



## SCI Strategic Plan 2020-2023

### Introduction:

SCI has been organising volunteering for peace projects for a century. This experience is something that we can be proud of, however there is still work to be done. We wish to show the impact volunteering projects have on society and build capacity on how to put SCI values in practice on a global, local and personal level.

A key goal of this strategic plan is to contribute to building a more peaceful world through organising high quality and conscientious peace projects. To achieve this, we intend to improve the sustainability of SCI on all levels: environmentally, fiscally and etc. Globally there is a problem of a shrinking civic space, while negative and aggressive discourse seems to be growing. Through this Strategic Plan, SCI will contribute to a society which is more open-minded, aware and responsible for its own behavior and actions. One that is able to handle conflicts in a peaceful way, as well as be empowered to take ownership and active involvement in bringing a positive change and promote peace on a local and international level.

Peace is not a static situation - working for peace is a continuous process. Let us keep the spirit alive and kicking!

### SCI Mission and Values:

Service Civil International (SCI) is a volunteer organisation dedicated to **promoting a culture of peace** by organising international voluntary projects for people of all ages and backgrounds. The organisation consists of 42 branches and an ever growing number of partner organisations.

SCI is **open to all**. It was one of the first organisations to divest itself of all political or religious affiliations in its work of promoting peace and intercultural understanding through practical action. Throughout the years SCI has made a major contribution to the **development of the main forms of volunteering**. Year after year, the organisation enables thousands of volunteers to participate in community projects.

SCI's **vision** is a world of peace; social justice and sustainable development, where all people live together with mutual respect and without recourse to any form of violence to solve conflict. SCI's **mission** is to promote a culture of peace by organising international volunteering projects with local and global impact.

Apart from mission and vision SCI is being guided in all its activities by our core values. Every voluntary project, meeting, exchange or training has to be in line with these values:

- **Volunteering:** in the sense of acting out of self-initiative, without seeking material reward and for the benefit of civil society, as a method and a statement for social change, whilst never competing with paid labour nor seeking to contribute to strike-breaking
- **Non-Violence:** as a principle and a method
- **Human Rights:** respect for individuals as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights



- **Solidarity:** international solidarity for a more just world and solidarity between human beings on all levels
- **Respect for the Environment:** and the ecosystem of which we are a part and on which we are dependent
- **Inclusion:** to be open and inclusive to all individuals who share the aims and objectives of the movement, without regard to gender, colour, religion, nationality, social status or political views and any other possible grounds for discrimination
- **Empowerment:** providing people with means (knowledge, tools) to understand and act in order to transform the social, cultural and economic structures that affect their lives at all levels.
- **Cooperation:** with local communities as well as other local, national and international actors to strengthen the positive potential within civil society as a whole.

## Goal 1: Reassert the value of volunteering for peace

Working for peace is a continuous process, and while everyone desires to live in a peaceful society, living and building peace requires, amongst others, empathy, skills and proactivity. Volunteering builds all these skills and ethics, giving tools to people looking to contribute to creating stronger societies. Reasserting the value of volunteering is important to prove its strength as a method for fostering peace. Through this goal SCI will work on strengthening the measurement of impact and the communication of this impact. We will also continue our hard work on the quality and accessibility of all our activities.

### Objective 1.1: To re-emphasize the connection between volunteering and peace

SCI is proud of its 100 years of experience promoting a culture of peace through organising international volunteering projects. There is a clear connection between volunteering and peaceful societies. Cross-border volunteering promotes not only civic engagement but also fosters better intercultural understanding. It strengthens respect for the environment, society and ourselves, thereby creating more empowerment and cooperation.

It's important to emphasize the connection between volunteering and peace and show the wider impact of the activities done through volunteering projects. Not only will this promote better reflection by the participants but also encourage more people to take part. Practically, this would mean to look at the historical connection between volunteering and peace, and to look at the impact this work has in activities taking place today.

### Tools/Methods/Actions

- Promote the increased knowledge about the history of SCI through:
  - o Publications
  - o 100 Actions for Peace project
  - o Joint discussions with other IVS organisations
- Implement activities on the International Day of Peace and International Day of Volunteering
- Develop practical ways to measure impact in activities and ways to effectively communicate this



## **Objective 1.2: Maintain our high-quality approach and versatility of opportunities to peaceful volunteering**

SCI has a strong commitment to implementing high-quality volunteering opportunities and projects. This means both the reasons behind the implementation of the projects but also, its intended impact on society and people. Activities, including workcamps, should be meaningful, with a focus on intercultural dialogue and non-violent communication using different non-formal education methods. The projects should follow SCI's values of social justice, sustainability and inclusion. This also means taking a look at the versatility of opportunities available for volunteers to join and ensuring these opportunities have diversity to support intercultural dialogue.

