



# **Impact Report**

**January 2016 – September 2017**

**Insamlingstiftelsen Interpeace Sweden**

**Organisational number: 802477-9277**

**Legal form: Foundation**

## Purpose of Interpeace Sweden

Insamlingsstiftelsen Interpeace Sweden (“Interpeace Sweden”) is a fundraising foundation registered in Sweden. Its purpose is to support Interpeace, a Swiss not-for-profit organisation registered in Geneva, Switzerland to fulfil its two-fold mandate:

1. To strengthen the capacities of societies to manage conflict in non-violent, non-coercive ways by assisting national actors in their efforts to develop social and political cohesion; and
2. To assist the international community (and in particular the United Nations) to play a more effective role in supporting peacebuilding efforts around the world through better understanding and response to the challenges of creating local capacities that enhance social and political cohesion.

In addition to its fundraising function, Interpeace Sweden manages a small programmatic engagement in Sweden where the organisation applies Interpeace’s proven peacebuilding methods and approaches to address societal challenges, in particular marginalization and exclusion in socio-economically disadvantaged areas. Our experience has taught us that inclusion is a prerequisite for more peaceful and just societies, regardless of their geographic location and level of development. Active since 2013, Interpeace Sweden has become established as a recognized and innovative community-based actor and a reference for tackling issues of marginalization in Sweden.

Interpeace Sweden’s work centres on empowering marginalized communities in and around major cities, such as Stockholm and Malmö. We believe that if marginalized groups, and particularly youth, are empowered with tools and knowledge to constructively participate in society and influence decision-making, and if the voices of these groups are brought to the attention of local and national decision- and policy-makers and mainstream society, then attitudes are transformed, leading to reduction of exclusion and mistrust between stakeholders and greater social cohesion in Swedish society. Together with other local partners, we work towards a better Sweden – an inclusive society where everyone can flourish and fulfil their potential, and where diversity is celebrated.

Interpeace Sweden’s activities have so far focused on three main areas of work: 1) working with marginalized communities to identify and address sources of exclusion and mistrust; 2) influencing policy by bringing the voices of marginalized communities to the attention of decision-makers; and 3) promoting inclusion as a common objective. We do this by applying a comprehensive set of tools and methods:

- **Research:** Identifying sources of exclusion and mistrust, and ways to promote greater social cohesion.
- **Dialogue:** Bringing people together in safe spaces of dialogue to discuss sensitive topics and create consensus on solutions.
- **Capacity building:** Proactive engagement with communities to strengthen their capacities to lead processes of change.
- **Policy influence:** Engaging decision-makers at local, national and international levels to foster translation-into-action of findings and enhance accountability.

- **Advocacy:** Increasing public awareness and discussion on exclusion and marginalization in Swedish society through awareness raising activities and media engagement.

## **Organisational Context**

Interpeace Sweden is a fundraising foundation registered in Sweden. Its objective is to support the mission of Interpeace, a Swiss not-for-profit organisation registered in Geneva, Switzerland.

Interpeace is a leading peacebuilding organisation with over 23 years of experience working at local, national, regional and international levels. Interpeace was established by the United Nations in 1994 to develop innovative solutions to build peace. The organisation became independent in 2000, while maintaining a unique partnership with the UN. Interpeace is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland with regional offices in Ivory Coast, Belgium, Guatemala, Kenya, USA and Sweden.

Interpeace believes that peace is possible and that every society has what it needs to build peace. Our role is to support societies to harness their strengths. Peace cannot be imported from the outside and must be built from within. Interpeace tailors its approach to each society and programmes are jointly developed with local teams and national partners, who offer vast experience of different cultural contexts, political systems and networks.

Interpeace Sweden actively partners and collaborates with other Swedish organisations, the private sector and the media. During the 2016-17 period, Interpeace Sweden collaborated with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation and Fryshuset to explore how youth are affected by and influence peace and security processes in Sweden, and with Ben & Jerry's and Kompis Sverige to promote inclusion in the Swedish society, among others.

## **Strategies**

To achieve its purpose, Interpeace Sweden implements the following strategies:

### **Fundraising**

The board of Interpeace Sweden works to identify opportunities, fundraise and mobilize resources to fund the mission and activities of Interpeace, its affiliates and partners with support from the Sweden programmatic team. This includes partnerships with the private sector, foundations and public authorities.

