

January 31, 2021

The Norwegian Nobel Committee

NOMINATION FOR 2021 – CORA WEISS AND PEACE EDUCATION

I.

In keeping with the purpose of Alfred Nobel’s testament, and believing that creating the demilitarized global peace order Nobel had in mind depends on a massive retraining of young people in cooperative and friendly relations, I hope that one share of a Nobel Peace Prize for peace education in 2021 should go to Cora Weiss, born 1934, USA. She is widely respected and admired. As a full professor and former Obama administration political appointee, I have looked to Cora Weiss as a role model, ever since she met and mentored me as a junior professional many years ago. She is truly an inspiration to anyone who is passionate about social justice and peace. Cora Weiss brilliant, clear commitment to these values has paved the way for many of us. It is thrilling to a younger generation—including Greta Thunberg—speak out on today’s critical concerns, thanks to pathbreakers, such as, Cora Weiss who blazed the way.

II.

“To have a peaceful population,” says Cora Weiss, “we must teach peace.” A key figure in the US and international peace movement, Weiss has spent her life in untiring struggle against militarism, war, and nuclear weapons; for the United Nations; for peace education; active in Women Strike for Peace; a leading protester against the Vietnam War; on the Board of Sane/Freeze; director of Riverside Church Disarmament Program etc. Weiss was an admirer of Kim Dae-jung as the father of the Sunshine Policy and she worked for his release from prison.

The Hague Appeal for Peace (HAP), haguepeace.org, convened more than 9000 participants from civil society at The Hague in May 1999, one hundred years after the first great Hague conference in 1899. Cora Weiss was one of the initiators and President of HAP that, under the slogan “Time to Abolish War,” gathered national and international leaders, including four Nobel laureates and Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and 2001 Nobel laureate.

The Hague congress adopted *The Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice for the 21st Century*, official UN document, A/54/98, a 50-point program that deserves to serve as our compass far into the future. The HAP reinvigorated many old campaigns and started new ones and it was the birthplace of what became Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. Weiss (in 2000) was one of a small group of women who drafted the resolution. She concurs that the Nobel goal is not to make war safe for women, it is a world without war. I refer to Heffermehl “Medaljens bakside” (Sandnes, 2020), p. 326-8 for further details.

III.

Further, I refer to and sponsor earlier nominations of Cora Weiss, a.o. in 2000 by Ramos Horta. She has an Honorary Doctorate from Adelphi University. After a lifetime of peace, justice and human rights work, she continues to be dedicated to teaching on the UN and promoting its capabilities for peace. In February 2020 she organized the 21st CTAUN Conference at the United Nations –WAR NO MORE – Honoring the UN on its 75th anniversary and calling for the full implementation of its Charter, <https://teachun.org/conference/2020-un/>. She represents the International Peace Bureau at the UN, see her profile at: <https://teachun.org/speaker/cora-weiss/>.

Sincerely,

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