



A CALL FOR AN END TO THE WAR IN SYRIA

As religious leaders representing many faith communities, we join with others on the International Day of Peace to demonstrate the urgency of ending war and violence in Syria. More than five years of warring conflict has taken a heavy toll on our Syrian brothers and sisters. We demand an immediate end to all bombing campaigns and other military actions that perpetuate this terrible war.

It is long past time for war and violence to stop and to advance the hard work of finding a new way forward, toward a future where all Syrians can live together in peace and justice. We must use a just peace approach: scaling-up trauma healing, restorative justice, unarmed civilian protection, and transformative dialogue with all stakeholders involved in the conflict to build a sustainable just peace.

All of our faith traditions teach clearly that we are to care for those who are in need. Many of us have been actively responding to the needs of Syrians affected by the crisis in Syria, neighboring countries and around the world. Of particular concern has been the impact of Islamophobia both on the global fronts of violence and the domestic politics of refugee welcome in Europe and the United States of America. As a global community we can and must do much more. We urge our government leaders to provide generously for the needs of refugees and internally displaced people.

We gather today as an act of prayerful witness for peace and social justice in Syria and for Syrians everywhere.

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