### **Programmatic engagement**

Interpeace Sweden engages all sectors of society and particularly individuals from marginalized groups and youth in socioeconomically disadvantaged areas in research and dialogue processes to speak about and develop a deeper understanding of the challenges and solutions for inclusion that exist in Sweden. The dialogue we have conducted with communities and key stakeholders, and the findings that emerge form the basis for our work and serve to shape local and national policy.

Based on the findings and solutions that have been identified through Interpeace's dialogue and research processes, we proactively work with marginalized communities to strengthen their capacities so that they themselves can take the lead in addressing the challenges they face. Our work has demonstrated the need to design and implement initiatives together with communities, enabling vulnerable groups such as youth to play a greater role in society. Our work has involved more than just giving disadvantaged groups a voice at

the table; it has 1) strengthened their capacity to influence decision-making processes, and 2) enhanced their capacity to engage with the very actors and institutions that affect their daily lives. Such forms of empowered participation are central to achieving a fair and inclusive society.

To foster sustainable change and greater accountability, Interpeace has engaged in policy dialogue with decision- and policy-makers at local, national and international levels to share findings and reflections that emerge from its programmatic activities at the grassroots level to allow for better informed policies that counter social exclusion and marginalization. We have also created strategic partnerships with like-minded Swedish organisations, the private sector and the media, to foster increased awareness of communities' concerns and priorities among policy-makers and enhance translation-into-action of our recommendations into policy.

## **Capacity and Expertise**

Interpeace Sweden has cultivated a strong, transparent, efficient and accountable institutional culture through its programmes and management structure.

Interpeace Sweden is supervised by a Board of Directors composed of well-connected and influential individuals in the public and private sector with the ability to mobilize financial resources for the organisation. Our Board includes:

- Tord Magnuson, Chairman, Founder and Owner of Devisa AB
- Scott Weber, Vice-Chairman, Director-General of Interpeace
- Peter Elam Håkansson, Founder of East Capital
- Krister Kumlin, Former Swedish Ambassador
- Johan Lundberg, Founding Partner and CEO of NFT ventures
- Renée Larivière, Deputy Director-General, Interpeace
- Patrik Lilieblad, Partner, Real Advokatbyrå

Interpeace is globally recognized for its proven methodology in facilitating action-oriented dialogue, helping resolve conflict and building peace. Although Interpeace has traditionally worked in conflict-affected countries, it has also observed that many European societies are facing challenges in terms of social and political cohesion.

To carry its activities in Sweden in the above-mentioned areas, Interpeace Sweden manages a small Stockholm-based team that has expertise in peace building approaches, dialogue facilitation and wide networks in marginalized areas as well as with public authorities.

Interpeace Sweden benefits from Interpeace's extensive leadership and experience in results-oriented programme design, monitoring and evaluation and specialized skills such as facilitation of inclusive, participatory and consensus-building processes, conflict resolution and mediation training, policy-making and advocacy, and institutional capacity-building. In addition, the team works closely together with a programme support team based in Geneva on financial management, internal monitoring and evaluation and administrative tasks.

Interpeace Sweden actively collaborates with other organisations, public authorities and other institutions to identify synergies, jointly implement activities and share the lessons learned from our work. It also utilizes Interpeace's presence and relationships in Geneva, New York and Brussels to disseminate the results of its programmatic achievements with key representatives of the international community.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

Interpeace Sweden has developed key performance metrics and indicators to monitor and evaluate programme performance.

- **Reports to Governing Bodies:** In accordance with the statutes of the foundation, financial reports and programmatic updates are provided to the board twice per year. These reports include both qualitative and quantitative indicators to account for the progress made towards the purpose and goals of the foundation. In addition, Interpeace provides progress reports and financial reports to its global Governing Council twice per year.
- **Donor reporting:** Interpeace is committed to making available all needed information and facilitating both internal and third-party monitoring. Interpeace engages its donors funding its programme, not only communicating the programme's progress but also making donors an active part of the programme, especially during the design phase.
- **M&E tools for tracking progress:** Interpeace employs various tools to monitor progress towards its programmatic goals on the activity level. These include activity reports, surveys and interviews with target groups, regular reflection meetings to track progress, document lessons learned and make strategic programmatic adjustments together with the senior leadership of Interpeace.

