



Pax Christi International 80th years of Building Bridges for Tomorrow - World Gathering

5 – 9 November 2025, Florence, Italy

PROGRAMME

Please note that while the overall planning will remain the same, minor changes to the agenda may occur. Any updates will be duly reflected on the Pax Christi International website. Participants will receive the final programme and information pack via their personal email closer to the date of the event.

The PCI Youth Forum programme includes a few variations from the main schedule and can be accessed [here](#).

Wednesday, 5 November	
4:00 5:30 pm	Opening Ceremony
	Welcome – Meet the Movement Agenda, Objectives, Introduction Spirituality moment (Europe)
5:45 pm	Inaugural Session Commemorating Pax Christi's Heritage and trends for the future
	The movement was born to reconcile two divided societies - Germany and France. Since then, Pax Christi International has been involved in virtually every major violent conflict: in dialogue with other Faiths, advocating for dialogue and diplomacy; in seeking to mobilise Christians and other Faith and civil society organisations; in promoting civic service for young people in what are now called the peripheries. And over the last two decades, in strengthening the capacity of communities in Latin America, Africa and Asia-Pacific, to analyse contexts, transform conflicts, and engage in nonviolent actions to build social cohesion, and to defend their communities' rights in the face of injustice and exclusion. Coming from our 70th Anniversary in the Holy Land, the Bethlehem Commitment has been PCI's beacon. At this Session, we invite special speakers to a conversation about the legacy of Pax Christi over eight decades, the role of the Catholic peace movement in the current global context, and the hope that future efforts for justice, peace, nonviolence around the Planet will flow together into a mighty life-giving river for all who share our common home.
Thursday, 6 November	
8:30 am	Spirituality moment (Africa)
9:00 - 10:30 am	Session 1: Connecting the Thread Nonviolence and the Path Ahead
	The world today is increasingly marked by violence and social injustice, which contradict the core values of human dignity and peace central to the Gospel. This pervasive culture of violence impacts individuals and communities, fostering cycles of harm and undermining the foundation of a just society. In light of these challenges, there is an urgent need to address and transform these patterns through the promotion of Gospel nonviolence—a vision rooted in Jesus' love, teachings and practice of peace, justice, and reconciliation. Pax Christi International through its Programmes, but especially through its Catholic Nonviolence Initiative (CNI), responds to this critical need by emphasizing Gospel

	<p>nonviolence as a powerful and practical approach to violent conflict and social transformation. Our mission seeks to renew and expand the Church's commitment to Gospel nonviolence as a spirituality, a way of life, a means of fostering peaceful relationships, and a strategy for systemic change. By grounding its work in Catholic social teaching, CNI aims to empower individuals and communities to become active agents of Gospel Nonviolence.</p>
10:30 – 11:00 am	Break
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	Session 2: Democracy and Just Peace
	<p>The report "States of Fragility 2025" emphasizes how violent conflict and instability can exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and hinder social and ecological justice and right relationships.</p> <p>Inequality and societal polarization are significant concerns for PCI, potentially leading to further instability and violence; the presence of organized global crime as a factor in destabilizing societies and undermining political, economic and social cohesion, often through violence and corruption.</p> <p>Integrating social cohesion and justice around the exercise of citizenship, both global and local, will provide opportunities for communities in fragile contexts to build just relationships. <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> is a reference for our work, advocating for more democratic societies and a key role for civil society.</p> <p>Strengthening our global movement to accompany community-level organizations with broad levels of inclusivity, contributes to improved social ties and strengthened social fabric in marginalized communities, as well as a sense of belonging to a global community.</p>
12:30 – 3:00 pm	Follow up WGs session and lunch
3:00 – 4:30 pm	Session 3: Ecological Justice
	<p>Breaking new ground in the Church's Social Justice Teaching, <i>Laudato Si'</i> situates 'integral ecology' at the heart of creating a just and sustainable world to enable the flourishing and restitution of God's creation.</p> <p>The system that sustains our way of life on Earth is making the Planet, our Mother Earth, ill. At this session, in dialogue with scholars, theologians and participants in the movements, we highlight the role of social movements and grassroots communities that practice active nonviolence, giving us realistic hope for change. Despite being affected by violence and extractive industries, they promote restorative justice, healing of the planet and harmonious living.</p> <p>To reflect on the need to move away from human's current exploitative relationship with the Earth to a relationship of reconciliation, renewal and regeneration, promoted by <i>Laudato Si'</i> and <i>Laudate Deum</i>, in this session will recognize a nonviolent eco-spirituality, based on the dignity of all human beings, the dignity of nature -and the risk of violent conflicts over water scarcity, land concentration and exclusion.</p> <p>On our journey, we have learned that just relationships are essential for sustainable peace - that we humans are part of an earth community that must be healthy if we are to survive. We have come to see the interconnections between war and preparations for war, environmental damage, climate change and scarcity of essential resources.</p>

