

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Amid Pandemic and Climate Emergency, Global Peacebuilders Call on Governments to Invest in Peace

Over 200 organizations release statement for International Day of Peace:

Let us see what peace can do

NEW YORK, NY (September 20, 2021) Over **200** international and domestic peacebuilding organizations have [issued a joint statement calling on governments to work for peace](#). The statement highlights the need for a new global partnership to mainstream peace, justice, and inclusion central to efforts to transform our world and respond to the challenges we face. The statement asserts that peace is not an add-on: peace is the way.

The statement, released at the opening of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly, calls on governments and the international community to: refocus on peace, justice and inclusion, in development, in crisis response, and in addressing the climate emergency; mainstream and step up investment in peace; prioritize inclusion and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms; and step away from securitized responses.

The statement reads, in part. “As we face the stark human-made realities of a warming planet, we must redouble our peace efforts, to help mediate and navigate the immense shifts in power and resources that will be needed to forestall further avoidable temperature rise, to prevent and resolve the conflicts that may be exacerbated or precipitated by environmental destruction; and to prepare the path to a more sustainable, peaceful, and equitable future.”

The Quaker United Nations Office in New York – an organization that works to promote peace and justice at the United Nations and other global institutions – played a key role in drafting and circulating the statement. The signatories include organizations dedicated to peace from around the world, including faith-based groups, international development agencies, policy organizations, and others.

[See the complete statement and signatories here.](#)

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Since 1947, QUNO has worked with diplomats, UN officials, and civil society to support a UN that prioritizes peace and prevents war. QUNO uses Quaker House and its convening power to facilitate off-the-record meetings and bring perspectives from outside the UN system in order to promote peacebuilding and the prevention of violent conflict at a policy level in New York. QUNO also works closely with the American Friends Service Committee and other Quaker Service Agencies in country, and with Friends' policy offices in Geneva, Washington, and Brussels. For more see <http://www.quno.org>

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) promotes a world free of violence, inequality, and oppression. Guided by the Quaker belief in the divine light within each person, we nurture the seeds of change and the respect for human life to fundamentally transform our societies and institutions.

Let us see what Peace can do

A shared statement by peacebuilding organizations

International Day of Peace, 21 September 2021

Without peace, development will falter

Without justice, hope will wither

Without inclusion, we will all be left behind.

Can we find our way back? 18 months into a global pandemic, our hearts go out to those who are suffering. We are in awe of the extraordinary efforts by so many to save lives and offer comfort. Yet, in too many ways, humanity has fallen short. COVID-19 has shown us the fragility of our institutions and the fault lines in international cooperation, just as the need for unified action is more urgent than ever in the face of the expanding climate emergency.

In 1945, the United Nations was founded to 'promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom'. But the steady progress that has been made is now at risk, not only from the challenges we face, but also from the way we respond to them. Responses to crisis that increase violence, injustice and exclusion will exacerbate development losses and human suffering, leaving many behind.

As we face the stark human-made realities of a warming planet, we must redouble our peace efforts, to help mediate and navigate the immense shifts in power and resources that will be needed to forestall further avoidable temperature rise, to prevent and resolve the conflicts that may be exacerbated or precipitated by environmental destruction; and to prepare the path to a more sustainable, peaceful, and equitable future. We must re-dedicate ourselves to the 2030 Agenda vision of a global partnership of all stakeholders to foster peace, justice, and inclusion, not just in development, but as a goal to unite all efforts to transform our world and respond to the challenges we face. Peace is not an add-on: peace is the way.

As organizations devoted to building peace and justice around the world, we call on the international community to:

