

# PRESS RELEASE

## Background information

### International Prize of Peace of Westphalia

**Münster/Westphalia, January 17, 2018** - Religious peace, tolerance and federalism were the key points of the Peace of Westphalia concluded in Münster and Osnabrück in 1648, which ended the Thirty Years' War. As a symbol of the continued validity of these postulates, the Wirtschaftliche Gesellschaft für Westfalen und Lippe e. V. (WWL) established the International Peace of Westphalia Prize in 1998, on the 350th anniversary of the peace treaty.

The highest endowed German peace prize, worth 100,000 euros, is awarded every two years in two equal categories: It is awarded to personalities or representatives of states who have become role models for peace work in Europe and the world. The Youth Prize is awarded to young people or youth groups who act in an exemplary manner for peace and reconciliation. By awarding the Westphalian Prize for Peace, the WWL aims to make a contribution to the discussion on the internal structures of Europe and the coexistence of people in a Europe of regions.

The award winners receive the Peace Prize in the form of a bronze sculpture of the Westphalian horse, designed by Bielefeld artist Nina Koch.

In the past 20 years, the prize has been awarded to:

**1998:** Václav Havel, former President of the Czech Republic Republic "Gesto por la Paz", Basque youth initiative

**2000:** Dr. Helmut Kohl, former German Chancellor Ekola-Gymnasium in Breslau and Conrad-von-Soest- grammar school in Soest

**2002:** Carla Del Ponte, Chief Prosecutor of the War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague "Students Helping Lives", student initiative for children and young people in the Balkans

**2004:** Professor Kurt Masur, Conductor The carol singers - children help children

**2006:** Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, former French President, The young people at the von Bodelschwingsche Anstalten Bethel

**2008:** Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Community of Young Maltese

**2010:** Daniel Barenboim, conductor and pianist, West-Eastern Divan Orchestra

**2012:** Helmut Schmidt, former German Chancellor, "Children for a better World e. V."

**2014:** Crews of the International Space Station ISS, German War Graves Commission (Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge e. V.) -Youth work

**2016:** H.M. King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein, King of Jordan, Action Reconciliation Service for Peace

*All further information on the International Peace of Westphalia Prize can be found at [www.westfaelischer-friedenspreis.de](http://www.westfaelischer-friedenspreis.de).*