

Press release Pax Christi Italy

<https://www.paxchristi.it/?p=19589>

The National Assembly of Pax Christi, which met in the municipalities of Florence and Fiesole on 26-27 March 2022, following in the footsteps of Fr Ernesto Balducci, feels vibrating in its mind and blood the cry of pain of Pope Francis, which is the cry of pain of the victims of war and of every war: "let there be no weapons" and "there are no just wars" (16 and 18 March 2022)

With Francis we reiterate that war is abhorrent, inhuman, barbaric, sacrilegious.

In the next few days there are two important appointments in which we are involved:

Pax Christi also participates in the Mission Ukraine initiative. Pax Christi is adhering to the STOP THE WAR | Paxchristi document, a convoy that plans, together with other associations, to arrive in Ukraine this weekend. A concrete way to say no to war.... that will also bring aid and medicine, and will bring some refugees back to Italy.

In Genoa, Saturday 2 April at 3 pm in Piazza San Lorenzo. With the dockers who refuse to load weapons onto ships: 'War starts in Genoa, all wars pass through ports. As a continuation of the peace march last 31 December in Savona. Together with many local and national associations, both the Bishop of Savona Msgr. Calogero Marino and the Bishop of Genoa Msgr. Marco Tasca will be present. (<https://www.paxchristi.it/?p=19560>). The march can also be followed on our FB page.

Silence the guns, let the UN intervene. Now!

The National Assembly of Pax Christi, which met in Fiesole on 26-27 March 2022, feels vibrating in its mind and blood the cry of pain of Pope Francis, which is the cry of pain of the victims of war and of all wars: "let the weapons be silent" and "there are no just wars" (16 and 18 March 2022)

WE INVOKE URGENTLY

that the UN can exercise the sovereignty of international law with the power reserved only to itself to intervene between the contending parties in a conflict, a right also enshrined in the Italian Constitution
REJECTING WAR.

It is necessary to re-establish the principle written in the UN Statute that outlaws war as an instrument for regulating relations between peoples, while establishing the self-determination of peoples themselves in deciding their own way of living in peace in the "family of nations".

Failure to do so would open a new season of regional conflicts in which the great imperialist powers would compete for world hegemony to the point of annihilating the conditions necessary to ensure the survival of humanity itself.

WE NOW CALL FOR THE INTERVENTION OF THE UN IN UKRAINE AS THE ONLY AUTHORITY WITH THE LEGITIMACY TO STOP THE CONFLICT.

WE WILL BE ALSO be there with our vehicles and our volunteers in the convoy of humanitarian aid that will leave from Florence and reach Ukraine on 2 April, bringing some refugees back to the Tuscan capital.

WE DEMAND NOW Italy's adherence to the UN Treaty to ban nuclear weapons, as a decision to avert the risk of extinction and realise the aspiration to peace, which is the first and supreme interest of every living person. We do this together with more than 40 Catholic organisations that met in Rome with our President Msgr. Giovanni Ricchiuti to reiterate this proposal.

WE BELIEVE

in a Europe that promotes peace, finally AUTONOMOUS FROM MILITARY ALLIANCES that prevent its true Union, while NATO membership keeps it in a condition of subordination to geopolitical interests that are not its own.

WE BELIEVE instead in a UNITED EUROPE, capable of policies for disarmament, justice and care for creation.

WE REJECT with shame the proposal to increase military expenditure, a prologue to the proliferation of conflicts and their maintenance indefinitely, with infinite human suffering and incalculable damage.

WE REJECT with shame the declared intention of the Italian political and governmental authorities to make arms production and trade "a pillar of our country's economic policy". This is why we will be in Genoa on 2 April together with the local Church and its Archbishop to express solidarity with the dock workers who make conscientious objection to the loading of arms destined for countries in conflict.

LET US MAKE POPE FRANCIS' APPEALS OUR OWN

"With a heart broken by what is happening in Ukraine - and let us not forget the wars in other parts of the world such as Yemen, Syria, Ethiopia... -, I repeat: let there be no weapons. God is with peacemakers, not with those who use violence. For those who love peace, as the Italian Constitution states, "repudiate war as an instrument of offence against the freedom of other peoples and as a means of settling international disputes (art. 11)" (27 February 2022).

Therefore, "the real answer to war is not other weapons, other sanctions, other political-military alliances, but a different approach, a different way of governing the now globalised world, not by showing teeth as now, but a different way of setting up international relations" (24 March 2022).

We, the 'artisans of peace', consider it fundamental to bring out in the Church to which we belong the difficult but joyful proclamation of Christ 'our peace'.

In this spirit, we intend to participate in the synodal journey that we will undertake with our sisters and brothers, and finally to place at the centre of our Christian being, here and now, the thought and action of evangelical nonviolence, while we remain tireless in the search for practices of reconciliation that are necessary before, during and after every conflict in order to heal the moral and material wounds that are generated.

Pax Christi National Assembly

Fiesole 27 March 2022