- ***Refocus on peace, justice and inclusion, in development, in crisis response and in addressing the climate emergency.*** The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs show that development gains are only sustainable if accompanied by efforts by all governments to foster peace, justice, and inclusion. We know that for crisis response to be effective, it needs to be transformative, rooted in the needs of affected communities, and tied to long-term efforts to further peace, development, and human rights. Now we need to embed these lessons in all our actions to address the climate emergency and its root causes. As governments come together this year, we urge delegates to recall that no technical or political solutions will be sustainable unless they are inclusive and equitable, foster trust, include mechanisms to address grievances and promote resilience, respect human rights, and leave no one behind.
- ***Mainstream and step up investment in peace.*** Meeting the challenges that the world now faces will require significant resources. These investments will have a more sustainable impact when they are crafted to foster peace, justice and inclusion as an integral part of their health, humanitarian, economic, or security objectives. We call on member states to mainstream conflict sensitive and risk informed approaches that are people-centered and promote long-term sustainable peace in all funding for crisis response and development, and in that spirit to support the upcoming UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Financing for Peacebuilding.
- ***Prioritize inclusion and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms.*** The inclusion and participation of all people is vital, including women, youth, minorities, indigenous peoples, and those with disabilities. This year has been witness to a deeper focus on entrenched and systemic patterns of intersectional exclusion, including racism, as highlighted in the establishment of a Permanent Forum on People of African Descent. We support OHCHR's Agenda Towards Transformative Change for Racial Justice and Equality. The bedrock of sustainable development is inclusion, and it is just as important amid crisis where engaging endogenous capacities and perspectives is critical.
- ***Step away from securitized responses.*** This month marks the 20th anniversary of 9/11. The horror of that moment stays with us, and we continue to grieve. And we also grieve for all the lives lost since then. The preoccupation with counterterrorism has not made the world any safer. We have seen increasingly militarized and violent reactions to political dissent, the normalization of torture and extrajudicial killing, and international relations determined more by the perceived security needs of a few, rather than the right to peace and development of the many. Violence is never the answer. As our communities are ever more buffeted by change, governments must protect civic space, become more accountable and inclusive, and respect international humanitarian and human rights law.

Let us see what Peace can do

A shared statement by peacebuilding organizations

International Day of Peace, 21 September 2021

1000 SHADES OF WOMEN INTERNATIONAL

5 Elementos - Instituto de Educação e Pesquisa Ambiental

ACT Alliance

American Friends Service Committee - AFSC

African Law Foundation (AFRILAW)

African Youth Action Network - AYAN

AfroLeadership

Airwars

All Anglophone Union for Peace and Development (AAUPD)

Alliance for Peacebuilding

Amis des Etrangers au Togo: ADET

Asian Academy for Peace, Research and Development

Associação Bem Comum

Associação Bem-te-vi diversidade

Associação Viração

Association For Promotion Sustainable Development

Association of Concerned Africa Scholars (USA)

ASSURE UGANDA (AU)

Bangladesh Centre for Human Rights and Development (BCHRD)

Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication

Banka BioLoo

Bareedo Platform Somalia

Bridging for Sustainable Development

Building Blocks for Peace Foundation

CAFSO-WRAG for Development

Camp for Peace Liberia

Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers)

Candid Concepts Development

CARREFOUR DEVELOPPEMENT (CARD)

Casa Generalizia della Societa del Sacro Cuore

Center for Global Nonkilling

Center for International Policy

Center for Justice and Peace Studies

Centre de Défense des Droits de l'Homme et Démocratie

Centre de Documentation et de Formation sur les Droits de l'Homme (CDFDH)

Centre for Sustainable Development and Education in Africa (CSDEA)

Centre for Youth and Development

Christian Aid

Church of the Brethren, Office of Peacebuilding and Policy

Civil Society Coalition on Sustainable Development

Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS)

Coalition Nationale des Organisations de la Société Civile pour le New Deal (CNOSC/New deal)

Community Outreach for Development and Welfare Advocacy (CODWA)

Conciliation Resources

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd

Conscience and Peace Tax International

CSYM HUDUMA*

Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation

Democracy And Development Associates-Sierra Leone (DADA-SL)

Denver Justice and Peace Committee (DJPC)

Development & Integrity Intervention Goal Foundation

Development Services Exchange

DT Global

Economic Justice Network Sierra Leone

EIHR: The Educators' Institute for Human Rights

El-Bukhari Institute

Empathy Surplus Project Foundation

FEMALE PRISONERS SUPPORT TRUST

Fórum Nacional de Prevenção e Erradicação do Trabalho Infantil

Forum National Dette et Pauvreté (FNDP)

Foundation for International Dignity (FIND) Liberia

FOUR DIRECTION

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Friends Women's Association

Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers)

FriEnt – The Working Group on Peace and Development

Gatef organizations

Generations For Peace

Gestos (soropositividade, comunicação, gênero)

Global Directions

Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD)

Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ

Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)

Global Security Institute

Globethics.net Foundation

Glokala Sjuhäräd Association, Sweden

Great Lakes Peacebuilding Initiative-GLPI

Halley Movement Coalition

Héritiers de la Justice

Human Security Collective

Humanitaire Plus

Humanity United

Igarapé Institute

Improve Your Society Organization (IYSO)

Initiative congolaise pour la Justice et la Paix

Institute for Democratic Action & Development (IDAD)

Instituto 5 Elementos - Educação para Sustentabilidade

Interaction Management Associates

International Alert

International Association of Applied Psychology

International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)

International Federation for Peace and Sustainable Development (IFPSD)

International Federation of Women in Legal Careers

International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS) Pax Romana, Asia Pacific

International Volunteers for Peace – Australia

Jerusalem Peacebuilders

Just Peace QLD Inc.