### **Tools/Methods/Actions**

- Offer different volunteering opportunities in structure and type
- Improve training resources on SCI programmes with a focus on user-friendly design and accessibility, including developed use of online tools and webinars
- Support evaluation meetings such as Exchange Platform Meeting and Working Groups/International teams meetings
- Ensure there are well-trained placement officers through an organised training (POT)
- Ensure there are well-trained workcamp coordinators (e.g. on conflict resolution, non-violent communication and gender inclusion)
- Improved Online Evaluation System
- Ensure the campaigns and programmes are being communicated properly, with matching workcamp labels and up-to-date resources, with topics such as, but not limited to:
  - o Climate for Peace (environment and climate change)
  - o Peace Messengers (non-violence and peaceful coexistence)
  - o Building Bridges (refuges, migrants and inclusion)
  - o Gendered Realities (gender sensitivity and inclusion)

## **Objective 1.3: To increase global participation in volunteering for peace**

The purpose of this objective is to increase the overall participation of society in volunteering for peace. SCI will work on providing greater inclusion to these activities and supporting the process of providing access to excluded members of society. This includes ensuring access to marginalised populations and difficult to reach groups. SCI will also work on stronger communication to offer opportunities to a larger international audience.

SCI is exploring how to engage with the public in a 21<sup>st</sup> century reality, exploring our communication methods and online platforms. Through increased opportunities and better technological solutions, SCI hopes to reach a wider audience and better address the challenges of today.

### **Tools/Methods/Actions**

- Improve and develop our IT infrastructure, including the creation of a new online placement system, with a long-term volunteering system integrated
- More engaging communication, with better continued communication with previous volunteers/activists and capacity building on communication
- Attend more events and work on better exposure for the organisation



## **Goal 2: Empower people all around the world to actively practice peace**

With this strategic goal, SCI works to connect the idea of world peace to the daily actions of people across all continents, and empower them to practice peace and act for peace in their everyday life. As a result, we expect the people we reach to become more aware and responsible for their own behavior and actions, as well as empowered to take ownership and active involvement in bringing positive change for peace on a personal, local and international level.

### **Objective 2.1: To continue cultivating the culture of peace across the SCI movement**

As SCI's movement is ever growing and dynamic, capacity building within the movement on SCI's values and goals is important, with a strong push to working with new volunteers to better understand the effect of volunteering for peace. Each activity of SCI will reflect SCI values of inclusiveness, non-violence and empowerment, with respect for human rights and for the planet we live in, showing solidarity and following the principles of co-operation.

This includes engaging with all parts of the SCI movement to constantly monitor adherence to the above values, draw recommendations for future improvements, as well as educate new volunteers on how to nurture a culture of peace in everyday work. We would strengthen and assess the needs of different activities and ensure that SCI and its partners are living its values.

#### **Tools/Methods/Actions**

- Implement online meetings to share good practices and common issues
- Create the SCI Manual for new volunteers in the organisation, which will include in-depth explanation on how our values get implemented in our approach and actions
- Publish online courses dedicated to SCI volunteers
- Create a set of self-monitoring tools for the SCI branches to check the level of adherence to SCI values
- Deliver a component of peace education in all activities
- Organise seminars on the topic of volunteering and peace, including on SCI values
- Build a more diverse fundraising strategy to create global inclusion in activities

### **Objective 2.2: To support individuals to become peace envoys**

SCI understands and appreciates the power of peer-to-peer learning and discussions. We intend to share with people across the world knowledge, practices and tools that enable us to connect peace with our everyday life. Support and actions will be given for these people to live and act as peace envoys, communicating with different groups the purpose and impact of volunteering for peace and the effects this can have on a personal and societal level.

To do this, we will focus on creating and developing different training courses, working with different volunteers and activists to build capacities within their work and communities. This will allow them to take part in public discussions and create projects for their own communities, taking greater ownership of their development.



# volunteering for peace

NGO Official partner of UNESCO (Consultative status)    Participatory status with the Council of Europe

Through this objective, SCI will contribute to a society which is more open-minded, aware and responsible for their own behavior and actions, with the ability to handle conflicts in a peaceful way, empowered to take ownership and active involvement for bringing a positive change and promote peace on all levels.

## **Tools/Methods/Actions**

- Create online peace course for peace envoys and train coaches to facilitate this course
- Promote the benefits of Non-Formal Education by online and residential courses
- Create documents, including statements, which better outline SCI's opinions on different matters
- create a SCI manifesto, with a focus on promoting peace on a day to day basis
- re-engage old friends and activists of SCI
- Build on campaigning trainings as a means to exercise rights whether for the individual, group, or the planet.

## **Objective 2.3: To foster the network of peace efforts**

Work becomes stronger and more robust when more people and organisations participate. SCI will focus on creating more connections with like-minded organisations, including peace organisations, institutions (e.g. universities), youth organisations and movements around the world to make an even wider impact. The goal is to engage and cooperate with more partners to address topics of importance to SCI's mission and values.

## **Tools/Methods/Actions**

- Join different campaigns that focus on achieving peace in an actionable way
- Further develop an External Representation strategy to create a targeted approach to link-minded organisations on specific topics
- Build projects and partnerships with other networks and organisations to have a wider impact
- Link with institutions for better research and actions to support SCI's goals