## Outcomes

### Fundraising

Interpeace Sweden's financial reports show that its income has increased from 1,522,726 SEK in 2013 to 3,970,804 SEK in 2016. Current calculations for 2017 show that Interpeace Sweden's budget will reach 12,405,387 SEK, thanks to the generous support of the Queen Silvia Foundation, the Jacob Wallenberg Foundation, the Swedish Postcode Foundation, Ben & Jerry's and private donations.

### Programmatic engagement

To date, more than 1100 people have participated in our research and dialogue processes through individual interviews and focus group discussions to develop a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities that exist in communities in Sweden. The dialogue we have initiated with communities and key stakeholders, and the findings that have emerged form the basis for our work and serve to shape local and national policy. Our report "From Margins to Mainstream: Fostering Inclusion in Sweden" proposed a series of recommendations to local and national actors to counter these negative trends and increase the participation and empowerment of those who are marginalized.

Interpeace, in partnership with Ben & Jerry's, carried out the campaign "One Sweet World" in 2016-17 to promote unity and social cohesion in Swedish society. The campaign included participation at community events such as the Tensta Market and social media engagement that amplified positive stories from the communities to tackle prejudice and misconceptions. In 2017, Interpeace also organized the second edition

of the Stockholm Peace Talks. Organized under the theme “Better Together”, the aim of this edition was to inspire people and spark a discussion on how each and every one of us can play a role in fostering greater cohesion and inclusion in Sweden and abroad. The Peace Talks brought together influential speakers such as Jeffrey Ige, Swedish Paralympic Champion; Siavosh Derakhti, Swedish Social Activist and Founder of Young People Against Anti-Semitism and Xenophobia; Emilia Bjuggren, Vice Mayor of Stockholm; and Staffan de Mistura, Special Envoy for Syria of the United Nations Secretary-General. Our awareness raising activities and engagement with the Swedish public have had the following outreach impact:

### **Our public engagement in numbers**

- Number of attendees at the 2017 Stockholm Peace Talks: **over 400 people.**
- Number of people watching the 2017 Stockholm Peace Talks live streams: **490** (English and Swedish).
- #StockholmPeaceTalks reach: **1,619,294** (Feb 3 – April 24, 2017)
- #StockholmPeaceTalks reach: **1,016,559** (March 21-22, 2017)
- #OneSweetWorld total impressions on social media: **169,839,579** (September 1, 2016 – January 18, 2017)

Over the course of its engagement in Sweden, Interpeace has shared findings and recommendations emerging from its work with municipal councils, the City of Stockholm (including its Commission for Social Sustainability), the Ministry of Culture and Democracy, and the Ministry for Youth and Civil Society, among many others. We have also created strategic partnerships with other Swedish actors such as Fryshuset and the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation to foster increased awareness of communities’ concerns and priorities among policy-makers and enhance translation-into-action of recommendations and solutions into policy-making. Furthermore, by including decision and policy-makers as active participants in its programmatic work, Interpeace is helping to create lasting relationships and channels between decision-makers and their constituents. Interpeace’s approach to addressing sources of exclusion in Sweden has triggered interest in other European capitals and beyond. Interpeace has been invited to share the findings from its work with state authorities in Finland, Denmark and the Netherlands, and with the international community, including the United Nations.

Interpeace has also shared the findings of its community-based engagement and research with Swedish media, seeking to foster a more balanced coverage of marginalized areas. Our recent media engagements include interviews with Swedish radio and television to discuss the efforts needed to address increasing crime in Stockholm’s marginalized suburbs.

Furthermore, building on the findings and solutions that have been identified through Interpeace’s dialogue and research processes, we proactively work with communities to strengthen their capacities so that they themselves can take the lead in addressing the challenges they face. In 2017, Interpeace began implementing the project “Hear me out! – A platform for young voices”. The project consists of capacity building workshops for youth to build their skills and knowledge so that they are able to engage in processes of local democracy and communicate effectively. The project also provides youth with platforms to exchange opinions and ideas with decision-makers, and apply their new skills and knowledge.