4:30 – 5:00 pm	<i>Break</i>
5:00 – 9:00 pm	<i>Follow up WGs session and Dinner</i>
Friday, 7 November	
8:30 am	Spirituality moment (Asia Pacific) and Thursday Evaluation
9:00 - 10:30 am	Session 4: Disarmament and Integral Human Flourishing
	<p>The gift of Shalom or a state of wellbeing, wherein human beings, at peace with one another and with nature, can rise to their full potential, is vitiated by the unconscionable dominance of destructive weaponry, including nuclear arms. This negates the call at the heart of the Gospel 'to have life to the full'.</p> <p>PCI is laying the groundwork globally on which integral, sustaining peace can develop and grow - strengthening multinational cooperation to address in an integrated manner today's global multidimensional challenges: natural disasters, diseases, wars, terrorism, trade in arms, poverty and economic crises that create risks and threats. Pax Christi has promoted justice and accompanied those struggles for the right of people to live free from fear, in dignity, and with equal opportunities to develop their potential. It's only when these rights are met that people begin to feel safe in all aspects of their lives and enjoy integral human security. We advocate for strategies that support lasting transformation in people's lives, creating more inclusive, resilient societies, where people are safe from threats such as the arms race, poverty, and violence.</p> <p>Security, understood as human flourishing, has multiple dimensions: economic, food, health, environmental, and political. These strengthen the protection and empowerment of people and communities and address the root causes of insecurities, helping us as a movement, with our Members and Associates, to identify the deficits in peace, democracy, and human rights around the world.</p> <p>PCI holds a distinguished position as a highly regarded voice within the Catholic community. With deep-rooted work with Church bodies at various levels, PCI fosters dialogue and promotes nonviolence and just peace, engaging the Church in this work through its Catholic Nonviolence Initiative.</p> <p>Since 2011, diplomacy and advocacy to abolish nuclear weapons have increasingly been framed by a humanitarian approach. Concerned with the humanitarian, environmental, and integral human security impacts of nuclear weapons, PCI aims to leverage its global presence for grassroots education, mobilisation, and lobbying, highlighting the critical importance of the TPNW in the broader context of Integral Human Security.</p>
10:30 – 11:00 am	<i>Break</i>
11:00 am – 2:00 pm	<i>Follow up WGs session and lunch</i>
2:00 – 4:30 pm	Pax Christi International Extraordinary Assembly (Members only – other participants free until 5pm)
	<p>The General Assembly is the governance body for the global movement, to ensure that the Pax Christi principles and values are followed by all Members. The Assembly will be the moment to reaffirm the mission, advocacy priorities and global campaigns. New International Board members will be elected.</p>

5:00 – 7:00 pm	Pilgrimage to ‘Casa per la Pace’
	The pilgrimage will symbolize the eight decades-long journey of Pax Christi eight decades and will reflect the movement’s spirituality, from Casa Studi to Pax Christi Italy’s Casa per la Pace.
7:00 pm	Launch Pax Christi International’ Youth Forum & Dinner
Saturday, 8 November	
8:30 am	Spirituality moment (Americas) and Friday Evaluation
9:00 - 9:45 am	Session 5: Regional Strategies for the future
	The Pax Christi movement is interconnected by Advocacy priorities globally, but also regionally. This would be the opportunity to reflect on regional contexts, strategies for peace, justice and human rights, and to plan joint initiatives.
10:00 – 11:00 am	Session 6: PCI Working Groups - Evaluation 2025
	For the effectiveness of Pax Christi International’s advocacy work, the following key themes and priorities have been set and implemented: 1. Just Peace in the Holy Land. 2. Disarmament and Integral Human Security. 3. Climate Justice and Energy Transition from a Peacebuilding Approach. In this session, Working Group members will share context analysis, evaluate campaigns and actions that have been useful for informing the public and giving policy recommendations to decision-makers and strategize for the future..
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	Session 7: Panel - Hope in Action!
	As a global faith-based peace movement, we will reaffirm our mission to bring the voices of member organisations to the international level, enabling policy makers to receive first-hand experiences and proposed solutions from the ground. We contribute to the promotion of nonviolent solutions to violent conflict and violence, based on the experience of our members and partners as well as Catholic Social Teaching.
12:30 – 2:30 pm	Plenary Reflection & Lunch
2:30 – 3:30 pm	Session 8: Our Common Home, Casa di Pace! Final Declaration
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plenary – Conversation with participants, and Closing Reflection • Final Evaluation (online format)
5:30 – 6:30 pm	SPECIAL SESSION: Peace Award Ceremony - Press Conference
	Established in 1988, the Pax Christi International Peace Award is funded by the Cardinal Bernardus Alfrink Peace Fund and honours contemporary individuals and organisations who make a stand for peace, justice and nonviolence in different parts of the world. This year, the awardee comes from North America.
7:00 pm	Dinner
Sunday, 9 November – TRAVELLING DAY	