Friedenssprachen – Languages of Peace
What does it take for a diverse society to live together peacefully and how do we talk about peace?

The war in Ukraine once again shows that peace and an open democratic society cannot be taken for granted.

In spring 2022, the Polit-Forum Bern partnered with the Ukrainian youth organisation STAN to develop the project "Friedenssprachen – Languages of Peace". The exchange between the two organisations began in 2021 as part of the "Open Dialogue About Peace International Conference of Grassroots Initiatives" organised by STAN. Both organisations are committed to facilitating dialogue and democratic exchange with all parts of society and thus strengthening peaceful coexistence.

The project "Friedenssprachen – Languages of Peace" started in June 2022 with two discussions in the public spaces of Bern and Biel. The discussions were structured using STAN's method. STAN had already used the method in 2021 in its "Open Dialogues about Peace" in various cities throughout Ukraine. A rolling table developed by the artists' collective Club Real in Berlin was also used. At the rolling table, people from different backgrounds talked about peace and what it takes to live together peacefully. The inclusion of local organisations in Bern and Biel that work for refugees, against racism and for the inclusion of all parts of society also determined the routes: In Bern from Café Mazay to the Community Centre Living Room and in Biel from Haus pour Bienne to the Forum du Bilinguisme.

The dialogues in Bern and Biel were accompanied and drawn by the illustrators Perla Ciommi, Amélie Cochet and Masha Vyshedska and accompanied by the photographer Danielle Liniger.

In September 2022, further dialogues will be held in shelters in Ukraine and a selection of the drawings will also be presented there.