

## **Message of Pax Christi International**

### **Annual manifestation in commemoration of the victims of the first atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki Vienna, 6 August 2012**

Each year, Pax Christi International members around the world remember the horror and mourn the lives lost in Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, 1945. As you gather in Vienna, we join you in spirit to plead for an end to the nuclear madness that has threatened the survival of people and our planet for so many decades.

At the heart of Pax Christi's work for peace and reconciliation is a deep belief in the sacredness of each human life and a commitment to respect the integrity of creation. Both are profoundly threatened by the continued existence of nuclear weapons, with hundreds of these weapons on hair trigger alert; many of them deployed in extremely volatile regions of the world; and the risk of nuclear accidents dangerously high.

We call again – even more urgently – for the removal of every nuclear weapon from Europe; for the de-alerting of all nuclear weapons; for an immediate end to investment in nuclear arsenals; for the immediate negotiation of a nuclear weapons-free zone in the Middle East; and for the abolition of these weapons from the face of the earth.

We are inspired by the efforts of communities like yours to keep this crucial concern before the people of the world and are hopeful that our common work to rid the world of nuclear weapons will one day soon yield a more peaceful and secure world.

In many countries around the world Pax Christi Member Organizations are also marking these days. With you, we recommit ourselves to the long and crucial work for nuclear abolition.

Thank you for your faithful witness and your clarion call for peace.

Brussels, August 2012  
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