

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rome, Italy - September 29th, 2024

Pax Christi International Peace Award 2023 Ceremony Awarding the Parents Circle – Families Forum

On September 29th the 2023 Pax Christi International Peace Award ceremony took place in Rome (Italy) formally awarding the Parents Circle – Families Forum, an Israeli-Palestinian group of over 700 families who have lost loved ones in the conflict.

Their courageous work transforms personal grief into a commitment to dialogue and reconciliation, promoting peace through understanding rather than revenge. Despite the ongoing violence and occupation in the region, their message of nonviolence and shared humanity is more urgent than ever. The Parents' Circle condemns violence and calls for peaceful solutions based on empathy and justice. By awarding them, we stand in solidarity with their mission to build lasting peace through compassion, dialogue, and active hope. Their example reminds us that peace is possible, even in the darkest times.

The ceremony featured **Mary Yelenick**, Pax Christi International Board Member and International Representative at the United Nations in New York, who provided an overview of the award's history and its significance for Pax Christi International and globally. Her speech can be found [here](#).

Ann Farr, representing the PCI Just Peace in Israel and Palestine Working Group, explained the reasons behind selecting the Parents Circle – Families Forum as recipients of this award. Her speech is available [here](#).



Yuval Rahamim, Bassam Aramin, and Salwa Aramin participated both online and in person, presenting the work of the Parents Circle – Families Forum. They emphasised their belief that achieving peace in the Holy Land would serve as a powerful example of peace for the world. Through nonviolence, empathy, and understanding, they demonstrated how we can become true agents of peace.



Following their presentation, the award was presented by **Bishop (Em.) Marc Stenger, Sr. Teresia Wamuyu Wachira, and Martha Inés Romero**, co-presidents and the secretary general of Pax Christi International.

The ceremony concluded with a **blessing for the Parents Circle – Families Forum** by Bishop (Em.) Marc Stenger, the text of which can be found [here](#).



Find the **video recording of the ceremony** [here](#).