

Report on the Secretary's activities between August 2022 and July 2023

By Diana Bashur

1. BIEN Administration

- EC meets monthly with a committed presence among its members. Currently the EC has 11 members: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Outreach Coordinator, Social Media Manager, News Service Editor, Features Editor, Interim Volunteer Coordinator, Research Editor, Hubs Supervisor. Our long-term serving Website Manager, Mike Valentine had to resign for unfortunate health issues.
- BIEN's General Assembly has been meeting annually, in an online format since Covid with the participation of around 50-70 members. BIEN's work over the year is reviewed at the General Assembly, and members are invited to take part in the decision making of the organisation through live polling, including to vote in members of BIEN's EC.

2. BIEN Membership

- To date BIEN has close to 400 members, spread across 48 countries and 5 regions with high concentration in Europe and a majority male membership.
- The aim remains to increase our membership rate, diversify our geographical spread and increase our female membership through the expansion of our regional presence through the hubs.

3. Strategic Partnership with the UN

- I see our expanding partnership with the United Nations (UN) as essential given the UN's position as a global player in the development field. It has a vast network in the Global South with reach and considerable influence among national policy makers. Accordingly, and given the global interest in Basic Income, there is an opportunity, through UN agencies, for BI to be more systematically considered as a policy tool in development projects in the Global South.
- A partnership which began in 2021, we are sustaining our efforts to expand BIEN's engagement with the UN at the highest level: together with BIEN's Chair, Sarath Davala, and BIEN's Co-founder, Guy Standing, we were invited to a brainstorming session at the office of the UN Secretary-General, where I presented my research on the applicability of BI as a peacebuilding tool. This meeting led to new engagement with this office on how to create room for BI within UN operations.
- BIEN's partnership with UNDP is progressing, yet very slowly. We hope our engagement with the office of the UN Secretary-General will boost this partnership with the UN's largest development agency.
- The broader aim of these initiatives, along with others such as the forthcoming, in-house Knowledge Repository, is to solidify BIEN's position as the go-to-source on Basic Income among the global players in the development and humanitarian fields.
- As a result of our engagement, we are delighted to have basic income now included in the landmark initiative of [The New Agenda for Peace](#). In this report issued in July 2023, the Secretary-General invites countries to consider this emerging tool for conflict prevention, regaining livelihoods and supporting social cohesion. This is a key development as this document serves as a basis for countries developing or reviewing their peacebuilding strategies and engagement in international aid. BIEN expressed its support for this development in [an open letter](#) published on BIEN's website.