

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

--

MESSAGE TO PAX CHRISTI INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL ASSEMBLY
Bethlehem, 13 May 2015

I am pleased to convey my greetings on this 70th anniversary of Pax Christi International.

From Poland to South Sudan, from East Timor to Haiti and beyond, Pax Christi has worked tirelessly to promote nonviolence among communities suffering from war and conflict. Your efforts are testimony to the truth that if we are to build peace that is sustainable, we must work to rid the world of arms.

And yet, when I look at the situation starting in this very region, too many people continue to resort to guns as the first and only option. In the face of these threats, community and religious leaders have a special obligation to promote tolerance, peaceful coexistence and nonviolence.

This is why a recent High Level Debate in the UN General Assembly that I co-hosted focused on the critical role religious leaders play in fostering peaceful and inclusive societies.

Let us use the occasion of your noble anniversary to remind ourselves to keep pushing, together, for nonviolence and a weapons-free world. I count on your commitment and the continued leadership of Pax Christi International in this worthy pursuit.