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To the Norwegian Nobel Committee
Henrik Ibsens gt 51
0255, Oslo, Norway

I hereby nominate Steinar Bryn and the Nansen Dialogue Network for the Nobel Peace Prize 2016. Their work for peace and reconciliation started when Sarajevo was still under siege in 1995. The Olympic Connection between Sarajevo (1984) and Lillehammer (1994) opened doors and made it possible for the Nansen Academy in Lillehammer to enter the war zone in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Over the last 20 years (see the publication *20 Years in the Eyes of the Storm*) the Nansen Dialogue Network has worked steadily, persistently to build up trust and confidence in local communities in the most war torn communities in Europe after WW II, like Vukovar, Prijedor, Sanski Most, Bratunac, Srebrenica, Jajce, Zvornik, Prozor, Stolac, Kosovo Polje, Obilic, Mitrovica and Jegunovce. In all these communities Nansen Dialog stands for reconciliation and the rebuilding of trust, tolerance and integration.

The Nansen Dialogue Network consists of nine local units in Croatia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo, Serbia and Macedonia. Their primary focus was at the outset inter-ethnic dialog in communities divided by war. As a logical step the focus shifted toward reconciliation and since 2010 the main focus has been integration. Thereby addressing one of the most pressuring political problems in all of Europe; how do we live together in spite of all our differences? A clear emphasis has been given to 1) educational integration in divided communities, 2) reintegration of returnees into the social, political and working life in their home communities and 3) the breakdown of ethnic politics and new coalitions formed around respect for democracy, human rights and political principles.

Their approach is community based peace building. The Nansen Dialogue Network is well known as one of the few organizations that have been able to build trust among Serbs, Croats and Bosniaks in B&H, among Serbs and Albanians in Kosovo, among Serbs and Croats in Croatia, among Macedonians and Albanians in Macedonia. Their multilevel

approach from the grassroots and up has earned them respect from ordinary citizens as well as politicians. This is one reason why they are now being contacted by numerous international organizations, like the European Council and OSCE. International peacebuilding has over focused on state and institution building at the expense of dialogue and reconciliation among the people living in the same state.

In Montenegro we have seen Steinar Bryn in cooperation with the Civic Alliance developing the School of Democratic Leadership. Close to 40 participants have been or are currently part of the Montenegrin parliament.

Among the results the last year we can mention:

- Implementation of the Nansen Model for Education in ten municipalities in Macedonia. The Nansen Model is bilingual and multiethnic, but understands that integration is something very different from assimilation. It is built on respect for each other's differences, at the same time working toward equal opportunities in society. NDC Skopje is working together with the Department of Education to change the national policy of education. NDC Skopje received the Max van der Stohl Award from the High Commissioner for National Minorities for this work in 2011.
- Working to strengthen the Safety Councils in 6 municipalities in Kosovo, thereby increasing the communication and cooperation between Serbs and Albanians. Nansen Dialogue has been one of the dominant dialogue workers in Kosovo the last 15 years.
- Developing the topic "Cultural and Spiritual Heritage of the Region" which is not implemented in 22 schools in 6 counties in Croatia. Working to open a joint Serb Croat school in Vukovar fall 2016. The school is currently being built with EAAS funds.
- Developing well-functioning Nansen Coordination Boards in 6 municipalities in B&H and being heavily involved in a variety of integrative efforts in education, sports and politics. Recognized by institutions like the European Council as one of the strongest integrative forces in BH.
- NDC Mostar has a partnership with the Ministry of Education in Herzegovina to work on eliminating the segregated system "Two Schools under one Roof"

50 Nansen Dialogue Network workers have worked full time the last 15 years, that is 750 years of peace work.

During the last 18 months Steinar Bryn has visited Ukraine 8 times and organized dialogue meetings in cities like Kyev, Odessa, Nova Kahovka, Kherson, Zaporozhie, Dnepropetrovsk, Kremenchuk and Kharkiv. In addition a dialogue marathon in Svyatogorsk. On the national conferences for dialogue organized by OSCE, Nansen Dialogue has been very visible. This shows the deep commitment and dedication, and the willingness to carry on the Nansen legacy in this part of the world.

As Europe is experiencing the transition from nation states to multiethnic states, dialogue is needed to a larger extent and Nansen Dialogue has been particularly active in Poland, but has also become more visible in Hungary and Slovakia. The peace work done in the Western Balkans over the last 20 years can in the years to come, benefit all of Europe and contribute to reduce extremism and radicalization.

Snežana Jonica

Member of Parliament of Montenegro

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