



*Pax Christi International Peace Award 2023 The Parents' Circle – Family Forum
Rome, September 29th, 2024*

Overview of the Pax Christi International Peace Award

by Mary Yelenick, PCI Board Member and International Representative at the UN

The Pax Christi International Peace Award, first introduced in 1988 and funded by the Cardinal Bernardus Alfrink Peace Fund, honors remarkable individuals and organizations working for peace, justice, and nonviolence around the world.

The award reflects the belief that meaningful peace is built through the efforts of local communities. While many recipients of the Award operate at the grassroots level, their work often has a profound impact on broader peace processes. The Award acknowledges the vital role of groups and individuals addressing such issues as war, human rights violations, and systemic injustice.

The Pax Christi International Peace Award also serves as a form of solidarity with those working in dangerous and difficult circumstances. By bringing international recognition to their efforts, it helps amplify their voices and draw attention to often-overlooked peacebuilding initiatives. Recipients of the Peace Award come from diverse backgrounds, ranging from human rights activists and religious leaders to community organizers and civil-society groups. Over the decades, the award has honored individuals and organizations from all over the world, raising up and reinforcing the global movement for peace, justice, and nonviolence.

We gather now in person to recognize the remarkable and essential work of the Parents Circle-Families Forum, an organization dedicated steadfastly to promoting peace in the face of countless challenges and obstacles. Their mission to unite Israelis and Palestinians is crucial, highlighting their shared humanity and suffering, and offering a path to healing.

It is my pleasure now to invite Ann Farr, former Pax Christi International Board Member, and former Chair of Pax Christi England and Wales, representing the Pax Christi International Working Group for a Just Peace in Israel and Palestine, who will now acknowledge the remarkable work of our Sisters and Brothers of the Parents Circle-Families Forum.