

“Respect for human dignity, sacredness of human life”

Pope Francis' encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, is a very rich document based on love, respect for human dignity and human rights, the sacredness of human life, and diversity.

In this encyclical, I am especially close to Pope Francis' reasoning about the global nature of human rights: Rights without borders, the injustice of war (though war is already injustice), and the interconnection and interdependence of everything that happens in the world.

Pope Francis writes (*Fratelli Tutti* § 259) “It should be added that, with increased globalization, what might appear as an immediate or practical solution for one part of the world initiates a chain of violent and often latent effects that end up harming the entire planet and opening the way to new and worse wars in the future. In today's world, there are no longer just isolated outbreaks of war in one country or another; instead, we are experiencing a “world war fought piecemeal”, since the destinies of countries are so closely interconnected on the global scene.”

Why is this very important to me? Several considerations. Violations of human rights, repression, wars that have not been stopped in time and space have led to dire consequences many years later. The Stalinist national policy provoked conflicts and wars in Russia and in the post-Soviet space, which continue up today.

Because of our human rights activities, my colleagues and I have often heard from various politicians that the war in Chechnya is an internal affair of our country. Then we became witnesses that once the impunity of the crime in my country spread to other countries: we witnessed war in Ukraine and Syria.

Monstrous violations of human rights in different countries are sometimes perceived by the international community as an internal affair of these countries. This cannot and should not be. Globally, everything is very interconnected. Therefore, during Advent on the eve of Christmas, it is important to realise that each of us can contribute to peace and human rights even with a very small deed that can change the world.

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