

# Infosheet

15-20+27 Feb 2022

This House is

on Fire

Online Seminar



**SCI** Switzerland  
Volunteering for Peace

# This House is on Fire - goes online!

We are happy to have you on board as a participant for this seminar. In this infosheet, you will find all the information you need to know about the seminar.

If you have any questions that are not answered in this infosheet, please feel free to reach out to us at [trainings@scich.org](mailto:trainings@scich.org)!

This project is financed by Movetia:



## Who organises this?

This training is organised by Service Civil International Switzerland and the two facilitators of the project will be Sara and Thomas.

You probably know SCI already, if you participate in this project, but anyways here a short intro:

### **What is Service Civil International (SCI)?**

- We are Service Civil International, or short SCI, and we are an international peace movement.
- We are independent: We are not a religious organisation and we are not affiliated with any political party.
- We are activists: We want to promote a culture of peace by organising international volunteering projects and peace education.
- We are different: In our usually very hands-on projects (most of them 2-week volunteering camps like this one aka "workcamps"), we bring people from different backgrounds together to promote peace, solidarity and understanding.
- We are pretty old: Service Civil International was founded in 1920 after World War I by Swiss peace activist Pierre Ceresole.
- We are many: In regular years without pandemics, thousands of people around the globe participate in our projects. We are happy that you become one of them with this training!

### **Who is Sara?**

Sara (she / they) is a trainer and peace activist who has been involved with SCI Switzerland for several years. She has organised pre-departure trainings for Camp Coordinators and Participants in various seminars and has facilitated sessions on Gender, Global Education and

volunteering.

### **Who is Thomas?**

Thomas (he / they) is a peace activist based in Berlin. He is active in SCI since 2011 and has organised and coordinated many volunteering projects, seminars and trainings since then. He is a co-founder of the educational collectives Critical Queer Solidarity and Education for Utopic Change. Thomas has worked as a campaign strategist for an NGO in Germany and has been involved in political campaigning for more than ten years. His focuses are global justice, anti-discrimination and antimilitarism.

## **About the seminar**

**The world is literally on fire!** The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the pressure on marginalized groups in society, it has fuelled right-wing extremism, hatred and conspiracy theories. Wars are continuing to rage the world. Racism, sexism, queerphobia, wealth inequalities and global injustice have direct effects on people every single day. And we didn't even list the climate crisis yet.



**Silence is violence.** Social media and communication have become a bigger part of SCI in the past two years of living through a pandemic, as it is one of the online spheres of influence that we have. During the Black Lives Matter protests and the social media hype around it in May and June 2020, it became increasingly clear that organisations should and need to position themselves in solidarity with the protests. SCI was comparably slow in responding and coming to a consensus on it. We often have the motto: „Sure, peace, but not too political!“

**Questions that we ask ourselves:** What is too political for SCI? How much do we need to position ourselves politically in order to be a believable peace organisation? How can we deal with sensitive political topics, when an SCI member organisation might face repercussions for speaking up? Whom is your communication for, whom is it not for? When is the right timing to be political?

**We urgently need to discuss this.** Rather than having limited time during an EPM or ICM for this topic, we would propose a complete week. This is why we invite you to a seminar where we can discuss existing communication strategies within our branches, but also as SCI on an international level - and develop new ones that are fit for the year 2022. Let's develop clear

strategies when we speak up on social media and how we speak up.

**This seminar is outcome-focused.** We will on site develop new social media campaigns around political topics (similar to the COVID-19 campaign that Gender Blenders did in 2020 or the Nuclear Weapons campaign by the International Secretariat in September 2021). We will draft proposals for resolutions and recommendations for ICM and EPM. And we will create a guideline document on political communication for branches.

**Wir sprechen Englisch.** The working language of the activities is English. If you have problems understanding anything, the facilitators and the group will support you in your understanding in simple words.

**Parts of the program will completely depend on you!** There will be an “Open Space” part in the program, which means that you can suggest workshops or things to discuss that are not in the program yet. This could be a discussion around a specific topic, a method that you’re using, introducing a best practice, etc. Please think of something you could share with the group and we will vote during the project which ideas we will implement during the Open Space.

**Please be sensitive that people come from different backgrounds.** We want this project to be a safer space for people no matter where they come from, what they look like, what gender identity or sexual orientation they have, what they believe in, what they wear, how much money they have, what education they have or what kind of bodies they have. Personal attacks or discrimination are not welcome in this project. We will talk more about this on the first day of the project. We will create a group agreement together, so that we can respect each other’s needs during the project. :)

**You will have a task!** At the end of every day of video calls, you will gather in a breakout room with the same small group of participants and you will reflect about how the day was for you. You will also each day have a different task to bring some life into our Zoom calls: e.g. by reading a poem, creating an energizing game or organising an after-session activity.

## What is the program like?

The training has three different kinds of elements:

**Individual tasks:** are individual tasks that you can do at your own speed and when it fits you. The tasks will be published on the platform Padlet and will usually be stuff like watching a video, reading a short text or writing down some reflections. The individual tasks are preparations for the video calls.

