



For How Much Longer Will the Syrian People Suffer?

Responding to the ongoing violence in Syria and the great suffering of the Syrian people, Pax Christi International

- *appeals again for full humanitarian access in the country and*
- *pleads for robust international backing for renewed negotiations that include the explicit participation of delegations representing Syrian women and nonviolent civil society.*

To help move forward a more vigorous Syrian peace process, Pax Christi International calls all nations, particularly Russia, Iran, the United States and Saudi Arabia, as well as the European Union, to support

- an immediate end to the delivery of arms, ammunition and weapons parts to combatants in Syria
- an immediate end to international support for foreign fighters operating in Syria
- international backing for the efforts of Syrian communities to negotiate local ceasefires and to create durable zones of peace
- increased humanitarian assistance for Syrians displaced within Syria and for those seeking refuge in neighboring countries
- guaranteed refugee or temporary protected status for Syrians in flight from the violence

Stop Fuelling the Violence

To stop the carnage in Syria, a ceasefire is urgently needed. The first step is to stop enabling the fighting. Negotiations are repeatedly undercut by the continued supply of weapons to all sides, permitting those who refuse to negotiate to keep fighting. The international community must agree to end the delivery of arms, ammunition and weapons parts to all combatants in Syria.

Support Nonviolent Civil Society in Syria

Pax Christi International believes that a just and peaceful future for the people of Syria will be shaped most effectively by organized nonviolent civil society and women.

As efforts falter to move negotiations forward for an end to the horrific violence, it is time to respect the demands of Syrian women for full engagement in the peace process, honoring the commitment expressed in UNSC Resolution 1325 and subsequent declarations that reaffirm the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts.

The explicit participation in resumed negotiations of delegations representing Syrian women and nonviolent Syrian civil society is crucial to their success.

Bring an End to the Suffering of Children

According to the United Nations more than 5 million Syrian children are war-traumatized – both inside and outside the country. About 1 million children are living as refugees; most of them stay in camps in Jordan. The suffering of these children should come to an end and their future should be safeguarded.

Address the Urgent Humanitarian Crises

Many local communities in Syria have been displaced multiple times and are in dire need of humanitarian assistance, but the unrelenting military siege of their neighbourhoods denies civilians access to food, water and health care. Humanitarian agencies must have unfettered access to populations in need. Starvation cannot be used as a weapon of war!

Pax Christi International calls again for the full cooperation of the Syrian government and all actors involved in the civil war in opening cross-border and internal access for aid providers to all in need of assistance.

We urge international donors to honour and even increase their commitments of foreign aid for countries in the region hosting millions of Syrian refugees.

Furthermore, Pax Christi International decries the practice anywhere of placing barriers to entry or forcibly returning asylum-seekers, including people who have fled the conflict in Syria. We again call all EU member states and other nations to facilitate and improve conditions for the reception of Syrian refugees.

Brussels, March 2014