding information not yet on the website such as weblinks for member organisations and annotated list of Abolition 2000 Global Council Members*
 - We have posted the Global Council members online according to the permission granted by each individual following a general email being sent out
 - The BPO has not contacted the Global Council Members for blurbs and photos to make an annotated Global Council list online as there was not clarity on this task from the Coordinating Committee. We suggest that this be done by the next host of the network maintenance functions (PragueVision?).
 - We have updated the ‘About us’ page with more background information and a better drop-down menu for key pages.
 - We have restructured the ‘Members page’ as the previous page was visually confusing and not user friendly.

- The 'News' page has been redesigned. It now includes a blog roll with Abolition 2000 posts in a chronological order, quick links to Abolition 2000 channels (Facebook, Twitter and the Abolition 2000 Email Caucus), and links to blogs and newsletters from member organisations.
- The 'Take Action' page has also been redesigned. It is composed by two buttons on the top directing the user to joining Abolition 2000 and/or making a donation. A brief description of all active working groups is also posted, together. Finally, we have posted key campaigns in a column on the right hand-side with campaign logos.
- Overall, the BPO has updated all static pages from the website. The Working Group page remains under construction as we have not received much information back from WG coordinators regarding updated content. We plan to pick up this issue at the AGM in Vienna.
- Very importantly, the BPO has not deleted **ANY** content from the website, but is instead working on 'archive pages' (not published yet) so that outdated content can be separated from current content without any losses of historical content.
- In the Project Oversight Committee call on Jan 4 it was proposed that the BPO send an email message to Abolition 2000 contact list announcing the new website, informing them that the minutes from the 2016 AGM in Berlin are now available online, asking the recipients send us updated contact details for their member organisations if they are no longer the principal contact, and inviting them to inform us of upcoming events for the online calendar or any other suggestions for the new website. This task has been completed.

3. Social media outreach

It was agreed that the BPO would enhance the Abolition 2000 social media through twitter accounts and hashtags, more frequent Facebook postings, and promoting campaigns and platforms of member organisations. It was also agreed that Abolition 2000 social media should enhance and complement that of member organisations, not compete with them.

- *Guidelines*
 - The BPO is doing some posting and sharing of articles on Abolition 2000's Facebook page. However, other social media promotion is minimal until the Coordinating Committee puts in place more specific guidelines on social media activities.
- *Hashtag*
 - Previous agreements on this topic included that the hashtag used shouldn't compete against any existing hashtags, but perhaps complement them. On the last Oversight Committee call it was agreed

that the BPO would bring a couple of options for the Coordinating Committee to discuss and choose their “winner”.

4. Personnel

The BPO appointed Caroline Leroy (Program Director, BPO) as a part-time person to be responsible for this project. The work she has carried out was supervised by the Abolition 2000 Coordinating Committee, and more specifically, by the Oversight Committee – a sub-group comprising Dr Andreas Nidecker (President, BPO), Jackie Cabasso (WSLF), Rick Wayman (NAPF) and Alyn Ware (PNND).

5. Funding

This project was co-founded by the BPO and Abolition 2000. Total budget for staff time, website development and operations costs added up a total of €10,000. The required funding received from Abolition 2000 was €6,500.