Justice Call

Karuna Center for Peacebuilding

Kashmir Institute of international relations

Kenya Economic Youth Network (KEYNET)

Kofi Annan Institute for Conflict Transformation-University of Liberia

KonfliktKultur

Lawyers Beyond Borders (India)

Maria Ebum Foundation

Marrickville Peace Group

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

Metta Center for Nonviolence

Mindanao Peacebuilding Institute Foundation, Inc.

Minnesota Peace Project

Modern Advocacy Humanitarian Social and Rehabilitation Association (MAHSRA)

Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies

Mother of Hope Cameroon- MOHCAM

National Campaign for Sustainable Development Nepal

National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA (NCC)

National Religious Campaign Against Torture/USA

NETWORK OF RURAL WOMEN PRODUCERS Trinidad and Tobago

Nonviolent Peaceforce

North American Somali women's association: NASWA

NYU Center on International Cooperation

Odbor za ljudska prava Srbija

Older Women's Network NSW

ONG ADOKA

OPTIMUM WOMEN & YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION

Organisation pour le Développement durable et Intégré de la Guinée

Our Lady of Perpetual Help initiative (OLPHI)

Pakistan Development Alliance

PartnersGlobal

PAX

Pax Christi Australia

Pax Christi International

Pax Christi Korea (PCK)

Pax Christi USA

Peace Boat

Peace Direct

PEACE WARRIORS ORGANISATION

PeaceNexus Foundation

Peacifica (Australia)

Plan International

Platform for Dialogue and Peace

PLEADING FOR THE WIDOWS INTERNATIONAL

Presbyterian Church (USA)

Princess Okaine Initiative For Girl-Child and Women Empowerment

PyeongChang Youth Peace Ambassadors 2021

PyeongChang2018 legacy Foundation

Quaker Council for European Affairs

Quaker Service Australia

Quaker United Nations Office

Quakers Australia

Quakers in Britain

Regional Centre for International Development Cooperation (RCIDC)

Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary - NGO

REPAOC

Roobaroo

Rondine Cittadella della Pace

Rural infrastructure and human resource development organisation (RIHRDO) Pakistan

Saferworld

SCOFIELD ASSOCIATES

Sisters of Charity Federation

Social Economic and Governance Promotion Centre (SEGP)

Solidarité avec les Victimes et pour la Paix-SOVIP

Somali Conservation Organization (SCO)

South Sudan Youth Peace and Development Organization (SSYPADO)

Spanish Society for International Human Rights Law

Students Against Corruption

Success Capital Organisation

Sustainable Development Council

swisspeace

Sydney Peace & Justice Coalition

Sydney Peace Foundation

The Bridgeway Group

the civil pole for development and human rights / TUNISIA

The Cora di Brazzà Foundation

The Faith and Justice Network (Mano River Basin Countries) West Africa

The Graduate Institute of Peace Studies at Kyung Hee University (Namyangju, South Korea)

The Independent and Peaceful Australia Network

The Peacebuilding Project

The Spanish Society for International Human Rights Law

TRIPPINZ CARE INC

TRIPPINZ CARE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Uganda Peace Foundation

Unitarian Universalist Association

United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries

United Methodist Church-General Board of Church and Society

United Nations Association of the National Capital Area

United Network of Young Peacebuilders

United Youth for Growth and Development

Universal Rights Network

Upline Centre for Development

UWEMA ASBL RDC

Veille Citoyenne Togo

VIVAT International

Volunteer Service in Nepal- VSN

Voz di Paz - Iniciativa para consolidação da Paz na Guiné-Bissau

Wada Na Todo Abhiyan

Watch Democracy Grow

WILPF/RDC

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA- WEADA

Women in Alternative Action-WAA Cameroon

Women in Development (WID)

Women Mediators across the Commonwealth

Women Peacebuilders Network

World Council for Psychotherapy

World Federalist Movement/Institute for Global Policy

World Society of Victimology

World Vision International

Yayasan LKIS

Youth Help Sierra Leone

Youth Partnership for Peace and Development - Sierra Leone