



**#BE HUMAN**

**Peace Declaration of the second World Meeting on Human Fraternity**

**Vatican City, May 10 and 11, 2024**

**We reject war: Let diplomacy prevail over arms. We want Peace!**

We, the individuals and non-governmental organizations participants of the second World Meeting on Human Fraternity, solemnly declare the following:

As the fires of war devastate Ukraine, the Gaza strip and the Palestinian Occupied Territories, Sudan, Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of Congo and many other places globally, we, participants of the second World Meeting on Human Fraternity, renew our call for an end to the ongoing conflicts everywhere. In Ukraine, let the aggression cease, and let resolution towards a just and lasting peace be found. An immediate and permanent ceasefire in the Gaza Strip must be declared to stop the killing and ensure safe and unrestricted access for humanitarian aid. We call on the international community to pursue with determination the two-state solution on Israel and one Palestinian, as well as an internationally guaranteed special status for the city of Jerusalem so that Israelis and Palestinians may finally live in peace and security. The children of Gaza, nearly 14,000 killed by weapons of war and dying from hunger and disease, who cannot shelter in hospitals that are being bombed, can no longer wait. Humanitarian aid must be permitted in Gaza. Hostages and political prisoners must be immediately released. Let every attempt be made to avoid more destabilization in the Middle East region. We also should prevent escalation of internal conflicts in places such as Sudan, Yemen, Ethiopia, DRC and all conflicts around the world must come to an end.

We appeal to the Holy Father for his prayers for a ceasefire. We are calling for a ceasefire for all during the Olympic Games, particularly in Ukraine and Gaza.

From the Holy See, we issue a solemn appeal to affirm Peace as the fundamental cornerstone of human coexistence. Peace is not merely the absence of war; it is Fraternity, social justice, ending poverty, gender equality, accountability to international law, cooperation among nations and within communities, it is the harmony of the body, the sanctity and protection of creation. Peace is a fundamental right of every human being.

In this appeal, we call on all to give meaning to the word Peace as a cornerstone of the Charter of the United Nations. Peace is not just a goal, but a path and the basic value that should define humanity. It must be incorporated as a pillar of constitutions, international institutions, and normative systems.

Internal and international Peace, justice and human rights, are interconnected and interdependent. We cannot achieve global Peace without ensuring justice and respect for human rights for all including those of refugees and migrants. Affirming Peace as the supreme human value is an urgent human challenge that requires a collective and coordinated response.

Peace is nurtured by the culture of Fraternity, ensures true equality between women and men, fairly redistributes wealth, dignifies work and provides access to the education and healthcare.

Furthermore, protecting children, enjoying freedoms, and democratically deciding the life of one's community can contribute to the success of such an ideal. Peace is also ensured if we put a stop to economies based on arms races and arms sales, and if respect is ensued for the rights and protection of refugees and migrants. Peace means urgently addressing climate change by transitioning from the use of fossil fuels to other forms of energy that do not threaten all life on this planet. Peace means stopping species extinction by protecting biodiversity.

Peace is eliminating nuclear weapons. Never again Hiroshima and Nagasaki!

Peace is also about having access to accurate information untainted by fear or hatred. Lastly, peace is about unleashing human ingenuity and creativity while controlling the negative aspects of artificial intelligence, which not only manipulates information but also hijacks our emotions, pumping toxic sludge into our public information ecosystem. Online violence translates to real-world violence, especially when artificial intelligence is used in weapons to target and kill without human oversight. We must stop the impunity of countries and companies in this regard.

Nurturing the culture of fraternity and pursuing the path of peace must involve addressing the multiple crises resulting from the relentless development of weapons on Earth and in space. Weapons of war, especially nuclear ones, do not keep us safe; they threaten all life on Earth. It is of paramount importance to protect civilians during conflict, including by respecting global norms against landmines, cluster munitions, and bombing populated areas. The UN Charter called for the diversion of resources from weapons and war to their use for the betterment of all humanity. It is time to heed that call.

If human beings created such weapons of mass destruction, they are even more capable of creating good, nurturing life, protecting children, creating a non-violent a future where violence is not the answer to conflicts.

Today, we solemnly decide to actively collaborate with the Holy See, international institutions, and civil society organizations through the establishment of a voluntary group of men and women of Peace called the Human Fraternity Peace and Security Task Force. Its primary task will be to identify twelve concrete actions of fraternity that reflect the outcomes of our meeting and translate them to concrete programs in various crisis areas. The Task Force's objective will also be to promote dialogue in regions of ongoing conflicts and participating, if called upon, to play an active role in prevention, mediation, and mitigation of existing tensions.

Peace begins with each of us and is seen in the choices each of us makes every single day. It begins with you.