

What are Museums for Peace?

Dr. Christian Bartolf, Dr. Dominique Miething

9 June 2021

Museums for Peace (physical or virtual) are recommending purely civilian and nonviolent means and methods to foster Peace.

They are not advertising military means or methods to keep or to restore ceasefire; they are not glorifying or recruiting soldiers for military intervention or war preparation.

They are not propagating antisemitism, antiziganism, authoritarianism, discrimination and oppression of individuals or groups (such as disabled, homeless, unemployed people and refugees), homophobia and other forms of discrimination on the grounds of gender or sexual orientation, militarism, nationalism, necrophilia (cult of death), racism, sexism, slavery, xenophobia.

They are encouraging and promoting awareness, compassion, conscientious objection, critical thinking in historical contexts, biophilia (joy of life), cosmopolitanism, democracy, empathy, federalism, freedom, justice, mutual aid, nonviolent resistance, social service, solidarity, sustainable development, tolerance.

Methods of peace education include cooperative games, intercultural and interreligious dialogues, mediation, nonviolent communication and conflict resolution, dance, music, painting, sculpting and theatre performances as expressions of beauty and truth, contemplation of art and nature, meditation in silence, enlightenment with respect to systemic causes of oppression, violence and war.

Exhibitions for Nonviolence and Peace – physical or virtual - are using (digital) media and a simple language in combination: through a collage of images, language, music, natural sounds, through a composition of drama (play), poetry and prose.