

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Rebuilding Multilateralism: Europe's Role in UN Reform

A Manifesto for the Renewed Centrality of the United Nations and for Authentic Multilateralism

Brussels, 3 December 2025

At a time when violence, injustice, and global fragmentation are leaving entire communities without protection, Pax Christi International, together with the S&D Group of the European Parliament, joins the event "Rebuilding Multilateralism: Europe's Role in UN Reform" in the Spinelli Building. The gathering brings together peacemakers, policymakers, UN experts, and civil society voices committed to re-anchoring global governance in justice, human dignity, and solidarity. Event details: https://paxchristi.net/event/rebuilding-multilateralism-europe-role-in-un-reform/

The event presents a <u>manifesto</u> that reaffirms a simple truth at the heart of this event: **peace can flourish only where institutions serve all peoples, especially the most vulnerable.** Today, however, the United Nations is constrained by power imbalances, economic pressures, and structures that do not fully represent the diversity of humanity. The use of the veto and the marginalisation of certain delegations weaken the UN's ability to act as a guardian of peace and justice. The manifesto calls for an **authentically multilateral United Nations**, one capable of listening to every nation and community, protecting human rights, and standing firm in the face of injustice and aggression.

The European Union, born from reconciliation after the devastation of war, carries a moral responsibility to champion a renewed multilateralism rooted in law, cooperation, and the dignity of every person. The manifesto urges the EU to:

- Advocate firmly for Security Council reform and the strengthening of international law;
- Use its diplomatic reach to build bridges, elevate excluded voices, and open new spaces for dialogue;
- Demonstrate ethical governance by ensuring greater coherence, transparency, and responsible use of shared resources.

The manifesto reflects on the potential of **Strasbourg**, a city shaped by reconciliation and home to key European institutions, as a possible location for the UN headquarters. Such a move would carry strong symbolic value, a gesture toward a truly multipolar and peaceful world order, and a tangible reminder that global institutions must be accessible to all peoples, not dominated by a few.

The European Union itself is invited to embody the values it promotes. Streamlining its multiple institutional seats and reducing costly redundancies would allow Europe to redirect resources toward what truly matters: peacebuilding, development, global cooperation, and the defence of the inalienable rights of every person and every people.

The message of the manifesto is clear: **peace is not merely the absence of war or the product of treaties. Peace grows** where justice is upheld, where transparency prevails, and where institutions become real signs of fraternity among nations.

We call on Europe, and the global community, to walk this path with courage, coherence, and hope, so that the United Nations may again stand at the heart of a just and peaceful international order.