

International Peace Bureau was represented at the [10th Nobel Peace Summit](#) in Berlin 9-11 November 2009 by Urban Gibson and Reiner Braun. IPB Vice-President Alyn Ware also attended.

The Summit, entitled “**Breaking down new walls and building bridges to ensure a World of Human Rights and a World without violence**” brought together Nobel laureates who have made a significant contribution in breaking down the walls of conflict, poverty and human rights violations – and building the bridges required for an equitable, sustainable and peaceful world.

The Summit was timed to coincide with the 20th Anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall – which included an amazing public event with President Obama (streaming in from the White House), Hillary Clinton, Angela Merkel, Mikhael Gorbachev and others. The event concluded with 1000 3-metre high pieces of wall falling as dominoes to symbolize the breaking down of walls between people (See [Berlin remembers fall of the wall](#), BBC News).

The Nobel Summit included a special event with the [World March for Peace and Nonviolence](#) which started in Aotearoa-New Zealand on Gandhi’s birthday (October 2) and is travelling around the world promoting the [Nobel Charter for a World Without Violence](#) and the [UN Secretary-General’s five-point plan for nuclear disarmament](#). The World March is carrying the [Nuclear Abolition Flame](#) on the march to encourage people to actively promote nuclear abolition. The torch carrying the flame was crafted in New Zealand from native wood and was lit from the Peace Flame in Hiroshima. Mairead Corrigan Maguire received the Nuclear Abolition Flame on behalf of the Nobel Laureates at the end of the Summit.

The Summit also presented Annie Lennox with the [2009 Women of Peace Award](#) for her work in HIV education and Aids prevention especially in South Africa.

The Summit adopted a [final statement](#) calling for the breaking down of walls that stand in the way of a nuclear-weapons-free world; walls between rich and poor; walls between cultural, religious and ethnic communities; walls that prevent combating climate change, and walls between generations.

Nobel laureates participating included Mikhail Gorbachev, Frederik Willem De Klerk, Lech Walesa, Muhammad Yunus, Mairead Corrigan Maguire and representatives from a number of Nobel Laureate organizations. There were also a number of guest speakers including Wim Wenders, Bo Hla Tint (Minister of Foreign Affairs of Burma’s Government in exile), Ahmed Kathrada (Nelson Mandela Foundation), Jonathan Granoff (President of Global Security Institute), Mario Luis Rodriguez Cobos aka Silo (World March for Peace and Nonviolence), Giulietto Chiesa (World Political Forum), and Tom Brokaw (NBC).

Urban Gibson deserves special praise for his [Statement on behalf of the International Peace Bureau](#) which is highlighted on the [Nobel Summit homepage](#) and which was received very-well, and referred to by subsequent speakers. Also to be commended are Jacob Romer (former IPB intern) who spoke on behalf of the many youth participating in the Summit, and Jonathan Granoff (former IPB representative) who arranged the Tear Down This Wall banner – a hit of the Summit – and who played a key role in the final statement drafting.