**Video meetings on Zoom:** Every day for ca. 3,5 hours in the afternoon (Central European

Time) from 13:00 to 16:30 we gather in Zoom, with half an hour break in the middle.

**Informal time:** Every evening, from ca. 17:30 (Central European Time) on there will be a one-hour (or so) evening session organised by a team from within our group. You are free to join or not, depending on how you feel that day! :)

Here is the full program of the seminar - please beware that things might still change!

	Day 1, 15 Feb	Day 2, 16 Feb	Day 3, 17 Feb	Day 4, 18 Feb	Day 5, 19 Feb	Day 6, 20 Feb	Day 7, 27 Feb
<b>Morning</b> 10:00-11:30 CET	Preparation task (see "What do I need to prepare" here in the infosheet!)	Individual task: How is the world currently on fire?	Individual task: SCI and politics	Individual task: Strategic planning	Individual task: Get to know campaigning and resolutions	Individual task: Working on campaigns and resolutions	Individual task: Working on campaigns and resolutions
<b>Afternoon</b> 13:00-14:30 CET	Getting to know each other and the program	How is the world currently on fire?	Challenges around political positioning in SCI	Strategic planning	Campaigning training #2	Working on campaigns and resolutions	Presentation of final outcome + Follow-up projects
15:00-16:30 CET	Expectations for the training	Silence is Violence	How can we speak up as SCI?	Positive peace as activism + Campaigning training #1	Working on campaigns and resolutions	Open Space	
<b>Evening</b> 17:30-CET	Some more getting to know each other	Evening activity	Evening activity	Evening activity	YouTube Party	Evening activity	Evaluation, Celebration

## An online seminar...?

**Usually, we organise these seminar offline.** While we acknowledge that video calls are not the same as meeting in real life, we also think it's quite special and amazing to be able to do peace activism from your own home, when travelling internationally is not safe or/and restricted.

**Online seminars have some advantages.** Having this project online means that many more people from across the world have access to it, even if usually they would have a hard time to come to Switzerland because of expensive travel or visa restrictions. And for this training, you don't need to fly across the planet and leave behind a big carbon footprint that causes climate change.

**This is not a typical video conference and not university!** We set this seminar up to be a lot of fun, with a diverse range of methods, with movement and without formalities. During

this project, we want to create an atmosphere of peace, belonging and safety within our very international group.

## When and where?

The camp starts on **15 February at 13:00 Central European Time** ([convert this time to your time zone here!](#)) and we will meet at the video platform Zoom.

**You can enter the Zoom call by clicking on this link:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82903094859>

Maybe some of you also need this: Meeting ID: 829 0309 4859

In case you have trouble with logging in with your computer, you could even join Zoom via calling one of the the telephone numbers at this link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kcy6qfCpCI> (unfortunately this is not available for all countries), but we would only recommend this in emergencies - we want to see each other in the exchange :)

If you have technical problems with Zoom, you can always message Sara (Whatsapp at +39 3491813755 or email at [trainings@scich.org](mailto:trainings@scich.org)) or Thomas (Whatsapp at +43 6648781377).

## What do I need?

- **A device with webcam and microphone:** Please do a test run of your microphone and webcam before the start of the project. A headset might help you as well.

- **Laptop or PC** (but also a smart phone works) to connect to video calls, but also to other platforms we will use (e.g. Padlet).

- **A good enough internet connection:** Please try out your internet connection with video calls with friends before, so that you know that your internet connection can sustain a video call with several people. If your internet connection is not stable enough and you need financial support to get a faster connection, please contact us as soon as possible at [trainings@scich.org](mailto:trainings@scich.org).

- **Zoom application on your device:** Feel free to get a Zoom account at <https://zoom.us/> and install the application for it on your device.

# What do I need to prepare?

We have two preparation tasks for you. One is to introduce yourself and the other one is a compilation of online quizzes that already give you an introduction to placement and SCI.

**Visit our main padlet at:** [https://padlet.com/SCI\\_International/thiof](https://padlet.com/SCI_International/thiof)

Here you'll find all materials, links and information that you'll need during the training. In this Padlet, under the section "Preparation Task" you see the link to our introduction padlet. If you can't find it there, here is as well the direct link: [https://padlet.com/SCI\\_International/thiof](https://padlet.com/SCI_International/thiof)

**Please interview your sending organisation before:** Talk to the people from your sending organisation before and bring the answers and gained information with you: What do they expect you to get out of this seminar? How do they deal with positioning themselves politically? What challenges do they face in being political? How is the peace your organisation is promoting political? What good practices of positioning themselves politically does your organisation have?

**Introduce yourself to the group on [the Introduction Padlet!](#)** We would be happy to give each an impression of each other already before the seminar. It's maybe not super intuitive, so here a small description how to do this:

- Click either on the white plus in the red circle on the bottom right or on one of the plus signs on the dashed line to create a new post.
- Put your name and your pronouns in the title
- Then answer the questions of the example post in your post
- Please attach one photo of yourself (if you are fine with a photo of yours being online). To do this, click on the arrow pointing upwards.
- If you want to change your post afterwards you can do this in clicking on the pen in the upper right corner of your post.