



SCI VOLUNTEERS PAST & PRESENT

ACTION FOR PEACE #100

CATALOGUE OF BOOKS

PREVIOUS/OLDER ACTIVISTS

1. John Myers *"Overcoming Division - Ending the East-West conflict"*



My brief talk will cover my role & experiences as the half-time project coordinator of SCI's international East-West work in the last three decades of the 20th Century. Together, we will look at the main challenges and changing expectations SCI faced during those times in a rapidly changing world and how we sought to promote peace & understanding between young people across borders in a divided Europe. We will raise such questions as what means equal partnership, the most effective methods to achieve the set aims, how to cope with and learn to accept and appreciate cultural differences. If time allows, I will also tell a few tales...and look forward to an open discussion.

2. Rita Warleigh *"An activist life"*



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- Getting arrested as an activist for the environment
- Learning about non-violence
- Finding SCI
- Starting SCI in Australia
- A long journey with SCI

3. Gianni Orsini *“The issue of peace: building the answers together”*



In the early eighties in the French branch of SCI, a conscientious objector performs his civilian service, as East-West exchange Officer. It is the time of perestrojka and the fall of the Berlin Wall. After his period of service, deeply touched by his experience, he continued to be involved in SCI. He slowly understands that "Transforming the conflicts while growing together", while taking - always - into account the context of the conflict/s, is the very essence of peace building dynamics. The worldwide geopolitical changes accompanying the east-west upheaval are now becoming really huge. The world becomes more and more local-global and intrinsically interdependent. Many years later, the pandemic just confirms this new reality: the global village is our common house. The necessity to re-think and re-build together the - SCI - vision of peace is on the agenda again.

4. Stephen Nah *“The Challenge, excitement and joy of volunteering over 5 Decades”*



I would like to share the interesting different challenges one is expected to encounter when engaged in volunteering activities in one's 20s, 30, 40, 50 and 60s... as one has to balance with career, family and other social commitments. Guess what's the payback?? Come chat with me...

5. Helen Honeyman *“How SCI led me ‘by chance’ into cross-community work”*



While teaching in Canada in 1965, I joined a workcamp run by SCI USA in Illinois. The workcamp was a personal life-changer. I stayed on working there for a further 6 months working with mixed groups of disadvantaged Black, White and Latino kids. On return I joined the UK branch of SCI. In 1970 I was persuaded to lead a playscheme workcamp for 2 weeks in Belfast. I am still here, 50 years later, many SCI experiences richer and still involved in cross-community work. Needless to say that my book has many more chapters. Please come and experience my book....

6. Nigel Watt *“The Joy of Internationalism”*



Nigel Watt discovered workcamps in 1955 and this influenced his whole life. This book traces his unusual career in which SCI played a major part. Starting as a conscientious objector he went to work in Africa as a young man and when working for IVS, the British branch, and later as Director of CCIVS he played an important role in supporting the development of voluntary service in Africa by Africans. Volunteering in India in 1960 he met SCI leaders there, and afterwards as a staff member of IVS he was responsible for a programme of LTVs but he learned more about the international movement and tried to steer IVS into ever closer cooperation with the other branches. Most recently he has played a part in

supporting the creation of NAVO, the all African volunteering platform.

NEW/PRESENT ACTIVISTS

7. Zahra Farook *“The liberated ‘Muslim woman’”*



There are so many misconceptions about Muslims, especially Muslim women. These also vary depending on your location. But some of the most common include: Muslim women with hijab are oppressed, they get married at a young age, they can't travel alone. For the first time, I moved out of my comfort zone (Sri Lanka) in 2017 to start my EVS volunteering at SCI International Secretariat (IS). I was 25, single and a working woman at the time I joined the IS. I was part of Peers to Peace project, and took leadership roles in many activities. I am passionate about sharing my experiences.

8. Sylvie Gosme *“Joining the right organization for the wrong reasons”*



Summer 2004 - my main motivation to apply for a SCI workcamp is to get a Visa for Russia. Seventeen years later, I'm still around, and even became the president of the Belgian French-speaking branch. A few years back, I was wondering if I should move on, but during a workshop on systemic constellations the universe told me that SCI brought me joy. Borrow me to know more about how SCI does that...

9. Liliia (Lili) Stepchenko *“Pioneer of online workcamps”*



Since March 2020 I had been doing a long-term volunteering service in SCI-Germany as a Placement Officer, notwithstanding the COVID-19 outbreak and the lockdown till the beginning of September 2021. All my volunteer experience ought to be saturated and unforgettable looking back at the previous experiences of other volunteers. Instead the current situation dictated its own rules and I developed my own way of volunteering. To "read" more - choose this book

10. Sameera (Sam) Jayasinghe “From the 28th floor to 28 acres: COVID opportunity”



A story of a SCI-person who used to live in one of the busiest cities in the world traveled to a remote part of a county where things move very slowly. The past two years changed the way many of us live and gave us an opportunity to realize what is more important in our lives. The book will share his experiences during the past two years living with travel restrictions and the lessons he learnt as a farmer in Sri Lanka.

11. Katerina (Kat) Stoyanova “Passing on the peace flame”



My name is Katerina but in the SCI family I am known as Kat. My first workcamp in Poland introduced me to a world full of volunteering opportunities and lit the peace flame in me, which I carry around and share with people from different ages and backgrounds since 2008. The trainings I have done within SCI and in other national and international contexts are: on-arrival and midterm trainings for international EVS/ESC volunteers, training meetings for EVS accredited organizations, numerous trainings for working with refugees and migrants in Bulgaria and abroad, trainings for volunteer management and online activism, peace messenger trainings, peace building and trainings on volunteer management, trainings of writing, delivering and reporting on international projects, human rights trainings, trainings for youth leaders and youth information and last but not least, trainings on remembrance and history.